

REPORT ON

DASHAM – PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN IN DEMOCRACY

PREPARATION WORKSHOP &

LAUNCH OF CHILDREN MANIFESTO

DATE: 21 – 22 & 23RD OCTOBER, 2018

DAY: SUNDAY

VENUE: DIGAMBER JAIN

&

TOTUKA BHAVAN JAIN NASIYA JI , NARAYAN CIRCLE JAIPUR

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE: RAJASTHAN

Organized by:



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Background

“There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children”.

- Nelson Mandela

Children are considered as the future of any nation. They are in fact, the foundation on which a strong, vibrant and dynamic nation can be built. Though everyone considers and accepts children as the future of the nation, but unfortunately people often fail to recognize them as the citizens of today. They are often treated as mere object and passive recipient of care and protection. Seldom are they treated as citizens who are capable of holding opinions, view points and also have the ability to participate in matters affecting their present and future whether in schools, at home or institutions and any other places. And participation in political issues of the country seems out of question.

It is the United Nation Convention on Rights of Child, which for the first time embraced that the children are capable of holding views and opinions and should participate in matters affecting them. Hence, UNCRC also included participation of right of children in its Charter under Article 12:1. “It asserts that “States parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming her or his own views, the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child.” This is about respecting the views of the child. In order to know what is actually in the interest of the child it is logical and reasonable to listen to him or her.

Children and youth are the citizens too. They may not be voters at present but are prospective participants of the electoral process. Nevertheless, their issues often fail to enter the purview of political parties and in their agendas/manifestos. It's important to keep that fact in mind, and understand that political participation in a democratic society involves much more than voting. It is also important to emphasize the concept of participatory democracy in which the public deliberation of citizens, including young non-voters, leads to legitimate law making.

In Rajasthan, children constitute approximately 41% of the state population and are considered asset for the state. Unless, the children are protected and given an environment where they can reach to

their full potential and unless the government did not listen to the voices of children and ensure that children are given an opportunity to participate in all the matters connecting to them, state cannot prosper. Therefore, it very crucial for the government and the political parties alike to ensure the participation of children and adolescents in matters connecting to them and their rights, voices, concerns and demand are adequately recognized, represented and included at every step.

Keeping this agenda in mind, “Rajasthan Baal Adhikar Sanrakshan Sanjha Abhiyan, Rajasthan RTE Forum, Girls not Brides, Rajasthan Samuh Jan Suwasth Abhiyaan and Baal Suraksha Network, Udaipur joined hands together and took an initiative to pitch the voices of children in the coming election in 2018.

The initiative was organized by Resource Institute for Human Rights (RIHR) and UNICEF, Rajasthan and was further supported by the Save the Children, Action Aid, World Vision, Plan International and Surasksha Network.

The initiative was given the name of “**DASHAM** – Participation of Children in Democracy”. The key objective of the initiative is to develop a manifesto for upcoming State Assembly election reflecting the issues, concerns, voices and demands of children and adolescents and also to engage with political leaders, civil society organizations and other influential persons at the divisional and district level to mobilize and facilitate initiation of a public domain advocacy.

Key Objectives

The key objectives of entire initiative of DASHAM were as follows: -

- Facilitating a process to ensure and uphold children and adolescent right to participation by engaging intensively with them and particularly including the most vulnerable and marginalized;
- Facilitating ways to provide children and adolescents opportunities to express and raise their voices which will be collated for sharing leaders of Political Parties;

- Engaging with political leaders, civil society organizations and other influential persons at the divisional level to mobilize and facilitate initiation of a public domain advocacy by presenting the inputs of children and adolescents demands and voices for a subsequent dialogue;
- Developing a manifesto for upcoming state assembly election reflecting the issues, voices and demands of children and adolescents;
- Facilitating development of adolescent agenda prepared by girls and boys as a collation of reflection on issues that affect them the most;
- Engaging with media to share inputs as and when they emerge through the interactions at the divisional and state level.

PROCESS OF DEVELOPING CHILDREN MANIFESTO

The Divisional Level Consultation in Rajasthan

To achieve the objective of the program, at every division of Rajasthan two day consultation were held from 31 August to 18 September, 2018. In the consultations approximately 976 children participated and shared and discussed their concern and raised voices against the difficulties they were facing.

The two-day workshops were designed to discuss issues faced by children belonging to different age-groups, any caste, creed, tribe, region, living in rural areas, living in cities, school going, drop outs, not attending schools, living on the railway station platforms, on streets, in shelter home, those who are specially abled, etc.

The consultation gave useful insights into the host of problems or issues faced by children and how these problems are affecting the growth, development and protection of children. It also highlighted the gross violation of their rights especially their right to participation. Some of the issues discussed were area specific, related to specific section of society or other were general issues concerning lack of basic amenities and infrastructure at the village and block level which directly or indirectly affects the growth and development of children. Further many children also very strongly expressed their opinion about the harmful traditional practices which are threat to their protection, for instance, practice of child marriage, nata-pratha, atta-satta etc.

The details of the consultation are as follows: -

<p>Division: Udaipur Date: 31st August & 1st September Venue: Youth Hostel, Khelgaon, Udaipur Organizer: Bal Suraksha Network, Udaipur</p>	<p>Division: Ajmer (Tonk, Ajmer, Nagur, Bhilwara) Date: 5 and 6th September, 2018 Venue: Vaishnav Dharmshala, Pushkar Organizer: Educate Girls</p>	<p>Division: Bikaner (Bikaner, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh and Churu) Date: 6th and 7th September, 2018 Venue: Hotel Shagun Palace, Bikaner Organizer: URMUL Trust</p>
<p>Division: Jodhpur (Jodhpur, Pali, Sirohi, Jalore) Date: 8th and 9th September, 2018 Venue: Hotel Siddharth International, Jodhpur Organizer: URMUL Trust</p>	<p>Division: Jaipur (Jaipur, Dausa, Sikar, Jhunjunu and Alwar) Date: 11th and 12th September, 2018 Venue: Vardhaman Bhawan, Jaipur Organizer: FXB India Suraksha</p>	<p>Division: Bharatpur (Bharatpur, Karuli, Swai Madhopur, Dholpur) Date: 14 and 15th September, 2018 Venue: Swaraj Resort Organizer: Prayatan and Amied</p>
<p>Division: Kota Date: 17 & 18th September, 2018 Venue: Rotray Binani Sabhaghar Organizer: Kota Scout and Guide and Alarripu</p>		

The analysis of issues and problems discussed during the consultation revealed startling inconsistencies between policy commitments and ground realities. The results revealed several gaps in the policies of the government and also highlighted the implementation gaps of the laws and policies related to children. In addition, the consultations were also fruitful in preparing the demands raised by children which could be included in the manifesto of major political parties or in preparing the children charter for the upcoming election. Further, these consultations also highlighted the need for joint efforts on part of members of civil societies for more robust action for the care, protection and development of children and help them to become productive and contributing members of the society.

The consultations were concluded by making several demands which would be included in the agenda of major political parties in the state.

Drafting and finalization of Children Manifesto

Subsequent to the Divisional Consultations, a manifesto drafting committee was set up, who was responsible for the developing Children Manifesto. The members of the drafting committee were:-

- Mr. Radhakant Saxena, Independent Consultant
- Mr. Arvind Ojha, Urmul, Bikaner
- Mr. Govind Beniwal, Antakshari Foundation
- Mr. Vijay Goyal, Resource Institute for Human Rights
- Mr. Ramakant Satayapathy, Save the Children
- Mr. Shiv Singh Nayal, Antakshari Foundation
- Mr. Narendra Sharma, Action Aid)
- Ms. Charu Singh, FXB India Suraksha

Various consultations were organized with the partner NGOs, CSOs and other child protection experts to develop the manifesto. The purpose of these consultations was to ensure that each aspect of child development and issues raised during the divisional consultation were included or considered before finalizing the manifesto. (The details of the consultations are annexed).

A desk review was also undertaken to review the initiatives taken by the government and NGOs or CBOs to ensure the participation of children in democracy. During the desk review, it was found that a similar initiative was also taken in 2013 by RIHR and Save the Children, which resulted in the inclusion of certain demands in the manifesto the two major political parties viz-a-viz. Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) and Congress. Apart from this, an exhaustive comparative analysis was also made of the two major political parties of Rajasthan viz-a-viz. Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) and Congress to gauge how the issues are placed in their manifesto.

Along with the desk review, a thorough analysis of the issues raised during the divisional consultation were also undertaken to find out the common themes or issues and specific district, age and gender issues. Apart from this, specific needs of adolescent and people with disability were also highlighted. The findings of the desk reviews were shared and discussed during the consultations and found to be helpful in developing the manifesto of children. As these finding of the desk review and analysis helped shaped the context for the manifesto.

As a result of these extensive consultations and the inputs received from different stakeholders, the drafting committees was able to develop the draft children manifesto which encompassed all the issues of children affecting different walks of their lives.

The draft manifesto was then shared with different stakeholders, NGOs, CBOs and child protection experts for their inputs. After 2 – 3 rounds of sharing of manifesto draft, final shape was given to children manifesto.

The children manifesto was titled as “Baccho ke Samgrh Vikas ke liye Goshana Patra”.

LAUNCH OF CHILDREN MANIFESTO- PREPARATION WORKSHOP

DASHAM – Participation of children in Democracy was a significant step towards ensuring the inclusion of children voices in the coming State Assembly election of 2018. Organizing consultations with children and NGOs and other CBOs was the first step in this direction. To engage with political leaders and put forth the demands of children before them and set in motion the process for inclusion of the demands in the manifestos of major political parties was final goal of the DASHAM initiative. To achieve this aim, an event was organized to formally launch the “Children Manifesto” with the aim of wider propaganda of children demands and also to gain support of the leaders of major political parties. The event was organized on 23rd October, 2018 in Totuka Bhavan Jain Nasiya Ji , Narayan Circle Jaipur.

Preparation details for the launch of Children Manifesto

Prior to the launch event it was considered important to organize the preparation workshop, to make the launch of Children Manifesto a success. Two-day preparation workshop was done with children, NGOs, CBOs, Child Protection Experts from across Rajasthan. The preparation workshops witness the active and creative participation of children in the event. Many activities were undertaken in the preparation of these workshops. The preparation workshop also helped the participants to get to know each other better and provided children with a platform where they can freely express their issues and concerns.

On both days of the workshop, the participants were briefed about the purpose of the workshop and the need for their active and honest participation on highlighting the problems they faced in their day-to-day life in terms of quality education, health facilities, protection and safety, overall development and participation as rightful citizens. The details of the preparation workshops are given below.

Day – 1

The preparation workshop commenced with the registration of participants. A total 62 children from various NGOs working in different districts of Rajasthan participated in the workshop. After the registration, ice-breaking session was done with all the participants. The session was facilitated by Mr. Mahesh Sharma, from Sandhan and Mr. Shiv Singh Nayal, from Antakshari Foundation. In the ice-breaking session various children were engaged in various activities, games and singing. The objective of the ice-breaking session was to introduce children with each other and make them feel comfortable. This session also helped in creating friendly environment where children can enjoy and share their concern without any fear and hesitation.

After the ice-breaking session, Mr. Mahesh Sharma and Mr. Shiv Singh Nayal set the context for the workshop. Under this task, the facilitators started either by posing a very general question to them or by narrating and sharing a happy moment of their life especially during the times of elections. This helped children to open up and they started sharing their views and opinions.

After that, the objectives of the consultation were shared with participants and their role in the program for highlighting the problems faced by them in their day-to-day life in terms of quality education, health facilities, protection and safety, development and participation in the matters affecting them was discussed. The agenda for the workshop was also shared and discussed and children's opinion was sought regarding the agenda.

After the context building task, children were divided into groups for different activities. The facilitators divided the children majorly for following activities viz-a-viz:-

- **Anchoring** – Since the entire event of DASHAM revolves around children, it was decided the launch will also be host by the children rather than trained professional or any adult. The children who showed interest for anchoring and who were confident were selected for the

tasks. Ms. Priyanka from Tonk and Shailender were selected to host the launch event on 23rd October, 2018.

- **Drama** – Children have always been creative in their expression and what best way to show their expression than drama. Hence, drama was chosen by children to present their demands before the leaders of political parties. Two dramas were prepared for the event. One highlighting the situation of schools and education in rural areas and another highlighting the situation of medical facilities in rural areas.

The script for the drama on Education was prepared by Neelam, Volunteer at RIHR and Taruna, counselor at RIHR along with children. The drama on Medical was scripted by Ms. Vinita, independent Consultant.

- **Songs** – A song “Hum log – We the people” was also prepared for the event. Mr. Mahesh Sharma facilitated the preparation of the song. Another song “Chalegi thale me patti” was also prepared for the event. The song was written and prepared by Mr. Shiv Singh Nayal.

After the division of children in different activities rest of the day went in rehearsal of the activities.

In the evening of the Day – 1, children were also taken out for visit to “Birla Temple”. The children enjoyed the visit and felt fresh and more energetic.

In the night, children were given a open platform to showcase their talent. Many of them performed dances, sang and cracked jokes and hold discussion about things of their opinion and played lot of games.

The entire day was full of participation from children and facilitators. Everyone was enthusiastic about the event and was full of energy.

The children were then asked to rest for the day as they had more to come for next two days.

Day – 2

Day 2 began with brief or summarization of day – 1. On day 2, few sessions were also planned to educate and empower children regarding their rights. The details of the session are as follows:-

➤ **Session – 1 – Health and Nutrition by Ms. Chhaya**

The session was facilitated by Ms. Chhaya. Ms. Chhaya talked about the health and nutrition rights of children. She also shared with children importance of good health and habits and how they can keep themselves healthy. She also spoke about the importance of having nutritious food and consists of nutritious.

Ms. Chhaya also shared the Health and nutrition scheme run by government for children and how they can avail the benefits of these schemes.

➤ **Session – 2 – Child Protection by Ms. Kavita Mangnani**

The session was facilitated by Ms. Kavita Mangnani. She talked about what constitute child protection and discussed the issues of child protection and how it affects their lives.

She also discussed about the ill effects of child marriage and how it curtails children right to education, protection and development. The issues of child abuse was also discussed and encouraged to be aware and alert about it and were motivated to report abuse immediately to the people they trust.

She further shared information about the mechanisms for the safety of children such as about police, Child Welfare Committees, CHILDLINE (1098) and how they can approach these agencies in times of difficult circumstances.

➤ **Session – 3 – Child Rights and Situation of Children by Mr. Radhakant Saxena**

The facilitator of this session was Mr. Radhakant Saxena. He started the session by telling children the difference between Need, Want and Right and how these are inter-linked. He explained these concepts with daily situation that children come across.

He then told children about their rights and sources of those rights, for example, UNCRC, Constitution of India etc. He told children about the major categories enshrined in UNCRC viz-a-viz – Right to life, Right to Protection, Right to Development and Right to Participation. He then went on to discuss in detail the reach right, what it means, what each category of rights includes etc.

These sessions were aimed to empower, educate and aware children about their rights.

➤ **Presentation Skills by Mr. Hemant from Save the Children**

Post these sessions on child rights and child protection, children attended a very lively and fun filled session on the art of presentation, facilitated by Mr. Hemant from Save the Children. Mr. Hemant shared various ways children can present their views and opinions and how they can express themselves in a more effective manner.

Mr. Hemant taught them the art of voice modulation to improve the drama presentation. He also taught them the skills of dialogue delivery on stage.

For this session, he engaged children in many activities and games. Children really enjoyed them and it filled them with more energy.

Towards the end of Day – 2

After the session, children joined their respective groups to rehearse for their drama and song. Throughout the day children were practicing their songs and drams. The rehearsals ended with a mock presentation of the entire event and the flow of program was decided upon.

At the night, children were shown the movie “Chota Chetan” to ease their stress of the day.

This two day workshop filled children necessary energy to perform for the main event and also gave children a platform to express their issues and concerns. It acted as a catharsis for children who are never heard by the adults. This really boosts their confidences and also helped to restore their faith in democracy which may go a long way.

Launch of the Children Manifesto

DASHAM – Participation of Children in democracy is an joint initiative of RIHR and UNICEF, Rajasthan and further supported by various National and International NGOs viz-a-viz Save the Children, Action Aid, Girls not Brides, Plan India, UNFPA and World vision.

The initiative aimed at attracting the attention of political leaders and representative towards the issues of children and adolescents and also to give priority to the issues of children in the coming State Assembly elections and make efforts towards inclusion of children demands in the manifestos of major political parties of Rajasthan.

To achieve this aim, RIHR with the support of various national and international NGOs initiated a process to develop children manifesto. Under the program, divisional level consultation were held with approximately 1000 children and efforts were to pen down the issues raised by children during these consultation. After the consultation, a drafting committee was set up to analyze the issues of children and develop a “Children Manifesto”.

Various subsequent consultations were held to develop the children manifesto. The extensive work done by the members of the drafting committee was shared with other NGOs, CBOs and child protection for their feedbacks and comments and various drafts were prepared and shared back and forth before giving final shape to the children manifesto.

As a result of this continuous consultative process and hard work done by the drafting committee, the committee was able to develop the “Children manifesto”.

The children manifest thus developed includes the issues, demands and expectation of children raised during the consultation and also include the issues and challenges faced by NGOs and CBOs working with children on various issues.

For the wider circulation and dissemination of the children manifesto and generate support and acceptance of the Children Manifesto amongst the political parties and representative of the political parties, a event was organized to formally launch the “Children Manifesto” on 23rd October, 2018 at Totuka Bhavan Jain Nasiya Ji , Narayan Circle Jaipur.

Proceedings of the event/Program

Welcome of the participants and Chief Guest of the event by Priya and Shalinder

The event commenced with the welcome of esteem chief guest by presenting floral bouquet. The chief guests for the event were leaders and representative of major political parties of Rajasthan. The event was graced by the presence of following chief guests:-

Mr. Rajendra Singh, Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP)

Ms. Suman Sharam, Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP)

Mr. Mahesh Sharma, Congress

Ms. Nisha Sindhu, Communist Party India (CPI)

Mr. Sanjay Madhav, Communist Party India (Marxist)

Mr. T. N. Sharma, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)

Apart from the chief guests, Children, Media Personnel, representative from various international and national NGOs and CBOs attended the event and showed their support for the demands for children. Approximately 550 participants attended the event. (The list of participants is annexed).

Introduction of the DASHAM with the help of a short video clip by Priya Rathore

After the welcome, it was time for introduction of the DASHAM – Participation of children. The introduction of DASHAM was given by Ms. Priya Rathore from Sikar. The introduction was started with the showing a small video clip which narrated the information about divisional consultations, its process, participation, divisions and districts covered, about the supporting organizers of the consultation at divisional level and activities undertaken during the consultation. The video gave a glimpse about the efforts done to prepare the children manifesto.

Ms. Priya further shared, that the genesis of the DASHAM – Participation of children in Democracy. She shared that in Rajasthan, children constitute approximately 41% of the state population and are considered asset for the state. She further stated that in spite of several efforts from the state government, the situation of children is not appreciable. Unless, the children are protected and given an environment where they can reach to their full potential and unless the government does not listen to the voices of children and ensure that children are given an opportunity to participate in all the matters connecting to them, state cannot prosper. Therefore, it very crucial for the government

and the political parties alike to ensure the participation of children and adolescents in matters connecting to them and their rights, voices, concerns and demand are adequately recognized, represented and included at every step.

Keeping this objective in mind, Ms. Priya further shared that the initiative was taken by “Rajasthan Baal Adhikar Sanrakshan Sanjha Abhiyan, Rajasthan RTE Forum, Girls not Brides, Rajasthan Samuh Jan Suwasth Abhiyaan and Baal Suraksha Network, Udaipur. These forums/NGOs/Networks joined hands together and pledge to pitch the voices of children in the coming state assembly election in 2019.

The initiative was organized by Resource Institute for Human Rights and UNICEF, Rajasthan and was further supported by the Save the Children, Action Aid, World Vision, Plan International and Surasksha Network.

Song on Chalegi thaile me patti – by children and facilitator – Taruna, Neelam, Mahesh Ji and Shiv sir

After the welcome and introductory session, children presented a song named “Chalegi thaile me patti” to set the environment for the event. Mr Shiv Singh, Ms. Taruna Nayal, Ms. Neelam Negi and Mr. Mahesh Sharma also participated in the song. The song sung by children energized everyone present in the event. The song was on education and lyrics portray the picture of children ready for school.

Drama on Education – By children

After the energizing and motivating song by children on education, children then bring face to face the reality of education and schools in rural areas through a small drama. In the drams staged by children, they presented a picture of classroom setting and what happens in those class rooms on a daily basis. They showed that how the indifference of teachers towards the education of children in the class room affect their education. In the class room, a teacher was shown asking children to learn a lesson and then he got busy in his phone not bothering to explain the lesson to children. Further, how the lack of basic amenities in school like water, toilets, medical room etc affect children education. It was highlighted that the in most rural schools children do not have access to safe drinking water and toilets facility, hence children have to get water from home and in case if they

forget they again have to walk back to home to get the water or wait till the school gets over. Similarly, due to lack to medical facilities in school girls during their menstruation often remain absent in school or sent back to home. In most of rural schools, male teachers are appointed and hence girls feel hesitant to ask for sanitary pads and prefer to remain absent from school. This severely affects their education and health.

The drama staged by children was an eye opener about situation of schools and education system of government school and requires the attention of political parties in order to bring about significant change in area of education.

Presentation of the demands by children

After the drama, children presented their demands before the political leaders will accept their demands and include them in their manifesto. The demands presented by the children were as follows: -

Demands related to Education – By Priya rathore, Ajay Sashi, Santosh and Amira

There should be an action plan for the complete implementation of prescribed standards given in Right to Education, 2009 in the coming two years in every government or non-government school of the state;

There should be counselor in every secondary and senior secondary school.

The mid-day meal program should be extended till standard XIIth and mid-day meals should also be made available on holidays also for deprived/disadvantaged children.

There should be clear regulation/guidelines for the safety of children in schools. It should be ensure that in every school children have information about good and bad touch. ChildLine number (1098) and other helpline number related to children should be printed on the course books and teacher curriculum should include information about POCSO Act, JJ Act and positive disciplining.

The education department should provide free uniform to children and children should be provided for free transportation to students.

For children with disability, teachers should be appointed according to their disability and need and separate residential schools should be open for children with hearing impairment.

At each block level, there should be a college so that girls can continue their education.

Construct playgrounds in the villages.

Self-defense coaching should be made compulsory in schools and colleges.

Demands related to health and nutrition – by Shailender, Kavita, Priyanka, Mansvi

There should be provisions for the free health check-up for children in every three months at Aanganwadi Centres, Schools and Government hospitals and these should also provide free medicines and sanitary napkins.

Every Aanganwadi centre should have facilities of nutritious food, clean drinking water, pre-school education and regular health check-ups. And centre should have toilets.

There should be a scheme to provide free treatment for children with heart diseases.

To identify hearing impairment in infants BERA test facility should be available at district levels and a plan should be prepared for intervention to identify other disabilities in infants.

To curb issue of malnutrition in the children of demystified tribes, provision of food basket should be available.

State should have facilities for HIV test and viral load testing for children. Children infected with HIV should be provided with complete nutritious meal alongwith ART drugs and other medicines and there should be a palliative care centre for children infected with HIV/AIDS in the state.

At rural health centres doctors and nurses should be available 24/7.

Demands related to Child Protection – by Shailender, Madhu and priyanka

For effective implementation of child protection laws and schemes state should develop a cadre of child protection services.

At every district level, there should a de-addiction center for children, below 18 years of age, involved in addiction.

A dedicated Child Welfare Police Officer should be appointed in every police station of the state and a well-organized and resourceful Special Juvenile Police Unit should be established at district level.

At every block and panchayat level, child protection committees should be constituted and these committees should be given equal status as panchayats. Further, for smooth and effective functioning of the committee a fixed budget should be allocated.

An work plan should be prepared for society, communities and institutions for the protection of children which would help in preventing child labour and child trafficking effectively.

The age of marriage for girls should be raised from 18 to 21 years of age.

Provision for strict action should be made for non-answering of call at women and child helpline especially at night.

Launch of Children Manifestos – By Political leaders

After the presentation of the demands, the chief guests of the event were called on the stage to launch the children manifesto titled – “Baccho ke Samagrh Vikas ke liye Goshana Patra” developed under the program called “DASHAM – Participation of Children in Democracy”.

All the political parties’ leaders and representatives were called on stage and copies of Children Manifesto were given to them for launch. Every political party leader read the manifesto on stage and appreciated efforts taken by NGOs, CBOs and children in developing the manifesto.

After the launch, the Children Manifesto was distributed to all the participants. The chief guests were then asked to share their views with the participants. They came on stage one-by-one and interacted with children and shared their views.

“Ms. Suman Sharma, representing Bhartiya Janta Party, said on hearing upon the demands of children I feel there is an immense need to bring change in our system. In 21st century too, there are no hospitals and schools in villages. Further, she said the laws children are talking about are all available but are not being implemented as envisioned, so we need to modify our system. She further, assured children that they will definitely add their demands in their political party manifesto. In addition, she said the live manifesto that she has drafted today will be part of party manifesto.”

“Mr. Mahesh Sharma, representing Congress Party, expressed his happiness that he came to attend the event and heard the demands of children. He further shared that our party is still not prepared so I will try my best to include maximum demands of children shared today and written in this children manifesto. He further said that if our party makes this time then we will definitely fulfill all the demands.”

“Mr. T.N. Sharma, representing Aam Aadmi Party, shared that where our party has made government there we already have made rules for most of the demands. In Delhi, we have modified the school education system and every government has same facilities as private schools. “

“Ms. Nisha Sindhu, representing Community Party India, thanked children for inviting her here and be a part of this initiative. She further said that our party has given priority to the issues of children. In this election too, if our party comes in the government, she assured that, they will definitely fulfill all the demand of children.”

Vote of Thanks by Mr. Vijay Goyal

Towards the end of the event, Mr. Vijay Goyal, RIHR, gave a vote of thanks to all the chief guest and participants from different NGOs and a special thanks was given to children who made the event a big success. He further shared that the issues of children need to be given priority and he also urged the NGOs, Political parties and others to join hands together for the cause and take issue of children on bigger platforms. He also added that the protection of children require continuous efforts from all

walks of society and there is a need to advocate about their rigorously. With that note he, thanked all the participants for their gracious presence and making the program a successful event.

Song – We the people

The event was ended, with the song – We the people facilitated by Mr. Mahesh, Vinita, Neelam and Taruna. The song depict essence of India and its Constitution.
