

Alternative Child care in INDIA

Present Scenario | Challenges | Prospects

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Rajendra Meher
Youth Council for Development
Alternatives (YCDA),
INDIA



Children and Vulnerability : Indian Scenario

- India is the world's **second most populous country** with a population of 1.21 billion with approximately 39 per cent child population. At 430 million, India has the **largest child population in the world.**
- Out of the 430 million children, 9 per cent children living without adequate parental care and out of them **4 per cent are orphans**, having lost one or both parents.



Child Vulnerabilities...

- Many children (number is always a big game) are engaged as a **child labour** in various parts of the country.
- About 19.8 million children below the age of six in India are reported to be **Malnourish**.
- Statistics show that around **42%** of the married women in India were **married as children** (CRY, 2017).
- It is revealed that **two-thirds** of children in India are **victims of physical abuse**.

Source: Government of India & Unicef

Key Factors

- Changing socio-economic dynamics of Indian society like the **rapid disintegration of joint family systems, migration, poverty** and the **loss of livelihood** opportunities are the main reasons of family separation.
- Emergencies like **floods, drought, earthquakes and armed conflicts** expose the children to an increased risk of crisis, trauma, abuse and abandonment.



India Alternative care:

Different care options piloted

Kinship care (Children living with Relatives)

Foster care/Group Foster care (Children live with extended families)

Child headed Households (Children live in their own)

Aftercare (When children left Institutional care after they reach 18 year)

Guardianship: A guardian is a lawfully appointed adult representative for a child.

Child Care Institutions (Orphanages)

- India has the **highest Children's Homes (CCIs)** (10,000+) and majority are run by Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) & faith based groups.
- **Large number of Children having their biological parents and relatives** are often placed in these Homes.
- Looking in to the socio-economic situation in India, **Children's homes (CCIs) are considered as a last resort as an alternative care** for children.



CCI: Child Care Institutions (CCIs) earlier called Orphanages

CHALLENGES

Socio-Cultural Barriers, Case & Religion

- The traditional support systems (joint family systems) that existed for decades where extended families would provide family-based care (Kinship care) for the children through **kinship care are slowly decreasing day by day.**
- **Religion, caste and language of the child often** become the reasons for non-acceptance by prospective families.

Fear of separation

- Indian culture gives **priority to emotions** and believes in developing relationships.
- As our experiences goes, families having no child or leaving away from children are more interested to Foster.
- Families in India also **fear of developing an emotional bond and attachment** to the foster child and this creates resistance to fostering a child.



Lack of awareness

- Since the understanding and **awareness of foster care and other non-institutional care options for children has not fully evolved** in India, the gap between policy and practice remains.
- Child Protection **professionals are tuned towards Institutionalization** as a shortcut methods, hardly explore any other options.
- Running an Children's Homes/Institution is **considered as a charity and good job in general public**. Many time it attracts foreign donations, **interns to raise money**.

Preference for younger children

- One of the issues that the **foster care and adoption system in India is facing is that families want a younger child/ baby.**
- Younger children are preferred since they **easily adjust with the family** and it is easy to train the child to fit into their family.

How does **YCDA** work with the Government ?

We Do Awareness Building

- We work in **building the awareness** of Child Protection authorities and Government authorities on various alternative care options and processes.
- Community members and **parents are sensitized** on the harmful practice of institutionalization of children.
- Various **communication materials are developed** and shared among stakeholders to increase their knowledge.



Evidence & Demonstration

- We **create demonstrations** of various care arrangements in community level and documents its process.
- The Government **authorities are provided exposures** to these demonstration site to get first hand ideas on how this care arrangements are functioning.



Lobby & Advocacy

We support, lobby and advocate before Government and courts for coming with appropriate policies on implementation of various family based care options looking in to the best interests of the children.



SUPPORT



ADVISE



ADVOCATE

Capacity Building

- We **organise capacity building training** for government functionaries, INGOs, Staffs of Children's homes on family based care solutions.
- Training modules, standard operating procedures and **communication materials developed** to support their operation.
- Facilitate **visit demonstration site** and interaction with children, care givers and other stakeholders.



Engage with Communities

- We **work closely with Communities and caste groups**, in generating awareness and build capacities to become care providers.
- Formation of **Village Child Protection Committees (VCPCs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) Children's Associations** and discuss the issue of children living without parental care and draw actions.
- Mobilize and trained community members to **monitor the families** where orphan/vulnerable children are placed for safety and securities.

De-institutionalization & Transition

We help staffs of children's homes in building their capacity to facilitate transition from residential care to family care.

Following process are adopted;

- **Prepare Children:** Children is well prepare and participate in the decision to back to Family.
- **Prepare family:** Family is well prepare and willingness to accept Children and render all basic rights and services.
- **Prepare Government:** Government is prepare to implement the change/shift with strong will power.

Our future Commitments

- **Institutionalise various family based care options:**(Foster care, Kinship Care & Aftercare)
- **Facilitate families to Live together:** Family strengthening (Economic well being, skills on child care and good parenting skills)
- **Strong Gate keeping:** (decision making process of authorities and family members to avoid unnecessary family separation.
- **De- institutionalization:** (Facilitate Step by Step process to release children from institutions to family care).
- Strengthen **Care Leavers Association** of Young adults who left care arrangements for solidarity and support.



My apple

Let's join & strengthen our hands to ensure every child lives in a happy and caring family.



THANK YOU!

www.ycdaindia.org

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