

Brief Report – Right to Family Campaign

Organised by:

Task force in collaboration with Women & Child Development Departments,
Government of Orissa & UNICEF, Field office for Orissa

Event: Right to Family Campaign

Date: 29th, 30th & 31st August, 2010

Location: Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India

Recalling that, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations has proclaimed that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance. Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, A world where every child enjoys the right to a childhood in a safe and caring family, free from poverty, violence and exploitation. Considering that the child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society, and brought up in the spirit of the ideals proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity.

Factors underlying the vulnerability of children and lack of appropriate parental care include natural disasters, internal migration, HIV/AIDS and chronic poverty. These factors have been documented as the main reasons children lack parental care on a global level. The increase in the number of children requiring alternative care has contributed to the emergence of many new child care institutions. Ironically, this increase in institutional care has coincided with increasing awareness of and research into the negative effects of institutionalization on children's physical, emotional, and cognitive development. Security of a family makes all the difference in the world to a child's chances of having not only a childhood, but a future. Looking in to the above need for child development and protection Task force, in collaboration with Govt. of Orissa, Dept. of Women and Child Development and UNICEF, Orissa Office, has organised the "**Right to Family Campaign**" (Focus on non - institutional child care system) in Bhubaneswar.

Every Child has a Right to Family is a concept promoting various alternative family based care system for orphan and other vulnerable children without parental care. This concept has been well recognised by Government of India as well as Government of Orissa through various policy frameworks like Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act & recently launched "Integrated Child Protection Schemes – ICPS".

The task force is committed, to provide every child without parental care with "an alternative family environment". The task force work on the issue in a campaign mood and assess the situation from grass root level to the state policy level. Towards achieving the goal the task force in its process, assess current practices within child care institutions, including quality

of care, in relation to nationally and internationally recognized standards of care at the district and institutional level, have series of meetings with the stakeholders at block and district level and consolidated the findings at the state level through different workshop to influence the policy forum at the state level. Some of the measure findings of the process are
The development of new child care institutions has been increasing over the past several years, but the development of other alternative care options has not been growing at the same pace. No other approach has ever been adopted by the government apart from sending children to the orphanage and the state policy has not enough space on the issues to address.

To address the issue in a more effective and integrated way with all the stakeholders including the children, at the state level three inter linked events are organized and are as follows

Event - I: Listening Childrens Voice

Date: 29th , 30th & 31st August, 2010

Location: Red Cross Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Orissa,

Participants: 45 Orphan & OVCs

A State Level Workshop was organized from 29th Aug. to 30th Aug. 2010 at Red Cross Bhawan, Bhubaneswar on ***“Listening Childrens’s Voice”***.

The very purpose of the workshop is to promote non-institutional care for the children who are living without parental care. Around 45 Children from different institutional and non institutional care across the districts like Nuapada, Khurdha, Bolangir, Cuttack, Baudh, Keonjhar and Koraput actively participated in the program. As a part of “right to family



campaign “the program positively contributed to place the voice of the children in influencing and integrating the state policy frame work. Resource person from different Government and non Govt. institutions who are actively contributing to the cause of child rights facilitated the sessions. Focus was given more to adopt participatory and child friendly methodologies like storytelling, painting, games, experience sharing etc. to bring out more participation of children. Children express their voices through the experience sharing sessions about their rights and basing on the rights, what opportunities and constrains they are facing in their daily life. The objective behind organizing such kind of workshop is to provide the children without parental care, an enabling environment, where they can have accesses to a healthy and protected environment to live a quality and healthy life without any fear i. e “a family “.

Event -II: State level workshop on Non- Institutional care system

Date: 30th & 31st August, 2010

Location: Panthanivas, Bhubaneswar

Participants: 145 NGOs, Government, Media & CWC member

The objective behind the workshop is to develop conceptual clarity among the participants on the subject and laws related to this. The workshop focuses on the process of integration of family based care in the institutions. Around 145 participants were participated in the workshop. Following main topic was discussed in the workshop;

- Presentation on Status of Orphan and Vulnerable Children in Non-institutional setup in state of Orissa
- Understanding non institutional forms of child care & various approaches
- Child Right Protection in the framework of Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act 2006
- Promotion of non institutional child care practices under Integrated Child Protection Schemes
- Way forward & Conclusion



Event -III: launching of “Rights to Family”

Date: 31st August, 2010

Location: IDCOL Auditorium, Bhubaneswar

Participants: 315 Participants (NGOs, Government, Media & CWC member & Civil society members)

The main event of the campaign i. e Launching Right to Family Campaign organized at IDCOL Auditorium with the presence of child right organization, representative of child care institutions and Government counterparts, members of CWC and media representatives. Representatives from corporate houses and civil society organization present in the event.

UNICEF representative, W & CD

representatives and other related Government officials were also part of the launching event. The minister along with the departments head attended the programme and spoke about the



concept. In the event a campaign poster and a Bhubaneswar declaration on right to family released. Huge media coverage takes place.

Key outcome:

1. Civil society organizations and Government sensitized on the issue of alternative forms of care for the children of Orphan and vulnerable and a mass opinion build to protect the rights in the framework of UNCRC.
2. Capacity and conceptual clarity of Child Welfare Committees members and other child care and child right organization developed on various forms of alternative forms of child care and various laws related to this.
3. Networking among the like-minded organizations and other civil society groups established to share experiences, develop solidarity and together plan and implement initiatives and make them understand the concept of alternative child care approach.
4. Government and various resource agencies including UNICEF recognise Task force a body can contribute in promoting non institutional care practices in the state. Government recognise and declared Task force a nodal body in the state in promoting Non institutional care practices.
5. Media sensitise on the concept and huge coverage in Electronic and print media during the programme days.



Children inaugurate the workshop



Minister inaugurate the campaign poster