



Annual Report 2021



Response to distress situations faced by children and their communities during COVID – 19

Assisting distressed children and their families through ration kits during the COVID – 19 lockdowns

In order to provide timely support services to the distressed children and their communities during the COVID – 19 state-wide lockdown while facilitating them to access the schemes and relief packages announced by the state and Central Government on a parallel level, CWC has facilitated the distribution of ration kits to support families of children in distressed situations. Through financial support received from local and international donors, CWC has been able to donate a total of 1701 ration kits to vulnerable and marginalized families in Bangalore Vijayanagara and Udupi districts. Of these, 200 have been families of members of Bhima Sangha in Vijayanagara district and 250 have been families in distress belonging to the migrant laborer communities in Udupi district itself.

CWC has worked closely with children to facilitate them to conduct their own mapping exercises to identify vulnerable areas that need support and immediate intervention. The criteria for choosing the most vulnerable families were working adolescents and their family members affected by COVID-19, earning working adolescents and their family members deceased due to COVID-19 infection, loss of livelihood to working adolescents and their families due to the lockdown, and families of young children who have lost their earning family members to COVID-19. This has also received coverage in Deccan Herald (Udupi district edition).

Assisting Makkala Mitra and Mahila Mitra through facilitation to access emergency services and information dissemination during the COVID – 19 lockdowns

CWC has been able to work with the Makkala Mitras and Mahila Mitras of the Udupi and Bellary districts during the lockdown period to track down families of children in distress situations and provide emergency assistance, counseling, and awareness related to protection from contracting COVID – 19 and necessary steps to take home-based care if infected with it. Through these regular phone calls, CWC had been in constant touch with them to provide psycho-social support and dissemination of useful information to children in distress, and children of single parents to provide adequate support on a case-to-case basis. Makkala Mitras were also consulted during COVID – 19 crisis responses during the lockdown. Similar discussions were also held with parents of children in distress through regular phone calls and follow-ups to provide the necessary help to their families and communities.

Tracking the COVID-19 crisis situation and its impact on vulnerable and marginalised communities

With the objective of developing CWC's COVID-19 support strategy on the basis of the impact to its vulnerable constituency and marginalized communities, we contacted key persons in all our constituencies. During one of these calls, we learned that ASHA workers had not received salaries for three months and were not provided medical protective gear. CWC immediately raised this issue at the state level, advocating with senior officials and the media. As a result, the Government of Karnataka (GOK) speedily paid up the dues and equipped all ASHA workers with masks, sanitizers, and oximeters. Here is the link to the article published in

The News Minute: <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/karnataka-asha-workers-protest-demanding-pending-salaries-safety-equipment-149424>

CWC was approached by the department of RDPR to develop a Management Information System, in order to document and follow-up on the needs of children in Karnataka, in the context of COVID-19. The core objectives of the exercise included recognising the information present in various other information systems, identifying the information gaps and avoiding duplication of information across portals. Therefore, the MIS state level advocacy group, of which CWC is a member, suggested to the State Government that the panchayat information management portal 'Panchamitra'¹ should be the central database consolidating all relevant information. Other recommendations included:

- The portal should provide a holistic picture of every child and his or her family
- It should also put together emergency contact details of the COVID war room, and information about the health system and schools
- AWC, ASHA workers, and the panchayat task force should be employed to complete this exercise (Elaborated in the section – State-level advocacy)
- The group also highlighted with the Commissioner Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RDPR) that there is an urgent need to address the lack of data management in urban areas under the purview of the BBMP.

CWC facilitated the creation of infographics to create awareness and provide information to children of our constituencies. These infographics have been circulated across the state through our own constituency and through child right groups across the state.



¹ Panchamitra is the panchayat information management portal, and is a database of personal details that is Aadhar Card, details about the family and details related to their entitlements



ಹೆದರಬೇಡಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳೇ, ನಿಮಗೆ ಬೆಂಬಲವಾಗಿ ನಾವಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

- ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮುಖವನ್ನು ಮುಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರಬೇಡಿ
- ಕೈಯನ್ನು ಆಗಾಗ ನಾಬೂನಿಂದ ತೊಳೆಯುತ್ತಿರಿ
- ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಹಾಕೋಡಿರಿ

ಹಳ್ಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇದು ಹಬ್ಬದಂತೂ ಕೂಡ ಬಿಂತಬೇಕಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ನಿಮ್ಮ ನಿಮ್ಮ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ನೀವು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಮೂಲಕ, ನಿಮ್ಮ ಹಳ್ಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ತರಲು ನೀವೂ ಭಾಗಿಯಾಗಬಹುದು. ಜನರ ಗುಂಪಿರುವಲ್ಲಿ ಹೋಗಬೇಡಿ ವೈದ್ಯರ ಸಲಹೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಿ ವೈದ್ಯರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದ ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಕೇರ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಹೋಗಿ ಇರಿ

ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ನೀವು ಅಥವಾ ಯಾರಾದರೂ ಸೋಂಕಿನ ಲಕ್ಷಣ (ಜ್ವರ, ಶೀತ, ಕೆಮ್ಮು, ಗಂಟಲು ನೋವು...)ಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದರೆ ಭಯಪಡಬೇಡಿ, ನಿಮ್ಮ ಪೋಷಕರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿ, ಅಥವಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಗಳಾದ 1075, 144-10 ಅಥವಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ 1098 ಗೆ ಕರೆಮಾಡಿ.

Forging sustainable partnerships to address the impact of COVID-19 on children and communities

In November 2021, in partnership with the Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) CWC commenced a 6 month-focused mandate to support COVID-19 impacted communities in Udupi (50 panchayats) and Vijayanagara (7 panchayats) districts. This support includes:

- Nutritional and Psychological support to COVID - 19 impacted families
- Livelihood support due to the loss of bread winner/livelihood of the family
- Medical support for COVID - 19 and non-COVID requirements.
- Support to continue education

Securing front-line NGO workers and marginalised communities / constituencies through vaccination

With regard to the People's Vaccination Petition by OXFAM India, CWC participated in its National Level strategy building meeting and has indicated that as an organization, it would be interested to support further steps of the petition through state and national level advocacy, assisting with the development of knowledge/ research, generating case stories calling for free and fair vaccination, and amplifying important messages and other updates on social media platforms. CWC further highlighted the need to also ensure vaccination options for children. CWC is following up with the department of RDPR to prioritize vaccination to frontline NGO workers in the age group of 18 to 45.

Children and Citizenship

Bhima Sangha holds local and taluk level Governments accountable - Convening of the child rights task force in Vijayanagara district.

Members of Bhima Sangha from the panchayats of Huvinahadagali and Hagaribommanahalli taluks urged their respective taluk panchayats to conduct the first level discussion with children to facilitate the convening of the taluk level child rights task force. The taluk child rights task force was held at Huvinahadagali and Hagaribommanahalli taluks on March 8th and 9th, 2021, respectively.



Executive officer is the head of the Taluk Panchayat. At the taluk level, Executive officers help the Chief Executive Officer of the district administration in implementing Taluk Level Programmes.

25 members of Bhima Sangha took part in each of these meetings. The Executive Officer² of the taluk panchayat and taluk level officials of the departments concerning the issues raised by children, members of the respective gram panchayats, Makkala Mitras and community members, and community members were present.

The issues raised by the members of the Bhima Sangha include the demand for water and sanitation works, infrastructure development, health and sanitation, vocational training for adolescents, and implementation of the schemes for adolescent girls which provide ration kits for nutrition, sanitary napkins, iron, and folic acid tablets, and counseling. They have assured to address the issues raised by young people and have also taken steps to address them at the panchayat level by taking them up with the concerned departments. The Executive Officer and the president of the taluk Panchayat have issued a recording of a statement expressing the binding of the taluk panchayat to address issues raised by children.

It is indeed noteworthy to mention that in the child rights task force meeting at Huvinahadagali taluk, the members of Bhima Sangha presented the issues that were addressed as a result of raising them at the first child rights task force meeting held in November 2020. The gram panchayats have recognized the role of Bhima Sangha in addressing the concerns that will not only impact Bhima Sangha but also the entire panchayat. In several panchayats in Huvinahadagali taluk, the panchayat, in appreciation of the efforts by the Bhima Sangha in holding the local government accountable, has acknowledged the efforts of Bhima Sangha and has approved the wall paintings of the achievements of Bhima Sangha in raising their issues and the issues being addressed by the panchayat.

Bhima Sangha discussed concerns faced by working children in national level feature article

CWC and Bhima Sangha were approached by The New Indian Express to feature a 17-year-old for their article India@75 which is an article for which they have interviewed 17-year-olds from across all states and UTs of the country. CWC was approached for its facilitation to Bhima Sangha who have raised their voices at the local, state, national and international levels and have established their presence as an important collective of young people. In consultation with members of Bhima Sangha, Nagaveni expressed her interest to share her responses and be featured in the article.

Nagaveni, a 17-year-old girl, working as an agricultural laborer from Enagi Village, Hagaribommanahalli taluk, Vijayanagar district, Karnataka spoke about her thoughts on freedom and voting and her responses have been published in the article 'Citizens Z: What is the freedom to me?' on the online edition of the New Indian

Express. Here is a link to the article: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/sunday-story-india-independence-day-75-years-new-voters-7453170/>

Some of her noteworthy responses to the questions asked were:

Which freedom does she value the most? The freedom I like most is to exercise my fundamental rights to demand accountability from the Govt. Having the opportunity to work and earn a livelihood is most important as I can support my family and make a better life. Adolescents must have access to opportunities to pursue different vocational training and self-employment opportunities.

Is she looking forward to voting? Why? I am looking forward to voting for a candidate who will heed to our concerns and from my Sangha, I wish to pursue them till our issues are addressed, thereby exercising my right to raise my concerns and those of other children from the Bhima Sangha.

What are her expectations from the Government? The Government must provide self-employment and training opportunities for working children. Adolescent girls must have access to nutritious dry ration kits and sanitary napkins. Children must be able to continue education till Class 10 and Govt. must provide high school in my village.

Facilitating the convening of the Child Rights Friendly Makkala Gram Sabhas in partnership with Bhima Sangha and Makkala Sangha



CWC has closely worked with the Govt. of Karnataka to facilitate the convening of child rights friendly Makkala Gram Sabhas across the state of Karnataka. Several of the child rights friendly protection mechanisms in the community such as Makkala Mitra (Children's Friend) and Makkala Anche Pettige (Children's Post Boxes) and Grama/Ward wise children's meetings as upheld by the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Amendment Act, 2020 are being implemented in all the Gram panchayats. This is a result of an extensive circular released by the Government providing detailed guidelines towards setting up of these social monitoring and child rights friendly mechanisms in all the Gram panchayats in partnership with children. It also emphasised on the meetings of children at the habitation level before they present their issues and recommendations at the Ward/Grama level, therefore providing a formally and legally recognized platform for children to exercise their right to participation towards proactively influencing decisions that impact their lives.

Due to COVID - 19 pandemic, as the members of the Bhima Sangha and Makkala Sangha were unable to meet in large groups owing to the restrictions in place, they came up with the recommendation to conduct these zonal meetings before they convene at the Grama/ward level. The Govt. of Karnataka also introduced the 'Oduva Belaku' (Reading is light) program that aims at creating children's libraries to inculcate the habit of reading in children. Children have consistently advocated for the children's library to be created as a space to express their creative and artistic talents, as a knowledge hub center, and a safe space for children to access and connect with other children of the panchayat to learn and grow as a community. It is also envisioned as an information center for children to access general knowledge and information that is useful and important to them. Every gram panchayat has to mandatorily set up the children's libraries in their respective panchayats.

CWC, in collaboration with the Bhima Sanghas and the Makkala Sanghas of the Kundapur taluk, has facilitated the Gram panchayats to set up children's libraries to provide a vibrant learning space for children. They have used the opportunity to transform the children's library into their own space to exhibit and explore their talents, and creativity and express their views and perceptions. Children visited the children's library, registered their membership, exhibited their craft and artwork on the Library premises, collected books from there, and planned to read and explain them to other members of the Sangha. Children have explained to PDO about the art and craft work in their children's Sangha, the activities, and also their plans as a Sangha. They also discussed their concerns and issues with PDO.

CWC also initiated the 'Pustaka Jolige' program (Bag of books) to collect old and unused books from children in the community, requesting them to make donation to the children's library, which will benefit all children using the library. Children also meet regularly at the children's libraries to discuss and engage in issues and locality mapping, which helps children, put together their thoughts and concerns faced by them in their communities and also devise plans to raise it at different platforms at the local and state level.

The program is implemented as a part of the Child-Friendly Children Gram Panchayats Programme by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka.

As a result, the programme has been implemented in 28 panchayats in Udupi district and 20 panchayats in Ballari (Now Vijayanagar) district, members of the Bhima Sangha and Makkala Sangha have raised several concerns such as problems of the illegal sale of alcohol, issues faced by working children, lack of access to water supply, garbage disposal, repair and maintenance of Ashraya homes, providing electricity, access to firewood, the crossing of the state and national highways, lack of provision of rations in government-run fair price shops, lack of street lights and toilets, problems of accessing drinking water, provision of library, lack of access to essential information, eve-teasing, problems caused by danger zones, problems due to misbehaving of men, problems faced by street dogs and other wild animals, problems of children who have dropped out of school, child marriage, issues with online classes, and other concerns regarding school and education, issues with raid and rescue of the working children, lack of access to bus stand and other concerns surrounding the community.

The Bhima Patrike (Wall Magazine) displayed at Hosathoplu, Idler, Salwadi, and Pragathinagar received several interesting responses from children. Some children passing on the way also saw and asked what is a Sangha and asked for more information about Sangha and its activities and if they too can join Bhima Sangha. The most spontaneous responses were documented illustrations on the issue of eve-teasing. They identified 3 places where they had faced the situation. They planned to display this Bhima Patrike in those places. They also discussed vaccine information and Bhima Sangha information with utmost interest. Many questions were discussed about the vaccine, who can take it, what happens if one didn't take it if vaccinated once, will they not contract COVID - 19 at all, why it was called a vaccine, why not injection etc.

Deepa, a member of Bhima Sangha said that she is now aware of the eligibility criteria for vaccination. Dolma, a member of Bhima Sangha said that since there is information about Bhima Sangha in the magazine, people will know about our Sangha. Children of the Kaggadasapura MLC in Bangalore city attended a session to introduce the Bhima Patrike. They asked several questions about the COVID vaccine and what will happen after it is administered. The most number of questions and responses were asked regarding the Perseverance Rover mission to Mars. This was fascinating for children and they asked several questions about basics such as gravity, what happens in outer space, what the Rover does, how will it record data, how can we find out if there is life on Mars and many such intriguing questions were asked and discussions followed? Children have put it up in a place where the young and the old can see the magazine. Many elders also came forward to ask questions about the vaccine and who are eligible to take it.



Facilitation of the installation of the Makkala Anche Pettige (Children's Post Boxes) at the gram panchayats in partnership with Bhima Sangha and Makkala Sangha

The Makkala Anche Pettige 'Children's Post Box' is a mechanism that was created in consultation with children's collectives through regular facilitation of children's Sanghas and Bhima Sanghas for realizing their right to participation, exercising their citizenship, and holding the local governments accountable for their entitlements.

The Makkala Anche Pettige was installed in several panchayats in Kundapur taluk and Hagaribommanahalli taluk, Ballari district by members of Bhima Sangha who created awareness in the community regarding using it. Makkala Anche Pettige enables children to share their issues and concerns also express their creative talents. The Makkala Anche Pettige would be opened jointly by the Makkala Mitra or representative of the gram panchayat in the presence of the representatives of the Makkala Sangha. Their creative artwork and writing will be displayed in panchayat premises and children's libraries and the issues will be discussed at the panchayat and the concerned departments and responded to, periodically. This is also emphasized in the circular released by the Govt. of Karnataka to conduct children's gram sabhas.



Implementation of the concept of Oorundu Shaale (Community as a school learning programme)

The COVID-19 Pandemic resulted in restricting access of children to formal and informal education and learning spaces. Children became confined to their homes and did not have the opportunity to mingle with other children for learning and playing. Recognising the fact that learning can take place in multiple avenues and means such as vocational education, perceiving that spaces for learning can be created within the community, providing community based platforms for children to exhibit fine arts, performing arts and other creative talents within them, CWC aimed at providing open spaces in the community by identifying resource persons to facilitate holistic learning and creative expression among children. The objective of creating such spaces in the community is also to enable children to have conducive and child friendly spaces where they can break away from isolation, and psychological stress that they face being confined to their homes.

It has also been envisioned as a space which they can use as an outlet to openly share and report instances of physical and psychological abuse that they are facing and seek help from the community. CWC, in response to the limitations posed by the pandemic, launched the Oorundu Shaale programme. Oorundu Shaale is a simple concept to share interesting and exciting skills, knowledge and information through resource persons, experts in the community who are proficient with information and skills from various fields of creativity and knowledge. Children will now have the opportunity to access the community space and resource persons to learn from one another.

Assisting the distressed children and their communities to access food and nutrition

As a part of the COVID 19 relief response, the program has facilitated the provision of ration kits to 200 families of the members of Bhima Sangha in 14 panchayats of Huvinahadagali and Hagaribommanahalli taluk Vijaynagara district in collaboration with the respective gram panchayats. The program has facilitated the provision of counseling and providing essential information to children and their families through telephonic means who have been affected by COVID. They were also provided with necessary essential medicines, especially to the distressed families.

The program also advocated for the provision of dry rations under the mid-day meal program for children who are enrolled in government schools. The communities were also provided with information regarding safeguarding health during COVID 19, personal hygiene, and about locally available nutritious food items. As a result of the advocacy of the program at the gram panchayat level to evaluate the nutritional status of children, the government of Karnataka launched the Arogya Nandana Programme applicable across the state of Karnataka. 250 families in distress belonging to the migrant laborers' communities have been identified by the program and have facilitated the provision of nutritional ration kits, personal hygiene and sanitation kits through the district administration of Udupi.

Assisting the provision of healthcare services during COVID – 19

The program has facilitated the health check-ups in Vijaynagara district. The members of Bhima Sangha who have been identified with low nutrition levels have been provided with medication to supplement their nutrition. The families of members of Bhima Sangha who are facing health concerns have been identified and referred to local government hospitals for appropriate treatment and medication. The members of Bhima Sangha in Udupi city and Kundapur taluk have been identified and referred for health check-ups and provided necessary vitamin tablets. Some of them have been provided with specific treatments for eyes and ears. And some children have been referred to hospitals for further specialist treatments.

The project has also spread awareness regarding the benefits of vaccination and has attempted to combat the myths surrounding vaccination in the communities. Members of Bhima Sangha and Makala Sangha have also been facilitated to access and utilise the services of ChildLine 1098. They have submitted many complaints to the helpline as a result of our facilitation. The program has facilitated the local governments to provide essential health services at the doorstep of the families who faced distressed situations during COVID-19. The program facilitated a workshop to provide awareness to ANMs, Anganwadi workers and ASHA workers to operate the ECG machines. The program has also facilitated regular communication with senior doctors at the district level.

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Ensuring uninterrupted access to education to children and adolescents

The program has facilitated several competitions to bring out specific talents in fine and performing arts among the members of the Bhima Sangha and Makala Sangha such as paper craft, rangoli, garment stitching, and Mehendi. Yakshagana workshops have also been conducted in several panchayats in Kundapur taluk. Several workshops around singing, dancing, story-telling, art and craft, and puzzle games have been facilitated for members of Bhima Sangha and Makala Sangha of Kundapur taluk and migrant communities in Udupi city. They have also been taught to implement tools such as body mapping to understand their roles as members of their Sangha and have also been shown several of CWC's video productions under the Makala Toofan programme.

Members of Bhima Sangha have been capacitated with the awareness regarding the loss surrounding child marriage. They were also provided with information regarding the academic and vocational training opportunities available at Namma Bhoomi Kundapur taluk. The program has facilitated the provision of information to access the benefits under government schemes and programs meant for differently-abled, children who have lost one or both parents due to COVID-19, widowed to a husband during COVID-19, and to obtain ration kits entitled to families in distress, compensation for children due to death of parents due to COVID-19 and other reasons. In the Vijaynagar district, 60 adolescent girls have undergone tailoring workshops for three months organized by the gram panchayats of K Ayyanahalli, Hiremalanakeri, and Kalvi. They have also been provided stipend during the training period.

The gram panchayat along with the community has facilitated the provision of tailoring machines and other arrangements necessary for the training. The programme has also organised mehendi training in 10 panchayats in Vijayanagara district. The project has facilitated academic classes based on the request raised by members of Bhima Sangha and Makala Sangha in several panchayats in Kundapur taluk and migrant communities in Udupi city through volunteers. They have taught children Mathematics, Science, Hindi and English. The programme has facilitated several members of the Bhima Sangha and Makala Sangha to continue their education, pay fees for school and college, obtain books and educational materials.

Ensuring the realisation of right to participation of children and adolescents to access basic entitlements

22 members of Bhima Sangha from 13-gram panchayats of Vijayanagara district have met the CEO of Vijayanagara district and have raised several concerns such as child marriage, issues faced by working children, infrastructure in panchayats and vocational training opportunities for adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years and the availability of self-employment opportunities for them. The members of the Makala Sanghas of Udupi and Byndoor districts and Kundapur taluks have raised several concerns faced by children at the consultation organised by ChildLine.

73 members of the Makkala Sanghas of Saralabettu, Beedinagudde, Adiudupi, and Pragathinagar, Udupi city participated in the discussion meetings among whom, there were 20 working children. Issues related to basic facilities, lack of work opportunities due to COVID - 19, education, protection, and alcohol abuse - were raised by the children. It has been discussed to raise those with district-level officers together with all children of the area. As a result of CWC's advocacy at the district level in partnership with members of the Makkala Sanghas, the Chief Executive Officer of the Udupi district has given an appointment to have this meeting with members of the Makkala Sangha along with district level officers. They were able to secure an appointment with the Chief Executive Officer of the Udupi district administration to discuss several concerns such as lack of space for conducting meetings, accessing online education hassle-free, concerns related to lack of adequate health coverage and nutritional requirements, issues related to safety and protection, livelihoods and access to basic amenities. The CEO has assured to pass several orders and circulars in response to their requests, directing concerning departments and local governments to take appropriate steps to implement them.

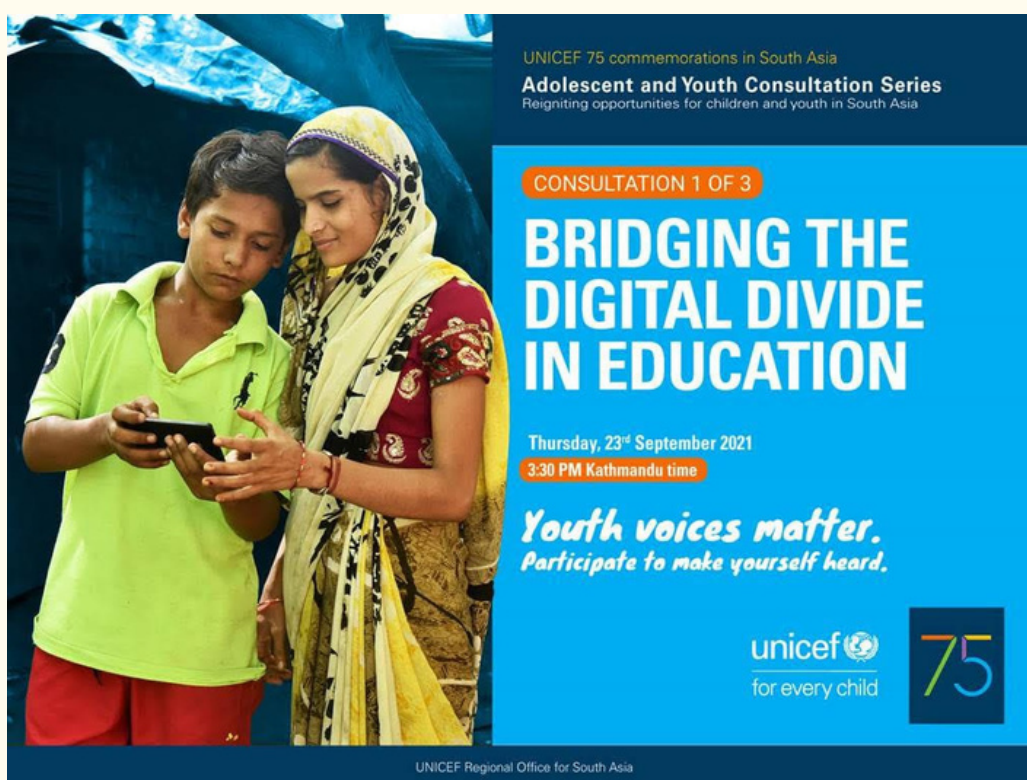
Facilitating children's agency in building global pools of knowledge around children's participation and citizenship

Members of Bhima Sangha, children of SRC Namma Bhoomi, and representatives of CWC participated in the webinar series on children's rights organized by The Change Factory, Norway, with three webinars being organized between September and November 2021. Children and organizations working with them from Denmark, Portugal, Nepal, and Northern Ireland were the other participants. The topics of discussion revolved around 'Children have fundamental rights on paper: But do they exist in practice? If yes, what is the role of children's agency in actualizing them?' The focus across all three webinars was on experience and knowledge exchange between young people, learning how their knowledge contributes to influencing systems and looking for opportunities to collaborate.

Ensuring protection of children and adolescents during COVID - 19

The issues related to protection such as abuse due to alcohol, abuse by teachers in school, problems faced due to danger zones, child marriage and other infrastructural concerns such as lack of drinking water, lack of cleanliness, absence of drainage system, lack of doctors in local primary health care centres, absence of street lights and other such issues have been taken up. The issues raised by children were taken up with the local panchayats, the police department and the concerned departments at the local and district level. A one day capacity building programme on 'Upholding Rights of Children through Anti Trafficking and Other Laws' for police personnel of Kundapur taluk police department held at Namma Bhoomi.

Participation of members of Makkala Sangha, Kundapur in the webinar series organized by UNICEF:



Members of Makkala Sangha, Kundapur taluk, and Udupi district participated in the South Asia adolescent and youth online consultation on Bridging the Digital Divide in Education, to be held on Thursday, September 23rd, 2021. This consultation, the first in a series of three, marked UNICEF's 75th anniversary and celebrates the organization's commitment to listening to and working with children including adolescents, particularly the most marginalized. They raised several concerns with respect to logistical and practical challenges in accessing online education.

Members of the children's sanghas in Kolkere, Paduvalur, and Kashikere in Kundapur taluk, Udupi district visited the police station in Kandlur to understand the functioning of the police station and the roles and responsibilities of the police force. They discussed with SI and SJPU the issue of an alcoholic who troubles girls and local residents. They had discussed this earlier in Sangha also and had raised it with GP too. The SI assured them that he will take action with immediate effect. They also asked him about the process of police appointment, if issues raised by children would be considered seriously, about the basics of traffic rules, and so on. It is also planned to conduct community meetings within his police station limits, with women and children by SI and SJPU. Here are few glimpses of the meeting.

Education for Democracy

Capacity Building for children from the State Resource Center (SRC), Namma Bhoomi and members of Bhima Sangha and Makkala Sangha of Kundapur Taluk.

CWC's constant focus is to equip the children and young people it partners with to be the primary agents of change for themselves and their communities. Thus, the efforts are constantly directed towards helping children identify, highlight and address issues, concerns and entitlements due to them. Several initiatives were undertaken in keeping with this.

CWC has been able to collaborate with Bharatiya Vikas Trust (BVT)³ and RUDSETI⁴ to provide skill-building training to children at the State Resource Centre Namma Bhoomi. RUDSETI provides short-term training that are known to be compact and rigorous, including specialization in individual skills such as electrical, tailoring, carpentry, and other labor-intensive training, and also includes life skills such as marketing and management. The graduates of this course will be awarded their certificates. The training is sponsored by Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank, Udupi. The short-term courses are proven to be beneficial for graduates to access financial support in the future and the certificate of this course holds a greater validity in the market.

Graduates from Namma Bhoomi's Regional Resource Centre vocational training program have reached out to young people in the community to conduct outreach and awareness programs to help spread the word about the benefits of the vocational training program. Children at Namma Bhoomi are also being exposed to Yoga classes regularly. CWC has also hired a facilitator to teach children Yakshagaana, about art and craft. This has helped children develop a calm nature and a resolute mind. Children have been strengthened emotionally, physically, and mentally because of the everyday practice of yoga. 24 children (11 boys and 13 girls) have taken part in the Yakshagaana workshop. They have also created artwork and have displayed it in the classrooms.



As a part of empowerment training, young people from Namma Bhoomi were exposed to several life skills sessions such as gardening, cooking, public speaking, organic farming, electrical training, carpentry, beautician training, plumbing, computer training, dairy farming, first aid treatment, cycling and marketing. Children have chosen among these classes out of their interest and are pursuing their learning. They have learnt cooking and purchasing of vegetables from the market.

CWC also facilitated a one-day exposure trip and capacity-building workshop for the members of children's Sanghas in Kundapur, Udupi. Children were encouraged to share their views about the work and scope of the organization. Children also engaged in danger zone mapping exercises to map their communities and shared the findings with children of other Sanghas. They also watched CWC's short videos highlighting the protagonism of children to address the issues with their communities by holding the local governments accountable and had discussion around the reflections after watching them. A short session was also conducted on the usage of internet different online portals, applications, merits, demerits, risks, and the issues they have faced due to it. 48 children, 2 Makkala Mitras, and 2 parents from 5 panchayats participated in this capacity building workshop.

The election for the Makkala Panchayat body for the year 2021 - 22 was held. Two polling stations were set up representing the school-going children and adolescents pursuing vocational training at Namma Bhoomi. Srilakshmi was elected the president, Subhash as the vice-president and Akshay A as the secretary of the Makkala Panchayat council.



A workshop on cybercrimes and how children can safeguard themselves from digital abuse was conducted for children at SRC, Namma Bhoomi. The 8 films produced by CWC on Adolescence, gender and Sexuality were shown to children. They have also shared their thoughts on gender discrimination after watching the films. Children have also opened accounts at the bank in SRC, Namma Bhoomi and transacted from them. They have thus learned how to open an account, how to make transactions, how to issue a cheque and its purposes. They have also gone to the local market and have learnt how to purchase raw materials for different purposes.

50 Children undertaking different vocational training have undergone their internal assessments and 18 children graduating from SRC Namma Bhoomi from the previous batch have to receive their graduation certificates, but the ceremony could not be conducted due to the restrictions imposed by COVID – 19 state-wide lockdowns. Several children could also not take up their examinations under NIOS due to COVID – 19. As a part of the 'earn and learn program, children undergoing the electrical training also worked at an external location during their training period. They have also been responsible for the production of bed lamps, coconut grater, and other different types of wooden platforms used for various purposes. They have also learned the basics of waste segregation and disposal. This has also ensured that the campus is maintained clean and sanitary. They have also formed teams to maintain the cleanliness of the premises. During the CWC period, children have received online classes and they have been occupied with the preparation for the SSLC examinations.

Children have also had COVID – 19 and tuberculosis tests conducted, and their test results have come out negative. Children have also received counseling, visit the gynecologist, IQ test, and speech therapist in special cases. Children have also received exposure to COVID – 19 safety protocols and best practices and are actively practicing them on campus. The Makkala panchayat elected for the year 2020-21 has also performed its designated functions effectively. Young girls of SRC Namma Bhoomi have also learned eco-friendly ways of disposal of sanitary napkins.

Working with all relevant stakeholders to ensure children and young people can access their right to appropriate education

Several children that CWC partners with have flagged the problems they are facing to access learning, educational and/or residential programmes and schemes entitled to them, because they cannot produce the required documents. Acknowledging that this could be an issue faced by children across the state, CWC strongly took this up with the appropriate authorities. CWC also highlighted the state's responsibility to provide scholarships for all children who need state support, via Child Welfare Committees. This resulted in a state- level circular by the DWCD to provide scholarships for children in need of care and protection, which would come under the purview of ICPS. Further, the circular stated that children from child care institutions and coming through Child Welfare Committees will be provided exemptions in terms of documents needed to enroll in educational and residential programmes of other departments such as the Social Welfare Department. CWC's advocacy ensured that the Directorate of ICPS:

- *Ensured the enrollment of children from Child Care Institutions state-wide, in policy, for vocational and academic courses –with appropriate exemptions.*
- *Ensured state scholarship for children from SRC to enroll into NIOS.*
- *Also ensured that a directive has been issued by the Directorate of ICPS that children who wish to enroll into NIOS can avail state scholarship via respective Child Welfare Committees for the entire state*

Interaction between children from SRC with the students of Birdwell School, UK

Children from the State Resource Centre, Namma Bhoomi had a successful interaction with the students of Birdwell School, UK (6-10 year olds) in November 2021. The children discussed about their school, and other surroundings, commute to school, food habits, preferred activities etc. The feedback received was that it was a highly appreciated exchange by the children on both sides.

The children from Birdwell School have even attempted some Indian painting work, being inspired post the interaction. CWC will continue to explore such perspective-building opportunities that are mutually beneficial to all children.

Strengthening democratic decentralisation

Regular communication with GP body, officials of local government to facilitate them to combat COVID -19, to update them about the schemes and aids announced by Central, State Governments, various departments, and access relief aid announced by different private institutions

CWC attempted to understand the situation of the community, to facilitate the community based on their need and issues to access necessary emergency support systems and government schemes and to support Gram Panchayats to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during the second wave. In keeping with this, a short-term plan was to provide immediate relief for different emergencies as required on a case-to-case basis. In the long term, CWC aims to work with these children to understand their issues and take them up by facilitating their participation and collaboration with decision-makers. CWC has also offered the campus of SRC for the care and protection of children whose parents are infected and NNVP as a COVID Care Centre.

Dialogue with rural district administration (CEO and heads of concerned departments) - Training and advocacy for the implementation of Children Friendly Gram Panchayat Abhiyaan in Udupi district

As a part of its capacity-building plans to empower gram panchayats and its members to function effectively as local self-governments and develop a holistic understanding of their roles and responsibilities to perform their duties effectively and understand the various functions of the gram panchayats and its regular functions to understand the larger objectives of the functions and make the best use of them to strive towards working as effective local self-governments, CWC facilitated two days of information dissemination and capacity building workshop for the members of the gram panchayats in Bellary district (Now Vijayanagara) and Kundapur and Byndoor taluks of Udupi district.

A total of 246 members of gram panchayats from 56-gram panchayats of Vijaynagar district have participated in the capacity-building training workshop which covered the delivery of important roles and responsibilities of the GP members, the importance of various meetings held in the GP for various administrative purposes and their responsibilities being a part of these KDP5 meetings, the importance of the decision of the Gram Sabha, devising action plans, and usage of tools such as priority ranking during the workshop. As an outcome of this capacity-building training, the members of gram panchayats have been able to facilitate the submission of applications to obtain compensation under various schemes by several distressed families in the respective panchayats.

CWC successfully advocated and facilitated changes in the key terminologies in the child-friendly Gram panchayat circular and submitted it along with child protection guidelines for Makkala Mitras to the principal secretary. CWC will take this forward with the Principal Secretary to ensure that these changes take effect and positively impact the panchayat's role in upholding the rights of their children.

Assisting panchayat members through facilitation to access emergency services and information dissemination during the COVID – 19 lockdowns

The children from Birdwell School have even attempted some Indian painting work, being inspired post the interaction. CWC will continue to explore such perspective-building opportunities that are mutually beneficial to all children.

With the COVID – 19 pandemic severely impacting the constituency groups as they reel under the loss of livelihoods, unemployment, migration, fatalities due to COVID – 19, inability to access the PDS system, lack of access to appropriate and timely healthcare, lack of access to essential information regarding access Govt. schemes and awareness regarding safeguarding themselves and avoiding misinformation about COVID – 19 and its spread, CWC has been able to work with the panchayat members of the Udupi and Bellary districts during the lockdown period to track down families of children in distress situations and provide emergency assistance, counseling and awareness related to protection from contracting COVID – 19 and necessary steps to take home based care if infected with it. Through these regular phone calls, CWChad has been in constant touch with the panchayat members, AWC, and ASHA workers to understand the requirements of mapping essential data at the panchayat level to provide adequate support on a case-to-case basis.

Assisting workers of the socio-economically marginalized sections to access viable and stable employment opportunities under the MGNREGA Act

CWC has been consistently working with MGNREGA workers across to state to create awareness among the MGNREGA workers regarding the provisions of the Act, facilitating them to raise their issues, advocate with concerned officials from local up to the state level to claim their rights. The NREGA Act, providing employment guarantee by workers of the socio-economically marginalized sections of CWC areas, focuses on facilitating advocacy of their rights at the local as well as at the state level. CWC in collaboration with the workers have recognized that the Act provides not more than 100 days of employment to the workers, whereas the Act states that the workers should be provided minimum of 100 days of employment and that there should not be a cap stipulating only 100 days of employment to the workers.

CWC has taken serious cognizance of this misinterpretation of the Act and its impact on the livelihoods of these workers. It has taken up these concerns with the MGNREGA Commissionerate at the state level and plans to pursue this concern as a major national-level advocacy initiative as there are systemic restrictions in place that do not allow workers to work more than 100 days. CWC has been able to consistently respond to the timely issues faced by workers employed under the MGNREGA scheme in Belagavi, Bagalkot, and Vijayanagar districts. CWC in collaboration with the MGNREGA workers sought clarification on the fact that members of the Gram Panchayat can also work as Metis (Supervisor of a group of workers). It has sought clarification from the Commissioner, MGNREGA and this has resulted in the passing of an order addressing this misinformation. CWC has been working with the MGNREGA workers who have not been able to secure job opportunities under the scheme even after one month of submission of an application, requesting for jobs.

The law states that after 15 days of submission of an application for a job and failure to secure a job opportunity, they are entitled to receive unemployment allowance.

ನಿಮಗಿದು ಗೊತ್ತೆ?

ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ನರಗಾ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಾಗಿ ನಿಮಗೆ ಈ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು ಇವೆ:

ನಮ್ಮ ಉಳವು ನಮಗೆ ಸಂವಿಧಾನ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಹಕ್ಕು.



ನರಗಾ ಕಾಯಿದೆಯಡಿ ನಮಗಿರುವ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಾವಕಾಶ ಈ ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

- ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 100 ದಿನಗಳ ಕೆಲಸವೇ ಹೊರತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠವಲ್ಲ.
- ನರಗಾದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಯಾವ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸುವುದು ನರಗಾ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಇರುವ ಗ್ರಾಮಸಭೆ, ತಾಲೂಕು, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅಲ್ಲ.
- ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಆಗತ್ಯವಿದ್ದಾಗ 100ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ದಿನಗಳ ಕೆಲಸ ಕೇಳುವ ಹಕ್ಕು ನಿಮಗಿದೆ.
- ಗ್ರಾಮ ಸಭೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಭೆಯ ಶಿಫಾರಸ್ಸುಗಳ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸುವುದು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಯ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ.
- ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಯೋಜನೆಯನುಸಾರ ಉದ್ಯೋಗದ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವುದು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ.
- ಬೇಡಿಕೆಯ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲ ಕೆಲಸ ನೀಡಲು ವಿಫಲವಾದಾಗ ಅಥವಾ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಶೋಷಣೆ ಪಾಲಿಸುವುದು ವಿಳಂಬವಾದರೆ, ಎರಡೂ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲ ಭತ್ಯೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಹಾರ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಹಕ್ಕು.
- ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಲೆಕ್ಕಪರಿಶೋಧನೆಯನ್ನು (ಸೋಶಿಯಲ್ ಅಡಿಟ್) ನಡೆಸುವುದು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಸಭೆಯೇ ವಿನಃ ಯಾರಿಂದಲೋ ನೇಮಕಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ ಅಥವಾ ಏಜೆಂಟರಿಂದ ಅಲ್ಲ.



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ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತರಾಗಿರಿ, ಜಾಗೃತೆಯಿಂದಿರಿ.

ಆಗಾಗ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಕೈಯನ್ನು ತೊಳೆಯುತ್ತಿರಿ,



ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಅಂತರವನ್ನು ಕಾಪಾಡಿ.



ಕೆಮ್ಮು/ಜ್ವರ/ಶೀತದ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳು ಇರುವವರಿಂದ ದೂರವಿರಿ.



ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮುಖ ಮತ್ತು ಕಣ್ಣುಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರಬೇಡಿ.



ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲೂ ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸಿ



In response to a letter sent by the MGNREGA workers regarding the non-functioning of the MGNREGA helpline, CWC has raised the issue at the state level with the MGNREGA Commissionerate for rapid response. We are following this up with the DC of Bellary district Mr. Anirudh Shravan to ensure that the workers receive their fair share of unemployment allowance for the period during which they have not been able to secure employment. The Commissioner NREGA has assured to look into the regulated functionality of this helpline and also promised to address the issue of providing unemployment compensation to the workers during the period of unemployment. CWC has also addressed information dissemination gaps to the MGNREGA workers. It has also ensured the dissemination of important information regarding accessing relevant benefits of welfare schemes, obtaining employment during COVID -19 lockdowns, accessing free ration announced by State and Central Governments, and other monetary and in-kind benefits from government and non-overnment stakeholders.

CWC had a joint meeting with Smt. Shilpa Nag, newly appointed commissioner of MGNREGA, Karnataka. A list of concerns from the field was shared with her and her team which included, Joint Director (JD) Administration, JD Horticulture, COO, MGNREGA-GOK, Additional Director Administration. A petition was developed on the basis of the same. As advocated by CWC, a meeting was convened by the Directorate MGNREGA, of MGNREGA workers and activists, in which GPHA represented the issues of concern. The plan is to call for a meeting of MGNREGA workers and Andolana members with the NREGA commissioner district levels.

In September 2021, the members working under the NREGA program in Kalvi Thanda, Kalvi panchayat, Huvinahadagali taluk, Vijayanagar district came together to convene a special Gram Sabha to discuss the concerns of NREGA workers with the Gram panchayat such as lack of payment of wages, availability of jobs, and availing unemployment compensation for non-working days. CWC has been constantly working with these workers to access their rights, benefits, and entitlements under the MGNREGA scheme and other government schemes to tide over the crisis that the COVID - 19 pandemic has triggered. A regular communication network has been established with the members of gram panchayats, active members under the MGNREGA program to disseminate essential information updates and summaries of circulars and orders issued by the government. It is also being used to address various concerns that they face while exercising their duties and responsibilities. A total of 400 MGNREGA workers across several panchayats in Vijaynagar district have participated in consultative processes, facilitated by the programs in order to address them and advocate for their resolution with the state government.

In the light of the impending elections for the legislative council of Karnataka, the program has facilitated the submission of manifestos outlining the demands and recommendations of the members of the Gram panchayat Hakkottaaya Andolana to the candidates contesting in the upcoming elections. The major recommendations outline strengthening the powers of the gram panchayat to function effectively as local self-government. These manifestos have been submitted to the candidates of the corresponding constituencies by members of GPHA across different districts. The program has also facilitated congratulatory letters to the candidates who have been elected urging them to undertake concrete steps towards the follow up of the concerns raised in the manifestos.

Ensuring that the distressed families of children access viable livelihood opportunities

The program has facilitated the provision of information to the children and their communities regarding accessing different relief programs offering compensation to the families affected by COVID-19. The program facilitated the submission of applications to receive compensation for children who lost their parents during COVID-19 and submitted 108 applications in this regard to the Give India foundation as a result 30 families have received the compensation amount.

The applications of 331 children across Udupi and Vijayanagara districts have been submitted to the government of Karnataka to receive compensation. Several members of the Bhima Sangha have agreed to come to SRC Namma Bhoomi to continue education and access vocational training opportunities. The program has facilitated the provision of transport fares for children to travel from different panchayats in the Vijayanagar district to SRC Namma Bhoomi. As a result of consistent advocacy by the adolescent girls from 24-gram panchayats across Vijayanagara district have been able to receive Shuchi sanitary napkins from the gram panchayats.

Capacity Building Trainings and Workshops

Capacity building tailoring workshop for members of women's groups in Bijur panchayat, Kundapur taluk, Udupi district



The COVID - 19 pandemic-induced lockdowns resulted in large-scale unemployment. CWC aimed at creating self-employment opportunities for marginalized communities such as women's groups in the Udupi district, thereby responding to the market needs by enabling skill development in a decentralized manner in collaboration with the local government and civil society organizations, and private institutions. CWC envisioned the delivery of a skill training program to women in need of employment opportunities. It has been able to organize a 20-day tailoring training program in Bijur panchayat, Kundapur taluk for women's groups.

About 67 members participated in the training. The members of the Udupi district administration and members of the Bijur gram panchayat were present at the flagging-off ceremony of the program. The the program provided training for two teams of trainees, addressing basic and advanced methods of tailoring. This training program has been conducted in collaboration with the Gram Panchayat Bijur and Canara Bank Rural Self Employment Institute, Manipal. Facilitators from the Namma Bhoomi provided the training for the participants. As a result of this training, the entire batch of the trainees was successful in producing a fully completed order of 5000 PPE kits, there catering to locally identified market needs.

State National and International Advocacy

Bhima Sangha draws national attention to issues faced by working children across the country under the 'Children: Ambassadors of Change' banner and a national petition

Deepa, a member of Bhima Sangha from Hagaribommanahalli panchayat, Ballari (Now Vijayanagara) district participated in the national level platform to draw attention to the issues faced by Bhima Sangha in Ballari (Now Vijayanagara district). She represented Bhima Sangha at the national press conference to release the consolidated petition listing out the recommendations that Bhima Sangha had developed over several levels of consultations in collaboration with 7 other working children's unions across the country. At the national level press conference to release the petition, Deepa spoke about the recommendations to the Govt. concerning livelihoods, lack of information dissemination regarding effective implementation and access to government schemes for adolescent girls, gap in wage payment and issues faced by working children due to illegal sale of alcohol in the communities. She and other members of this national cohort were able to put forth their demands to the Government and their collective national petition is being viewed with utmost seriousness by national and international organizations and agencies.

Bhima Sangha was thereby able to effectively access this national level platform to bring about the much-needed attention to the issues faced by working children in the constituency areas and exert pressure on decisions makers regarding the urgency to act upon them.

Working adolescents from 8 states demand national attention and child-rights-friendly response from the State on the 29th April 2021, the eve of National Child Labour Day, India

Working children and adolescents representing unions of working children from 8 states of the country came together to discuss their rights, voice their demands and flag their aspirations at the national event to commemorate 30 years of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on November 20, 2021. At the national level, this consultative process led by representatives of working children has been revered high importance, owing to the detailed recommendations developed in consultation with children's unions across the country. Adolescent working children have been completely marginalized in policy discussions and the petition makes a strong and compelling case to decision maker, policy makers and international agencies at the national and international level to take serious cognisance of the issues faced by working children and the solutions to address them.

The national press conference 'Children: Ambassadors of Change' had representatives of unions and organizations of working children and adolescents from New Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. The members of the unions spoke about their present situation, especially in the context of COVID - 19 and beyond. They were very emphatic that issues of working children and adolescents have never received the attention they urgently deserve. Making matters worse, COVID - 19 has further aggravated many of the long-standing systemic issues, gravely affecting them and their communities.



As representatives of their unions and child-led organizations, they further discussed our issues in great detail. Based on those discussions, they have drawn up this petition in which they have demanded their rights and entitlements. They have shared it, nationally, on the occasion of 'Child Labour Day, April 30, 2021, to uphold their rights. Their petition is addressed to the Government of India, as the primary duty bearer responsible for the realisation of their rights.

Through the petition, members of Bhima Sangha have highlighted several root causes giving rise to child labor such as surviving COVID – 19 crisis situations, Protection for all children, Safe occupations for adolescents, Professional Training and education, Livelihood for youth and their families, Demands specific for protection of children of De-Notified Tribal communities (DNT), Health, Food Security, Negative social practices and Governance. Here is the detailed petition:

<http://www.concernedforworkingchildren.org/news/2021/04/petition-by-working-adolescents-demanding-attention-and-child-rights-friendly-response-from-the-state-on-the-29th-April-2021-the-eve-of-national-child-labour-day-india/>.

They have also been to contribute to the drafting of an article about their issues and recommendations to the Government, which would be published in Open Democracy international online magazine.

Unions of working adolescents from 8 states of India facilitated by CSOs released petition on the eve of National Child Labour day, April 29th, 2021

Working children and adolescents from 8 states of the country as with the 8 organizations at the National level came together to discuss the rights, and demands, and flag the aspirations at the national event to commemorate 30 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on November 20, 2021, by the Petition by working adolescents demanding attention and child-rights friendly response from the State on the 29th April 2021, the eve of National Child Labour Day.

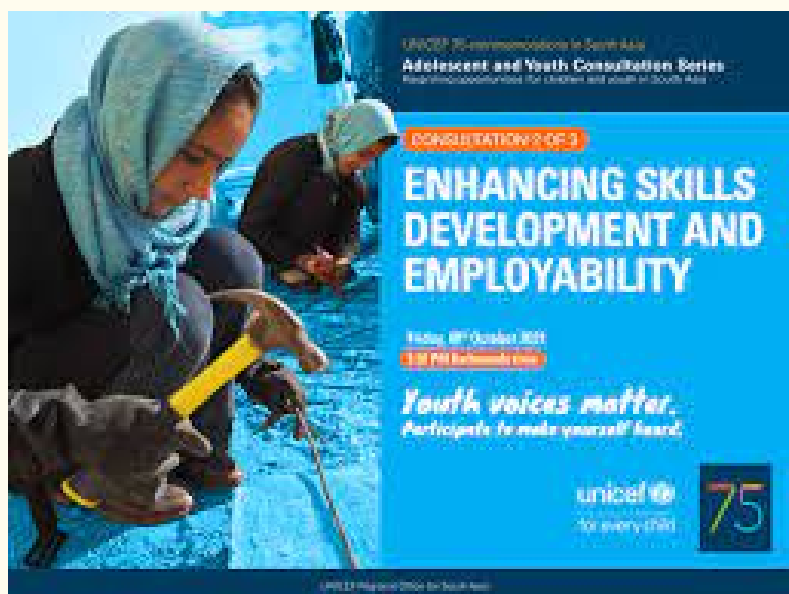
As working for children's/ adolescent's union, Women's Welfare Association, Tarun Sena, Bhima Sangha, Vidiyal Child Rights Movement, Azad Jugnu Club, Praajak's Youth Collective, Balak Nama, Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Sanghatan (BASS) signed in the petition facilitated by the organizations Mahila Jan Adhikar Samithi (MJAS) Shaishav, The Concerned for Working Children (CWC), Sakthi – Vidiyal, Muskaan, Prajaak, Childhood Enhancement Through Training and Action (CHETNA), Youth for Unity, and Voluntary Action (YUVA). It was demanded by as working children's unions/organizations that all Acts, Policies, Guidelines, and Programmes meant to uphold the best interests of working children and adolescents be empathetic and sensitive to difficult and diverse realities.

Advocacy through International Media: The internationally renowned journal Open Democracy invited CWC, and the young members of the CAOC Movement to highlight their demands and the issues in its November 2021 edition. The article received multiple retweets and it continues to garner attention at several platforms at the international level to restart the discussion in realization of the rights of working children in the light of the UN Alternate Report focusing on working children.

Here is the link to the article: https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/beyond-trafficking-and-slavery/i-am-a-child-worker-hear-me/?fbclid=IwAR0ILfOy5X7_Hu6V0J-y44FrBLXq1LIRLY4EMODgiMtjNn05hOCcuiKS40Q.

This was preceded by another powerful article by Kavita Ratna, CWC critiquing the approach to addressing the child labour at the national and international level and also prescribing the way forward to address the problem:

https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/beyond-trafficking-and-slavery/banning-child-labour-jeopardises-working-childrensrighttosurvive/fbclid=IwAR2hIM6sFpKMKo3uoY3SgFiji8b_DTzuDcLqS13OXLCR39FwR1I3gH6J9Cg



Advocacy with UNICEF: In October 2021, two members of Bhima Sangha from the Udupi and Vijayanagar districts participated and shared their experiences around COVID - 19 and its impact on their own, their families' and community's livelihood and employability at the virtual consultation: Reimagining South Asia: The Impact of COVID-19 on Skills Development and Employability in the Region', organized by UNICEF – ROSA as a part of UNICEF's 75th-anniversary commemorations. This was part of a series of adolescent and youth consultations focusing on the most marginalized adolescents and young people, whose aspirations and experiences especially around employability and livelihoods are otherwise not heard in mainstream consultations. The representation of the young members of Bhima Sangha, facilitated by CWC, was greatly appreciated by the various participants and the organisers of the event.

Advocacy with ILO: In December 2021, members of Bhima Sangha and representatives of CWC were invited by the Dialogue Works Movement and SAGC (South Asia Coordination Group on Action against Violence Against Children) to participate in the Asia-level Youth and CSO pre-consultation to the 5th Global Conference 2022 by the ILO. With CWC deciding to involve the Children: Ambassadors of Change (CAOC) Movement and participate as its member, it elicited the participation of other young people from the Movement's unions and collectives. Thus, the members of the Bhima Sangha and other young people from the Movement participated in the consultation in a strong and articulated manner. They raised the counterargument to blanket bans of Child Labour, and the need to take a child rights approach to Child Work which is allowed by the law. The CAOC petition was also represented in the meeting. The Children and CWC also raised a critically the point about the structure and format of the consultation with the Chair of the SAGC, who hosted this pre-consultation.

Advocacy with International Working Children's Processes: The members of the Bhima Sangha along with other young members of the CAOC movement are being facilitated to explore the Dialogue Works process as well as other international processes as alternative global platforms for Working Children's Agency and Voice to be heard and hopefully considered in the 5th Global Conference in May 2022 scheduled to be held in Durban, South Africa.

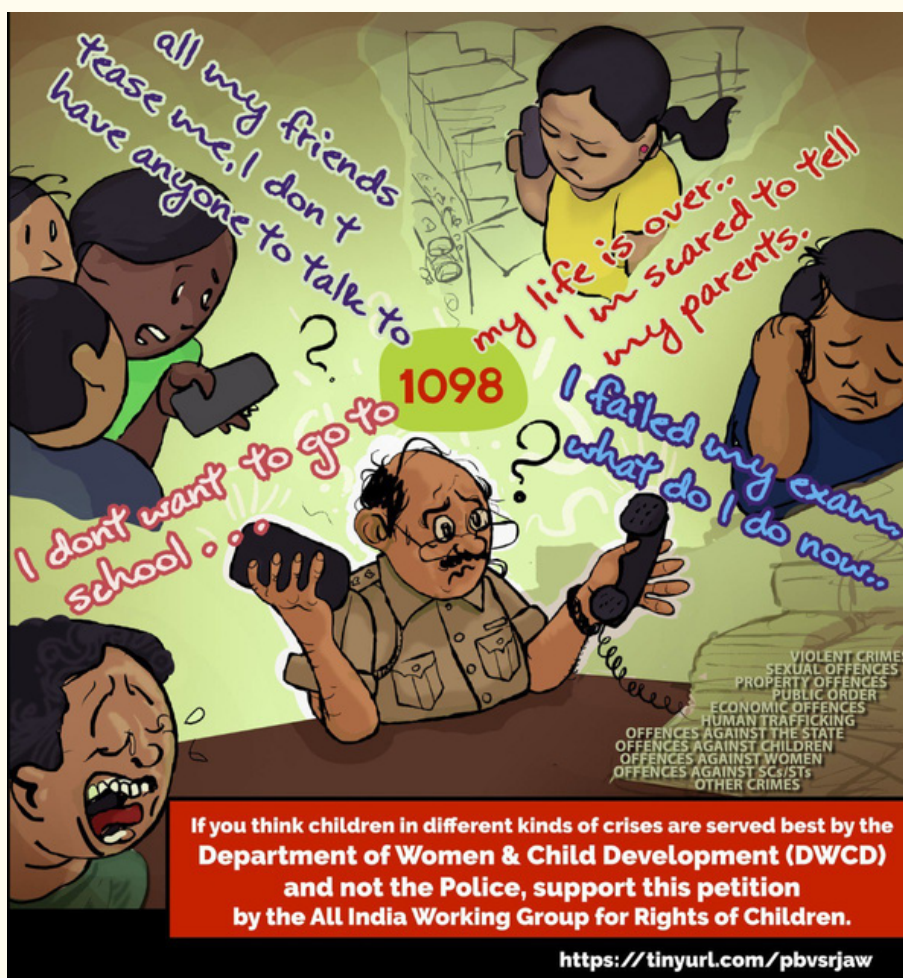
Important concerns and recommendations by the All India Working Group for the Rights of Children (AIWGRC) regarding the online consultative processes towards youth-focused policies implemented by the Niti Aayog

On June 25th, 2021, the AIWGRC had access to an online form generated by Niti Aayog, which informed of its Sub Committee for Youth Engagement which intended to strategize and implement a holistic program for Youth Engagement and Development. The form also informed that Niti Aayog sought perspectives of young people on their current concerns, anxieties, and hopes in order to design 'youth-focused policies'. The letter focused on important concerns which need to be addressed if this is to be a meaningful exercise to ensure the best interests of youth and to uphold their agency.

CWC as a part of the All India Working Group for the Rights of Children (AIWGRC), a network of nationally renowned individuals, organizations and networks for their work on the rights of children and adolescents across the country, drafted and sent a detailed letter to the Niti Aayog (Planning Commission, Govt. of India) on concerns regarding an important national consultative process to inform youth-focused policies, implemented by the Niti Aayog. This letter has also been sent to parliamentarians who have been renowned and have received awards and accolades for their work to uphold children's rights nationally and internationally to raise on the floor of the Assembly to push the ruling Govt to pass legislation that uphold children's rights by addressing alarming concerns.

The letter stressed that in order to ensure a more in-depth, broad-based, inclusive process of consulting with youth, AIWGRC made the following recommendations: The methodology adopted to consult young people has to be decentralized and flexible, allowing for young people in different parts of the country to contribute to the process. Efforts have to be made to identify young people from different interest groups and experiencing a wide range of vulnerabilities from different social, cultural, economic and political settings as their unique concerns and interests have to be heard. It should also accommodate views and suggestions related to post-education and post-adolescence stages. CWC has been consistently following up with Niti Aayog to seek its response to the letter.

National level advocacy by AIWGRC challenging the proposed move to transfer ChildLine to administrative control of MHA



The All India Working Group for Rights of Children in Contact with Railways (AIWG-RCCR) is an alliance concerned about the rights of children in contact with railways and was founded in June 2014 to promote the concept of agency of children. It strives to seek greater recognition of Agency of Children in-laws, jurisprudence, policies, programs, judicial and administrative process, practices, art, literature, culture, politics, and academics. The organisation became a core group member of AIWG-RCCR to bring in the required focus on children's participation while enabling children to advocate for their rights across different platforms.

The All India Working Group for the Rights of Children (AIWGRC) of which CWC is a core team member, which was instrumental in releasing the research report 'Life, World and Agency of Children in Contact of Railways' has upheld the right to participation of marginalized and vulnerable children that need care and protection. The AIWGRC, which last released its report in 2019 and released several important recommendations at the state and national level, which included aspects of effective functioning of ChildLine helpline services and systems to respond to children in crisis situations in a child rights-friendly manner.

The AIWGRC yet again came together with the Central Govt. proposing to move ChildLine from under the Ministry of Women and Child Development to Ministry of Home Affairs. Through a national petition, AIWGRC has expressed its reservations to moving ChildLine to the administrative control of MHA fearing reduced use by children of this service and inflicting psychological harm and distress to children. Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India Ms. Smriti Irani at a press briefing on March 15, 2021 stated that there is a plan to move the Childline 1098 services to the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs from the current Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The Child line number 1098 exists for children to use it during emergency. Children can contact this number if they are facing issue and to seek support. If the Child line number 1098 is transferred under the jurisdiction of the police, there is a possibility of the police personnel ignoring the calls made by children during crisis situations to seek support. The primary concern of the police is to discharge their duty to maintain law and order. In such situations, they may not prioritize the issues raised by children who contact Child line for emergency purposes for help and support. They feel that it is better that the Child line 1098 service is handed over to NGO's who are trained in the field of children rights, have experience working with children and are able to understand children well. If such trained people receive calls by children who either share their concern or seek support to address their issues, then they are able to immediately respond to such requests. No details have been spelt out except that move is to "preserve data sensitivity". This petition has also been strongly backed by the voices of children from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka who strongly feel that handing over ChildLine to the Police will only deter children from using the helpline in crisis situations as they fear the response and handling by them.

Their views and critique on the proposed move has formed the supporting annexure to the petition. In Tamil Nadu, Forum for Promotion of Child Participation (FPCP), a network of likeminded organisations, facilitating the formation of children groups or collectives took the initiative in documenting the voices of children across Tamil Nadu. In the short span of time and amidst the difficulties of the pandemic situation, FPCP members were able to discuss with their children groups either online or small group discussion and presented the views and opinion of children on this very important issue.

On a question by the press about whether police personnel will have the requisite skills to deal with children sensitively, the Secretary MWCD is reported as having said, "We will build an ecosystem such that after a complaint is registered the call can be handled by NGOs." So the current understanding based on this news report is that the calls will be attended to by Police personnel and then, at the discretion of the Police, and possibly NGOs will come into the picture for supporting the process. This raises the basic concern if this move will benefit the children; whether it is in the best interest of the child. When it comes to practicality, it is doubtful if children or adults will feel comfortable calling the police. In the above context, AIWGRC submitted its national petition to the Ministries of DWCD and HA and also to the respective ministers, ChildLine India Foundation, NCPCR, and SCPCRs.

During the discussion in the national level advocacy-pressure group, it was suggested that the petition to the ministry should be strengthened with the voice of children on this proposed move. The concern and opinions of children who have used the ChildLine services and were exposed to the system, needed to be documented and presented to the government.

This petition has been sent to all concerned ministers and their ministries, officials, NCPCR and SCPCRs. 2 National Networks, 1 state network (from Gujarat), 82 National organisations and 24 individual child rights advocates from across the country have endorsed it. The petition has been shared with national and state media and here is the subsequent coverage:

TheWire: <https://m.thewire.in/article/rights/children-distress-national-helpline-police-officials/amp#referrer=https://www.google.com&csi=0>

TNIE: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/child-rights-bodies-oppose-move-to-shift-childline-to-administrative-control-of-home-ministry-7319089/>

AIWGRC – Upholding Children’s Right to Agency and Participation

2021 culminated on a very promising note in terms of the progression of the AIWGRC network. With the aim to actualize AIWGRC’s central focus of highlighting Children’s Right to Agency and Participation, the important component of Children’s Sharing Sessions has been incorporated. Thus in 2021 three such children’s sharing sessions were facilitated in the monthly network meetings, which had children from marginalized communities of Gorakhpur, UP sharing about their Community Radio initiative as a tool for community mobilisation and welfare; the Adi Dravidar children and support activists from Tamil Nadu highlighting the plight and concerns of the Adi Dravidar (SC/ST) communities in the state, especially regarding education; Children from the urban slums of Bangalore, highlighting the power and potential of Sanghas (children’s collective) to effect change in the lives of the members and their communities. These children’s sharing sessions and the ensuing space for discussion and dialogue between children from different organisations, locations, and contexts, upheld the network’s clear mission to Uphold Children’s participation as central to developing the forward agenda of the network. The format of the consultations was greatly appreciated by the children and all those who participated. The network will continue to nurture this space to ensure that this ripe platform of children’s agency and participation continues, with children engaging in cross learning, seeking solidarity etc.

Representing the position and recommendations of the Young Voices National Movement to the UNCRC

The workshop titled ‘Child Early and Forced Marriage’ aimed at unpacking the meaning of accountability in the context of CEFM from a human rights perspective. In particular, the discussions will focus on two main aspects of accountability for CEFM by discussing the impact of legal and normative measures against CEFM, especially possible detrimental impact on girls and gender equality, addressing the importance of comprehensive approaches, which do not rely on criminalisation only, but include sets of measures that are complementary, including measures to address root causes of CEFM, including on gender equality and addressing how to measure and define “success” from a human rights perspective, beyond results in delaying age of marriage or having laws in place.

Discussions focused on experiences that have enhanced accountability through various SDGs and human rights mechanisms and through social accountability, among other tactics, used to enhance transparency and civil society participation in monitoring public budgets and spending to end CEFM. The workshop will gather practitioners, from civil society, relevant human rights mechanisms, regional mechanisms, and UN entities. In the context of COVID – 19, the prevalence of child marriage has increased phenomenally and this has been acknowledged at an international forum.

CWC was invited by the UN Forum to present on the Young Voices – National Report as CWC had served as the national anchor in enabling children’s participation across the country to gather detailed recommendations to address child marriage at the grassroots level by addressing root causes of the problem, having its connections to state and national policies and programmes. This has been established as an important document and process nationally and internationally. CWC was present at the UNHRC session on session and spoke about the Young Voices National Report and the subsequent discussions of the representatives of young voices with the Niti Aayog.

CWC received very good responses from the young voices group as well as the chairperson of UNCRC Ms. Mikkiko Otani was present throughout and has promised to convey all the issues and concerns to the UN committee on the rights of the child the discussions will also be presented at the UNHRC event in July the discussions were very good they have been some good suggestions for the way forward. Ms. Mikkiko made great suggestions on how to engage more with the UN Treaty mechanism on the issue of ECFM. The participants of this webinar came from about 22 countries and regions across the world including Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Senegal, West Africa, East Africa, South East Asia, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Advocating for the young people's agency and voice in the age of marriage debate

With its continued mandate to highlight the agency and demands of young people with regards to the age of marriage, in September 2021, CWC as the national anchor of the Young Voices National Movement (YVNM) represented the movement and the Young Voices report and recommendations as panellists at the virtual ten year anniversary event and panel discussion of Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage, titled 'Progress to end child marriage: A decade of driving forward' hosted by Ford Foundation and Girls not Brides. CWC's representation of the Young Voices movement as well as young people's agency on age of marriage and their demands to prioritise building a more equitable future for all, was greatly appreciated in the event.

In December 2021, the bill to increase the age of marriage was proposed in the lower house of the parliament, to be deliberated in its winter session. This was done without any deliberations and consultations within parliament or with the civil society and rights experts. In strong protest to this move, the young people of the YVNM, sent out an open letter to several parliamentarians to contend this blanket passing of the bill, without really considering it pros and cons on the young people of the country themselves. Several young members of the YVWG, co-signed on this letter to express their agency and solidarity against this non-democratic move by the government. The link to the letter:

http://www.concernedforworkingchildren.org/news/2021/12/open-letter-from-girl-citizens-to-parliamentarians-opposing-the-bill-to-increase-the-age-of-marriage-of-young-girls-from-18-21-years/?fbclid=IwAR1WMm4q-ZeUkj-Jz94EkuaccnO9DG5jebuBVNDG9lwZu3Lim7_Bk8Bv8

The national level advocacy groups also drafted a policy brief highlighting the major concerns with the proposed amendment that would accompany the plea to the parliamentarians to oppose the bill in the parliament.

Here is the link: <https://www.concernedforworkingchildren.org/news/2021/12/raising-the-age-of-marriage-will-only-criminalise-and-not-prevent-early-marriages/>

The position of the YVNM has been made widely known through many prominent national media forums. Here are the links to the articles published in BBC Hindi and The Hindu:

• *BBC Hindi:* https://www.bbc.com/hindi/india-59791117?fbclid=IwAR2F0meBS0_ZBztvaHAuv4ctazqDy4VLxh86pO2RPEfQtFQPt1-sPv_NQHM

• *The Hindu:* <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/vote-against-governments-proposal-to-raise-age-of-marriage-mps-told/article38000175.ece/amp/>

The YVNM's advocacy could be deemed to have contributed to the Parliament's decision to have a standing committee look into this bill before passing, and the passing was pushed to the following sessions. However, several concerns with regards to the composition of the committee, their commitment to the best interest of the young people affected by this, etc. have been raised. The YVWG is firming up its strategy regarding the way forward.

Advocating for policy change to impact care leavers across the nation and inputting into the process led by UN - Participation of Namma Sabha in the national webinar

Children in distress situations and those in need of care and protection enter the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) across the country. They have grown up in these institutions and leave the CCIs once they become 18 years of age. These are children who are dependent on the state to provide them access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, education, counseling, care and protection through the CCIs and different kinds of caregivers. These are the children who have fallen through the safety nets created by the policies and programs aimed to uplift the marginalized sections of society. These children have been failed by the systemic flaws that have pushed children to be out of care and protection, have been failed by policies governing their care and protection, the flaws in the functioning of the CCIs in a child rights-friendly manner, and the inability of the society to absorb them back into the society to lead a normal life after they become of age.

Co-facilitated by

CLAN

UDAJAN care | Where young lives shine

m.a. MAKE A DIFFERENCE

OUR EXPERIENCES, OUR VOICES
WHAT DO CARE LEAVERS IN INDIA WANT TO HAVE BETTER OUTCOMES IN LIFE?

Inviting care leavers to join us towards the United Nations Day of General Discussion 2021, to share their views on the following:

- How do you define quality care for children and care leavers?
- How can we ensure that children and young people are fully and meaningfully involved in decision-making on the prevention of family separation and the provision of quality alternative care? What are examples in your context of the participation of children in decisions relating to alternative care?
- How can we together strengthen the aftercare practice in India for care leavers?
- What measures and responses should have been taken to support care leavers in India to mitigate risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What support do care leavers need now in the coming times? What do policymakers need to understand about care leavers?

Date: June 5, 2021 (Saturday)
 Time: 5.30 P.M to 7.00 P.M
[Click here to register](#)

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Please note: Participation is only for care leavers

This was an opportunity for the care leavers from SRC Namma Bhoomi to highlight the systemic challenges in providing adequate support to children in CCIs currently, care leavers, and those that have left the CCIs to lead a normal life after 18 years. Care leavers across the country have consistently raised the lack of support that they require from various institutions working towards their well-being and highlighted several important recommendations for change in the existing system and indicated long-term policy change and intervention by the Government.

Members of Namma Sabha, Sharath Movadi, and Sathish Gangolli participated in the national webinar organized by Leavers Association and Network (CLAN), Udayan Care, and Make A Difference (MAD) are co-facilitated a session with care leavers to understand their concerns, experiences, challenges and aspirations to support better outcomes for care leavers in India, towards submission to the United Nations General Day of Discussion 2021. The event is supported by India Alternative Care Network (IACN) and UNICEF. They shared several inputs about the state support required by care leavers, with a special focus on children who are orphans and enter the CCIs without the care and protection of parents/guardians. These inputs would go into the country report submitted by UNICEF to the UN Committee to impact on the care leavers of the entire country.

Following were their important recommendations to the webinar: The fit person/institution must take necessary measures to validate and approve of the groom's family and also take support from the local police and DWCD officials for marrying a young girl of 18 years of age in their care. The fit-person institutions must take the necessary steps to highlight the issues faced and adequate support needed by the young care leavers. The care leavers must be able to receive support from local Makkala Mitra (Children's friend) and Mahila Mitra (Women's Friend). The government must announce a dedicated budgetary allocation in the best interest of care leavers. Along with the local Nodal Officers, it must identify such young people who are socio-economically vulnerable and provide appropriate financial aid for housing and accessing essential supplies. It should provide a certificate stating for orphans so that this certified government-recognized document can be used for different purposes by the care leavers. It must provide scholarships and financial support to continue further education and free medical help support.

Initiating the development of the District Child Rights Protection Protocol in 10 child-rights-friendly districts of Karnataka in collaboration with ICPS6

In response to a series of incidents where lapses in ensuring the safety and protection of children were observed across the state, inspired by the Udupi District Child Rights Protection Protocol (Attached), the Department of Integrated Child Protection Services Scheme (ICPS), DWCD decided to implement the Udupi District Child Rights Protection Protocol in 10 model districts of Karnataka - Tumkur, Udupi, Mysore, Mandya, Gadag, Kalburgi, Belagavi, Dharwad, Hassan and Chamarajanagar. The District Child Rights Protection Protocol becomes a detailed guideline that prescribes the multi sectoral and inter-departmental convergence to address the issues raised by children in a child rights friendly manner. It also lays out detailed guidelines prescribing the roles and responsibilities of the elected representatives at the three tiers of the local government from the panchayat to the district level.

The detailed guideline also enables children's participation from the local to the district level through the protection mechanisms. It also creates a robust complaints mechanism bringing about transparency and upholding confidentiality of children who choose to use the complaints mechanisms that are designed to function in a child rights friendly manner. ICPS has therefore initiated consultative, participative and bottom-up processes with children to draft protocols specifically tailored to respond to the crisis situations in the model districts, drawing from the Udupi District Child Rights Protection Protocol, the Dept. of ICPS called for a virtual meeting on 30th October 2020 to initiate the process.

The first round of discussion was held on 15th January 2021. CWC conducted capacity-building training workshop to the nodal NGOs to assist them with understanding the roles and responsibilities to ensure a thorough consultative process, ensuring the participation of children to listen to their issues and recommendations, which will pave the way for the drafting of the Child Rights Protection Protocol in a participatory and child-rights-friendly manner were discussed and finalized. Discussions were held with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and elements of the Udupi Region Child Rights Protection Protocol were recommended to be implemented in the Ballari Region.

Discussions were held with the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Energy, to harmonize the consultation processes in all regions. Conference calls were held with all 10 DCPU and Nodal Agencies (CSOs) to focus on consultations with children as an initial step for protocol formulation, and specific instructions were given for detailed documentation and reporting of problems faced by children. Necessary follow-ups were made by CWC for the reports of the consultations in Tumkur and Dharwad districts.

Exerting pressure on the Department of RDPR, Government of Karnataka to release salaries and safety gear to ASHA workers

The Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers are mostly women who are working as a frontline workers addressing COVID - 19 crisis situations across the state at the panchayat level. Through the course of the follow-up calls to the children, their communities and local governments in the constituency areas, they have raised that they did not receive their salaries for up to 3 months as of May 2021 and also that they were not provided PPE kits and other protective gear during home visits and community visits during the lockdown. CWC in collaboration with the ASHA workers of Byndoor taluk took up the matter with the Principal Secretary, Department of RDPR, who heads the GoK - NGO COVID Response Team and sought immediate disbursement of pending salaries and necessary PPE kits to the ASHA workers across the state. Following this initiative, the department swiftly followed up in the concern and released salaries to the ASHA workers.

Facilitating a comprehensive MIS system for the state of Karnataka in collaboration with the Dept of ICPS, DWCD and Department of RDPR, Govt. of Karnataka

CWC has been approached by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) to develop an information management system to put together a database of the needs of children across the state of Karnataka. This template will be used to conduct mapping exercises and gather important statistics related to the children across the State. At present, the National Commission for Protection of Children's Rights (NCPCR) has requested the setting up of a portal putting together the details of adoption of the children called 'Balwaraj'. This proposed database of orphan children has no clarity regarding the purpose of being set up. The DCPU is already collecting community-based data.

Another information management portal called Taarini collates information about Child Care Institutions. There is yet another portal called Track Child which is also managed by the DCPU. In addition to these portals, the health department also manages an information portal known as 'Poshane' (Care and Protection). The panchayat information management portal 'Panchamitra' is a database of personal details that as an Aadhaar Card, details about the family, and details related to their entitlements. In addition to this the COVID-19 war room also puts together emergency contact details.

Recognizing the information that is present identifying the information gaps and avoiding duplication is the core objective of this exercise. Therefore the MIS state-level advocacy group of which CWC is a member has suggested to the State Government that the Panchamitra portal should be the central database that should consolidate all relevant information to provide a holistic picture of the details of every child and his or her family. It should also put together emergency contact details of the COVID war room, and information about the health system and schools.

The group also conducted a meeting the Commissioner, Department of RDPR regarding the same. The group has also suggested addressing the lack of data management in urban areas under the purview of the BBMP. It has also recommended that AWC, ASHA workers and the panchayat task force come together to complete this exercise. CWC is also extending support in setting up an online portal or counseling. As a follow-up to the ongoing work with respect to developing a management information system to document Panchayat level information of children across the state of Karnataka, Kavita and other members of the MIS Karnataka state group had a scheduled call with Priyanka Mary Francis, the Commissioner RDPR on June 8th 2021 to discuss concrete further steps to develop the framework for the MIS.

'JAALA JAAGRATE' (Online Safety)

In collaboration with ICPS, Dept. of WCD, GoK and All India Radio

A programme aimed at providing awareness regarding digital safety and children's rights

- **On Primary channel**
Every **Tuesday** at **7.15 AM** on state hookup on 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th November 2021
- **On FM Rainbow 101.3**
Every **Wednesday** at **8.02 AM** on 10th, 17th, 24th November and 1st December 2021
- **On Vividha Bharathi 102.9**
Every **Thursday** at **8.45 AM** on 11th, 18th, 26th November and 2nd December 2021

Enabling adults to support children using digital media – Highlighting concerns about digital safety for children at a state level webinar

Children across the constituency areas through regular facilitation during our interactions with them have raised several concerns regarding online abuse and bullying. They have expressed the lack of knowledge in navigating the digital space where they establish a digital presence of themselves and face several alarming dangers while using social and digital media. Several of them also raised that they have been facing physical, mental and psychological abuse due to online usage and is thereby impacting them. They are also increasingly becoming victims of cyber-crimes and are also getting into financial frauds online through purported platforms for children's entertainment such as gaming apps and portals.

CWC presented on the issue of 'Cybercrime - Concept, types, and scenario of Cyber-crimes against children in India' on Tuesday, June 8th, 2021 at the virtual program online sensitization program on 'Cyber-crimes and its effects on children for functionaries of Child Care Institutions' organized by National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) Regional Centre, Bangalore. The webinar was aimed at reaching out to children in the most marginalized situations across the state, especially children in CCIs by providing guidance to the adults who are responsible for the functioning of the CCIs on how to support children to use technology in a way that they don't harm themselves or other children in the process. A total of 100 participants from all 30 districts of Karnataka, including counsellors, social workers, volunteers, and wardens who are staff members of the Child Care Institutions under the Dept. of ICPS were addressed to during the webinar.

Dhruva - Consultancy

International - Providing Technical inputs to UNICEF South Asia Regional Office (ROSA)

The Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP) section at the UNICEF Regional Office in South Asia is developing a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Adolescent Participation in Governance. CWC is providing technical inputs for its content development as a subject expert. This collaboration with ADAP is supported by the formal Organisational Partnership between CWC and UNICEF, ROSA.

This MOOC is to create awareness around the importance of adolescent participation in governance and to equip adults with the knowledge and skills needed to engage with adolescents in various contexts. Adults have an ethical obligation to create an enabling environment and safe space for adolescents to be heard on practices and policies that impact them. This starts with giving adults opportunities to recognize the capacity of adolescents to be thought partners and agents of change in their communities.

This MOOC is predominantly a video-based solution for the development of an interactive, quality-assured learning program to strengthen the capacities of public functionaries in South Asia to engage meaningfully with adolescents in governance and in decisions that affect their lives. Two dimensions of participation are considered: The meaningful engagement of adolescents as a. persons with entitlements and b. persons with agency who can influence and advocate.

This program is intended for professionals in governments, civil society organizations, and independent human rights institutions. It can extend to any adults working with adolescents such as teachers, lawyers, judges, police, social workers, community workers, medical professionals, civil servants, public officials, traditional leaders, and parents. Upon completion of this program, learners are expected to understand, implement and assess the principles, policies, and practices relating to adolescent participation in governance and institutional settings. Presently it is a work in progress.

National - Capacity Building for Breakthrough organisation

Breakthrough works to make violence against women and girls unacceptable. It works extensively with young people through a deep transformation model that helps them develop a stronger identity and confidence to make their own life decisions towards embarking on a journey of being gender equality champions. We ensure that they have an enabling environment to do so by working with their families and community at large and key stakeholders like frontline workers, PRI members, school management, state authorities, etc. CWC conducted a town hall session for 150 staff members of the organization from 5 states and 13 districts. This was to build their understanding of working with agencies and with young people to facilitate their participation, thereby inputting into their organisational approach.

Damu Dundubhi – Celebrating the life and legacy of Sri. Damodar Acharya

To celebrate the life and legacy of Sri Damodar Acharya, CWC has planned the programme 'Damu Dundhubhi' (Celebratory drumbeats). Damu, as he is fondly called, is a co-founder of The Concerned for Working Children, its former Executive Director and an inspiring driving force of the organisation. The programme will showcase a range of activities including, exhibitions, games, discussions, book releases as well as the productions of a puppet play and Yakshagaana. Here are the cover pages the publications for release.

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ದಾಮೋದರ ಅಜಾಯ್

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ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಹಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಳಲು ಕ್ಲಿಕ್ ಮಾಡಿ.

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