

Annual Report

(April 2022 to March 2023)

Child Rights Advocacy through Various Initiatives



Child Rights Perspective

As per the census 2011, Rajasthan has 43.6% population below 18 years of age, while 22.9% are adolescents (10-19 years of age), of which 23.4% of adolescents predominately reside in rural areas of the state.

India has progressed on some child-related indicators, however, even today, violations of child rights are an area of great concern. According to the recent analysis done by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) and Child Rights and You (CRY), crime against children in Rajasthan has increased by 39 percent from 2016 to 2020. Therefore, need a strong voice for the children and young people in Rajasthan that can raise their problems on various forums, platforms, and opportunities.

About Resource Institute of Human Rights (RIHR)

Established in the year 2008, RIHR aims to advocate for the realization of internationally and nationally set standards for human rights, especially in the area of child protection. For the last 15 years, the efforts have been focused on building a holistic understanding of child rights and protection.

Demonstrating One Stop Crisis Management Centre for Children (OSCMCC) with UNICEF and Jaipur Police at the premises of the Mahila Police Station (East), Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur. It provides legal aid and representation for children who have faced abuse, exploitation, or any violation of their rights.

Organizing several orientation and training programs to enhance the knowledge of stakeholders including Police officials, Special Juvenile Police Units, Anti Human Trafficking Units, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, Childline, etc. Conducting analytical studies on issues affecting children helps to gather evidence to support the advocacy efforts. This data is crucial in influencing policies and raising awareness about the challenges faced by children.

RIHR is successfully playing the convening role for the Rajasthan Bal Adhikar Sanrkshan Sajha Abhiyan (RBASSA), DASHAM. It is a strong network of NGOs, child rights activists, and individuals working under the umbrella. Since 2008 it has been raising the collective voices and influencing the policies related to issues of children and adolescents' rights, care, and protection at the state level.

Efforts towards Child Rights Advocacy

To work on strategic advocacy for child rights and end violence against children in the state, which is a national priority. The organization and alliance utilized its experience and provided support to children who faced abuse to come up with evidence-based advocacy. With the help of the existing platform, advocated with the stakeholders to ensure the extension of the child protection mechanism up to the village level. The activities were planned and executed to achieve the following objectives and also obtained the support of NGO partners of the alliance in the state.

1. Create a safe platform for children in Conflict/Contact with Law
2. Create the Resource Group of Child Rights Advocates
3. Strengthen the capacity of civil society actors, corporates, and children
4. Sensitize the Gram Panchayats on child rights issues and strengthen them on ICPS

The details of the activities executed during the period included:

1. Create a Safe Platform for Children in Conflict/Contact with Law

One Stop Crises Management Centre for Children (Sneh Angan), is a joint initiative police station model based at the premises of Mahila Police State (East), Gandhinagar in Jaipur. From the year 2014, RIHR has played the coordinating role for the smooth and in-tended functioning of the centre. The core functions of the centre included:

- Food and relaxation activities
- First aid and referral medical support
- Counselling
- Shelter
- Legal advice and aid
- Documentation of case
- Coordination with Juvenile Justice functionaries and different concerned agencies
- Family contact & visits
- Reintegration and rehabilitation of children
- Follow up on cases and ensure the well-being of children

Catering to the overall well-being of the children including various aspects of mental and physical well-being. Not only serving the daily or momentarily needs but also towards the progress of moving forward.

It is imperative to continue the services on prevention and management of crime against children, specifically of girls at Jaipur.

1.1. Children Reached Directly with the Required Support

A total of 159 children were supported directly by the Sneh Angan centre during the period. The cases related to POCSO, missing, violence, conflict with the law, and other services including counselling, legal advice, and police support were managed. Simultaneously, the 93 cases of the year 2022 and 35 cases of the year 2021 of the follow-up were also managed by the centre at Jaipur.

Case Managed	Issues
Child labour	4
Missing /Kidnapping	8
Violence with children	3
Children's Conflict with Law	1
POCSO	21
Others (counselling, legal advice, police support, etc)	122
Total	159

1.2. Streamlining Children of Government Homes with Formal Education

About 32 girls were being taught at Government Girls Home (Balika Grah)-Gandhinagar, and 18 children were supported for streamlining them with higher education in the formal schooling system, of which 16 were girls including 10 for 10th standard and 6 girls for 12th standard, while 2 boys for 10th standard.

The children from these homes were provided academic support in terms of teaching sessions for the children of Balika Grah, Gandhinagar. The subjects included Hindi, English, Social Science, and Social Studies.

1.3. Legal Support and Victim Compensation

The Sneh Angan team approached the police stations of Jaipur and also referred to the daily newspapers for reaching out to the victims of sexual offenses. A total of 44 cases under the POCSO were provided counselling and legal support, however, 31 cases were supported with the complete procedure for criminal and legal trial support till the judgment of the cases. The victim compensation was applied for 15 cases, however, a total of 13 were received from the Rajasthan government.

1.4. Case Studies Developed for Dissemination with the State Government

About 59 case studies have been documented by the team those are directly managed by Sneh Aagan centre as well as supported by the children of childcare institutes including Government Children Home-Gandhinagar, Government Girls Home-Gandhinagar, and Government Boys Home-Transport Nagar, Jaipur.

1.5. State level Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC) Report Dissemination Workshops

1.5.1. Workshop on Understanding Challenges of Children with Disabilities

Data shows that two-thirds of children with a disability may not survive more than 40 years, moreover, girls with a disability are at risk of violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect. (Source:<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/data-on-persons-with-disability-under-reported/articleshow/94954458.cms>)

Moreover, even after the rolling of an amended act for the last five years, the awareness among Persons with Disability (PwD) is low, which is affecting directly on availing the available services meant for them. Realizing the necessity of enhancing awareness among Children with Disability (CwD) and their families on the Rights to Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (RPWD), sharing the positive changes, and advocating the gaps in the existing Act at the state level for preventing them from re-victimization, a workshop with different groups of disabled people was organized at Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur on 19th November 2022.

A total of 120 people including Specially-abled children, students and people, Para Olympiads, their parents, Special educators, Academicians, NGOs, Advocates, Government officials, and

representatives of UN agencies from 13 districts participated in the deliberation and shared their challenges and suggestions for strengthening the Act for addressing the people in need of the state.

The differently-abled individuals who have overcome their disabilities and set an example for others from the community were felicitated at the workshop with Awards as a token of appreciation. The participants also appreciated the talent they exhibited.

To strengthen the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016, and including the issues of the disabled in the State Youth Policy, the participants shared the pertinent recommendations. The collated recommendations will be further presented at the state level and also with the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan for raising in form of questions in the upcoming State Assembly session for influencing the programs and policies of the disabled.



1.5.2. Workshop on Career Counselling for Children with Disabilities

A demand based counselling workshop “Dishaye” on streamlining their education, employment, empowerment, and overall development was organized at Shri Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur on 24th December 2022.

The devastating response received about 300 people including disabled children, their parents, NGOs, activists, and government departments from 22 districts and other states including Mumbai (Maharashtra), Gwalior (MP), and Firozabad (UP) participated in the workshop. The workshop and deliberation were one of the unique initiatives in the state.

To orient the participants on varied government schemes and job opportunities offered by different departments and agencies for disabled people, a plenary session was conducted. The concerned government representatives shared and explained the scopes under education, vocational training, and career options.

For comprehensive assistance, all the above departments and agencies displayed exhibition stalls with more information in the form of visuals, signage, graphics, and deep insights about them to enable the participants to head toward their aspirations. The participants expressed gratitude for organizing such an informative, interesting, and useful workshop as the broad range of content provided in the deliberative process during the workshop.



1.6. Number of state government officials oriented/trained on Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC)

A total of two child welfare officers from Kota, Police were oriented on ending the violence against children in the district.

2. Create the Resource Group of Child Rights Advocates

The need for child advocacy is needed to create awareness about the child's rights amongst children and the child's responsibility, to ensure the fulfilment of his/her rights. It also helps to prepare children and communities to respond to crises and adversity and to support the safe and successful growth of children into adulthood. Therefore, the activities for the formulation of the advocate as the resources were accomplished in the state.

2.1. Advocates Part of the Resource Group

The prime responsibilities of the advocate are to manage the cases related to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO), provide legal support to the victims, advocate the cases in the district courts, proceed with the compensation and complete the entire process of documentation related work towards the justice for the victims.

District	Number of Advocate
Jaipur	5
Nagaur	1
Bharatpur	1
Jhunjhunu	1
Barmer	2
Jaisalmer	2
Jodhpur	2
Kota	2
Udaipur	2

2.2. Case Management by Resource Group

The cases primarily related to the POCSO were supported and managed by the resource group of advocates in their respective districts.

District	Number of cases supported
Jaipur	19
Nagaur	18
Jodhpur	3
Jaisalmer	1

2.3. Regional Advocacy Workshop for Advocates

A regional advocacy meeting workshop was organized for 26 lawyers representing the district and high court from Jaipur, Jhunjhunu, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Sikar, Sri Ganganagar, Banswara, Bharatpur at the Hotel Sarovar Premium, Jaipur on 21st August 2022. The workshop aimed to strengthen the justice system for children by providing psycho-social and legal support to victims and their families during pre-trial and trial stages, facilitating the child victims and their families in accessing various services, and better coordination with Courts, Government Authorities, and Agencies.

The discussions highlighted that children need to be protected from violence, abuse, child marriage, and child labour. The roles of advocates in POCSO cases, the involvement, representation, and interventions of lawyers in cases of children, the need for counsellors and support persons for dealing specifically with young children, and the role of the Kishore Nyay Board.

Justice for children with a focus on:

- giving the right punishment to the accused
- coming back to normal life like schooling
- providing counselling
- social justice for victims
- provide basic resources to the needy
- keeping in mind victims' needs

The special laws for children were discussed in detail, including the JJ Act (Mother Act), POCSO, Compulsory Education Act, Prohibition of Child Marriage, Child and Adolescent Labour Prohibition, etc.

The areas where the engagement of advocates is needed: - legal representation and compensation need to be increased, how can lawyers be a better part of the judicial system, protection of rights of orphaned children, the role of lawyers as amicus at CWC, civil rights issue of children, the link between lawyers and support person and video conferencing testimony.



3. Strengthen the Capacity of Civil Society Actors, Corporates, and Children on Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC)

Capacity-building is defined as the process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes, and resources that communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world. An essential ingredient in capacity-building is the transformation that is generated and sustained over time from within; transformation of this kind goes beyond performing tasks to changing mindsets and attitudes. (Source- <https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/capacity-building>)

3.1. Children Participated in Capacity Building Workshop for Child Rights and Theatre Skills

Theatre is a cultural phenomenon that demands that society examine itself in the mirror. It can connect directly to people’s hearts and bodies, sometimes more than to the mind, which enables art to shift mindsets more profoundly than other forms of communication. It is a medium to study societal problems and attempt to find solutions.

The alliance jointly with the selected network NGO partners from the four districts (Ajmer, Bikaner, Jaipur & Jodhpur) provided learning labs to the 200 adolescents for expressing and raising their issues through theatre & natak toli from June to October 2022. The participants, mostly girls, were school going adolescents from a diverse cross-section of rural society. Almost every participant had a story that spoke of issues like early marriage, school dropouts, gender, caste, education, and livelihood gripping the rural citizens and their urban handling.

As strategy tries to achieve synergy and balance between objectives, resources, and concepts to maximize the possibility of success and fruitful results, the plan of action designed by the alliance from selecting network NGO partners to imparting joyful learning at the district level till the final performances by the natak toli.

The process for planning, formalizing, and executing training for adolescents followed as per the details:

1. Selection of network partner NGOs
2. Imparting joyful learning in the districts

3. Four workshops for children
4. Follow-up visits
5. Showcasing their talents through performances at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur

3.2. Four Workshops with Children on Theatre Through Joyful Learning Labs

The six months of training led to the creation of four such Natak Toli's in far-flung villages of Rajasthan. The Toli's (groups) were constituted after a series of four immersive theatre workshops held from June to October 2022. Locations were Radoli village, about fifty km south of Jaipur, Bajju in Bikaner, Phalodi, and Ajmer. The total participants, numbering around 150, came from around seventeen villages in all. All four workshops were named Semi rural-i, Semi rural-ii, Rural-I, and Rural-ii.

In the workshops, conducted activities that could make the children respond and ensured the participation of every single child despite their contrasting speeds of doing any activity. That helped in creating a bond and identifying their creative skills. To create trust, provide a conducive environment for playing, saying, expressing, doing, and eating in their style and comfort that created a sense of mutuality among children & trainers. The emphasis was given to communicating the social issues aesthetically, expressing wordlessly and above all expressing like a child.

The children loved expressing themselves whether it was through writing or sports or making scenes. Especially longed to talk about their village, markets temples, sand dunes, and dreams, so activities that involve writing were laid emphasis upon. They were enthusiastic in discussions that emanated from their own conversations and experiences so a major activity involving gender sensitization was conducted through writing as well as an informal debate.

The fundamental division of the day's session was into two parts -an initial PLAYFUL and half followed by a THOUGHTFUL half.

These four workshops were a determination to decipher what children want to say and how they want to say it. Every day, the workshops would begin with a careful evaluation by trainers on whether to execute the planned sessions or to devise the day taking a cue from how the children are feeling. They were filled with activities and energizers designed according to the location and interests of the children.

To connect regularly with children and to keep them engaged with theatre, follow-up visits were continued, to work with the Natak Toli on the plays created by them, stay connected with them, and also prepare them for the performance in Jaipur.



3.3. Visit to UNICEF Office Jaipur by Adolescents of Natak Toli

A group of adolescents participating in the final theatre performance at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur, visited the UNICEF office to invite Ms. Isabelle Bardem, Chief UNICEF Rajasthan, and shared their joyful learning throughout the workshop. Collectively they shared their learning in a conducive environment in all the workshops. The workshop enabled to create a bond with peers from other districts, get exposure to a city like Jaipur, and learn that theatre is the strongest method of expressing their views, issues, and challenges for influencing speedy actions. They were very happy, excited, and feeling motivated after meeting the Chief UNICEF Rajasthan.



3.4. Platform Provided for Dissemination of Theatre Show at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur

During the workshops and follow-up visits, at least 15 plays were made by the adolescents on the topics conceived by them under the rich guidance of the state's eminent trainers. Out of that five plays were performed by newly formed theatre toli's at the Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur on November 16, 2022.

The majority of the adolescents visited Jaipur for the first time, which was an exciting experience, and performing at the state level in front of a large audience was an achievement for them. An overwhelming response was received from the audience, about 300 people from different walks of society attended the joyful presentation in the theatre form by the adolescents on the stage.

The program commenced with lamp lightening by the honourable Shri B.D Kalla- Education and Art & Culture Ministers, the Government of Rajasthan, Ms. Sangeeta Beniwal Chairman, Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR), Ms. Isabelle Bardem-Chief UNICEF Rajasthan, Trainers, Adolescents from different districts, and the organizers.



Enactment of Plays on Stage

Overwhelmingly, five selected plays were performed by newly formed theatre toli's of adolescents from Jaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, and Ajmer.

Play 1: Mera Gaon

The story dealt with the present reality of the village, and its happenings concluding with the possibilities of how the villagers, especially the young minds, the children, want their village to be having good education facilities and be free of inequality and discrimination.

Play 2: Papyo Chalyo Shahar

Story of a village boy who lives in Bangalore for his higher studies and job and returns entirely transformed. His Metropolitan fancy personality catches the attention of his mates in the village and fascinates them so much so that they start seeing dreams of going to the city and becoming like their shehri friend.

Play 3: Hamare Sapne

A small nonnarrative play about the real-life dreams and aspirations of girls who themselves performed in the play. Through this play, they expressed their desire to breathe in an open sky, fly high and achieve their dreams. Within it, they extended their support to each other with a thread of hope that their dreams can also come true.

Play 4: The City Girl

The City Girl was a story of a girl who had to face a lot of resistance from her surroundings when she decides to go to the city to pursue her dreams of higher education finally her parents come to her support and she works hard and returned to her village after becoming a district collector. Her success somehow changes the mindset of the people of her village.

Play 5: Journey of a footballer

This play depicted the journey of the girls from rural areas of Ajmer who explored their skills and fought the stereotypes to play football, breaking the glass ceiling and winning over the tournaments.

Toward the end of the program, the certificates were distributed to all the participants from all four districts followed by a group photograph.



3.5. Questions on EVAC Raised by MLAs in the State Legislative Assembly

For more than a decade, the alliance has been successfully involved in the advocacy toward a positive impact on the policy environment for advancing children's rights through strategic engagement with the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the state.

The duty-bearers have a particular obligation or responsibility to respect, promote, and realize human rights and to abstain from human rights violations. In this context, the duty bearers included Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), police, special juvenile police units, anti-human trafficking units, child welfare committees, juvenile justice boards, Childline, etc.

During the general assembly elections and Rajasthan assembly elections, the alliance initiates a process-based activity to influence election manifestos of leading political parties through a consultative process across the state engaging children and other stakeholders.

DASHAM alliance has provided a joint platform for children and civil society organizations to share their concerns and strengthen the child rights movement in Rajasthan. Apart from this, RIHR proactively reached out to Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and supported some of them in raising questions on children's issues including protection, health, education, and development. As a result, the MLAs raised questions during the session of Vidhan Sabha.

The MLAs raised 70 questions in the 7th session of the 15th Vidhaan Sabha budget session during February-March 2022. The questions were related to child labour, crime against children, development, education, protection, social security, and health. A total of 9 MLAs raised the questions representing different constituencies including Udaipur, Sirohi, South Ajmer, North Ajmer, Nohar, Jhalawar, Khanpur-Jhalawar, and Pipalda-Kota.

3.6. Divisional Level Capacity Building Workshops with Alliance Members of DASHAM

Since capacity building is the process by which individuals and organizations obtain, improve, and retain the skills, knowledge, tools, and other resources needed to do their jobs competently or to a greater capacity to obtain better results, three divisional-level workshops were organized for the alliance members at Udaipur, Kota, and Barmer regions.

All three workshops emphasized the present scenario of crime against children in the state, child rights, regional level issues of children with the juvenile justice board, child welfare committee, children rehabilitation process, etc.

3.6.1. Workshop at Udaipur Region

The workshop was organized for 38 participants from 22 partner NGOs of Banswara, Dungarpur, Chittorgarh, and Rajsamand at Krishi Anusandhan Kendra, Udaipur in association with Bal Suraksha Network on 13th August 2022. The workshop highlighted to form and training of the panels of individual support persons and advocates for dealing with the crime against children in the district.

Later, the panels of two lawyers and individual support persons have been formulated in Udaipur, Rajsamand, Chittorgarh, and Banswara districts. The primary role of the panel is to provide counselling, medical support, legal support and also to facilitate the entire process for children with care and protection.



3.6.2. Workshop at Kota Region

The workshop was organized for 60 participants from 42 partner NGOs of Kota, Bundi and Jahalawar at Krishi Prabandhan Sansthan, Kota in association with Manjari Foundation and Child Line on 18th August 2022. The workshop followed by the formulation of the panel consisted of two lawyers and three individual support persons at Kota.



3.6.3. Workshop at Jodhpur Region

The workshop was organized for 36 participants from 15 partner NGOs of Barmer, Jaisalmer, and Jodhpur at Hotel Kalinga, Barmer in association with Action Aid on 26th August 2022. The workshop was attended by a representative from UNICEF. The high suicidal rate among women and Dalit children violence was emphasized for the potential solutions and roles of NGOs. The demand letter of children was also discussed in detail.

The workshop was also followed by formulating the panels of four lawyers and two individual support persons at the Jaisalmer and Barmer districts.



4. **Sensitize Gram Panchayats on Child Rights Issues and Strengthen them on ICPS**

As elected representatives of gram panchayat, they are responsible for contributing to socio-economic growth and more importantly, protecting the unprotected majority of the population within the village. Children form a majority of the most unprotected and weakest sections, thus it is their responsibility to ensure the protection of their rights.

4.1. **Panchayat Members Sensitized for Strengthening Panchayats on ICPS**

The alliance organized two sensitization workshops for the panchayat members of Budhpura, Bundi and Radoli at Chaksu-Jaipur. The workshops accentuated the proper implementation of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), which aims to establish a system that will efficiently and effectively protect children and strengthen the family's capabilities to care for and protect the child by providing a range of family-based alternatives, "including sponsorship, kinship care, foster care, and adoption.

4.1.1. **Sensitization Workshop at Radoli, Chaksu, Jaipur**

A total of 60 participants including panchayat members, ward members, and parents attended the workshop organized on 5th & 6th December 2022 at Radoli of Chaksu block of Jaipur. The ICPS has the provision of formulating a committee of 12 members at each gram panchayat, which aims to protect child rights, and prevention of child abuse as well as recommend the police & CWC for investigation and action. Therefore, the workshop motivated the participants to form a committee chaired by the Sarpanch with the membership of teachers, parents, and educated people of the village for controlling the crime against children.

4.1.2. Sensitization Workshop at Bhudhpura, Bundi

A total of 35 participants including panchayat members, ward members, and parents attended the workshop organized on 13th & 14th December 2022 at Bundi. Since Bundi is a stone mining area, where child labour is very prevalent. Children are engaged in designing & crafting small leftover pieces that make them susceptible to occupational health hazards, like silicosis, and often suffer from injuries. The majority of the children aged 8-15 years are school dropouts. Therefore, the workshop focused on streamlining them with the formal education system and exploring alternative sources for earning.

4.2. Consultation with Legislators

Due to political reasons, the state assembly sessions were not held in 2022, thus the workshop with the legislative members of parliament was not conducted.

The Conclusion

The alliance attempted to empower children to make changes, drive change in practice and policy at various levels, and successfully growth of children into adulthood. Also, efforts were made to improve the lives of children by strengthening the capacity of partner NGOs, Panchayet members, and advocates working for child rights and supporting and promoting the implementation of related programs and schemes in the state.

The alliance will continue to generate awareness and disseminate information amongst the common citizens, their representatives, and duty bearers by utilizing all available modes of communication.



Deputy Commissioner of Police, East visit to One Stop Crises Management Centre for Children (Sneh Angan)