

REPORT ON

MOBILIZATION WORKSHOP

11 DISTRICTS

**DATE: FROM 22ND NOVEMBER TO
30TH NOVEMBER, 2018**

**FOR THE SUPPORT OF CHILDREN
MANIFESTO PREPARED UNDER THE
PROGRAM NAMED**

**DASHAM – PARTICIPATION OF
CHILDREN IN DEMOCRACY**

BACKGROUND

Children constitute approximately 41% of the state population in Rajasthan and are considered asset for the state. They are not just the future of the country or the state but also are the citizens of today. The constitution of India bestowed children with all the rights that their adults' counterpart enjoys including the right to participation and freedom of expression.

Nevertheless, most often than not, children are not given the opportunity to participate in the democracy. Their issues and concerns often fail to be part of major political parties' manifestos. During the election major political parties too fails to ensure that the issue of children get space in their manifestoes and agendas.

Hence with the objective to adequately recognize, represent and to include the rights, voices, concerns and demands of children in major political parties manifesto "Rajasthan Baal Adhikar Sanrakshan Sanjha Abhiyan, RTE Forum Rajasthan, Girls not Brides, Rajasthan Samuh, Jan Swath Abhiyaan and Baal Suraksha Network, Udaipur joined hands together and took an initiative to pitch the voices of children in the coming election in 2019.

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 support for the inclusion of demands of children as given in the manifesto in major political parties manifestos.

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, 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.

Subsequently 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.

As a result of these extensive consultations and the inputs received from different stakeholders a children manifesto was prepared which was named as **“Baccho ke Samgrh Vikas ke liye Goshana Patra”**.

MOBILIZATION OF SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S MANIFESTO

Developing children manifesto was the first step in ensuring participation of children in democracy in general and in the coming state assembly election in particular. The next step in the process was to mobilize the support of major political party leaders, representatives and other influential people to accept the demands of the children as mentioned in the children's manifesto and inclusion of the same in major political parties manifestoes.

To achieve this purpose, a series of workshops were conducted at different districts of Rajasthan with the potential candidates and representatives of major political parties and leaders. The workshops were conducted in **11 districts** of Rajasthan viz-a-via Baran, Kota, Jhalawara, Shri Ganganagar, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Dungarpur, Karuli, Alwar, Bikaner, Ajmer and Jaipur. In the workshops representatives of political parties and leaders were invited and children, NGOs and CBOs also actively participated in the workshops. The support mobilization workshops were conducted from 22nd November to 30th November, 2018.

The details of the workshops are as follows: -

- 1. Udaipur** – The first workshop in the series was organized in Udaipur district on 22nd November, 2018. In the workshop approximately 50 children participated. Apart from children NGOs and CBOs who are working for the realization of child rights also actively participated in the workshop. The Udaipur workshop was organized by Baal Suraskha network, Udaipur and Gyatri Sewa Sansthan. In the workshop potential candidates and representatives of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) and Congress Party were invited to grace the occasion.

In the workshops discussion were held with children regarding their demands and they were also made aware about their rights. The objectives of the workshops were also shared with them. Children shared their views as to how they see election and how these elections affect their lives. Children also voice their concerns, issues and demands.

Further, children presented their manifesto to the candidates or representatives of the parties and an oath letter was taken from candidates and representatives for the support of children demands.

The representative from the parties also assured children that they will put forth their demands before the party and will made every possible effort to include them in their party manifesto and if they win the election they will make efforts to fulfill all their demands.

The workshop was concluded with the distribution of children manifesto to the guests, representatives of political parties and children and other participants.

- 2. Dungarpur** – The second workshop was conducted in the Dungarpur district of Udaipur division on 23rd November, 2018. In the workshop around 60 children participated. The workshop at Dungarpur was also organized by Baal Suraskha network, Udaipur and Gyatri Sewa Sansthan.

In the workshop potential candidates and representatives of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) and Congress Party were invited to grace the occasion.

In the workshops discussion were held with children regarding their rights and demands and they were also made aware about their rights and responsibilities. The context for the workshop was set and its objectives were also shared with children. During the workshop children were encouraged to share their views about the elections and also were motivated to share their demands, what they want from the government and what they think government should do for them etc. Children expressed their demands and shared their problem which they face on a day-to-day basis.

Later children presented their manifesto to the candidates or representatives of the parties and an oath letter was taken from candidates and representatives for the support of children demands.

The workshop was concluded with the distribution of children manifesto to the guests, representatives of political parties and children and other participants.

- 3. Baran** – The next workshop was conducted in the district of Baran at Manisha Shiksha Sansthan. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Mangilal, RIHR and Bhupendra from Kota CHILDLINE. In the workshop around 69 children and representatives of various NGOs participated.

The workshop commenced with warm welcome of the children and other participants. The objectives of the workshop were shared with children and NGO participants. After the context building, the children manifesto which was prepared during the divisional workshop was shared with children and the demands mentioned in the manifesto were read out to children. Children were

also encouraged to share any other demand which they would want to put before the government.

Afterward a road map was prepared alongwith children as to how they will present their demands before the political parties candidate in their constituency and it was also discussed that they should also take a oath letter from political party candidates so when they win and reach assembly they can put forth the demands of children before the State Government and make efforts to fulfill them.

Later, as per the roadmap prepared by children during the workshop children met following candidates of different political parties –

- Shri Promod Jain Bhaya, Congress party candidate from Baran – Anta constituency
- Shri Paanchand Meghwal, Congress Party candidate from Baran – Ataru constituency
- Shimati Asha Sharma and Shrimati Sama Sharma, District Director, Mahila Morcha

Children personally met above candidates and presented their demands before them and also got the oath letter signed from them.

- 4. Kota** – A mobilization workshop was also organized in the Kota district at Bharat Scout and Guide Kota Mandal Complex. The workshop was organized by Bharat Scout and Guide Kota Mandal. The facilitators for the workshop were Mr. Yagyadat Hada, Joint Secretary of Bharat Scout and Guide Kota Mandal and Mr. Mangilal from RIHR, Jaipur.

In the workshop approximately 60 children participated. Along with children, various NGO representatives also actively participated in the workshops.

The workshop was started by the welcome and introduction session. Afterwards, the context for the workshop was set and objectives of the workshop were shared with the participants.

After sharing the objectives of the workshop, the children manifesto which was prepared during the divisional workshops was shared with children and the demands mentioned in the manifesto were read out to children. Children were also encouraged to share any other demand which they would want government to fulfill for them.

Afterward a road map was prepared with children as to how they will present their demands before the political parties candidate in their constituency and it was also discussed that they should also take a oath letter from political party candidates so when they win and reach assembly they can put forth the demands of children before the State Government and make efforts to fulfill them.

Once the roadmap was prepared the children executed it. As per the roadmap prepared by children during the workshop children met following candidates of different political parties –

- Shri Shanti Dhariwal, Congress Party candidate from Kota North Constituency
- Shri Mohammad Hussain, Aam Aadmi Party Candidate from Kota North Constituency

- Shrimati Rakhi Gautham, Congress Party Candidate from Kota South Constituency
- Shri Sandeep Sharma, Bhartiya Janta Party Candidate from Kota South Constituency
- Shri Manish Sharma, Bhartiya Janta Party Candidate from Kota South Constituency
- Shri M. P. Chatar, Aam Aadmi Party Candidate from Ladpura Constituency

Children personally met above mentioned candidates and presented their demands before them and also got the oath letter signed from them.

5. Jhalawar – In Jhalawar district the workshop was organized by Bharat Scout and guide Kota Mandal at Sankalp Sansthan Kota Road, Jhalawar Campus. The facilitators of the workshop were Mr. Yagyadat Handa, Joint Secretary of Bharat Scout and guide Kota Mandal and Mr. K. L. Devra, Representative of Jhalawar District. In the workshop, 120 children and 6 NGO representatives participated. The workshop was started by the welcome and introduction session. After that the facilitator did fun activities with children to break the ice and develop a conducive environment where children can express their freely and without any fear.

Afterwards, the context for the workshop was set and objectives of the workshop were shared with the participants.

After sharing the objectives of the workshop, the children manifesto which was prepared during the divisional workshops was shared with children and the demands mentioned in the manifesto were read out to children. Children were

also encouraged to share any other demand which they would want government to fulfill for them.

Afterward a road map was prepared with children as to how they will present their demands before the political parties candidate in their constituency and it was also discussed that they should also take a oath letter from political party candidates so when they win and reach assembly they can put forth the demands of children before the State Government and make efforts to fulfill them.

Once the roadmap was prepared the children executed it. As per the roadmap prepared by children during the workshop children met different candidates of various political parties and also got the oath letter signed from them.

6. Shri Ganganagar – In the district of Shir Ganganagar support mobilization workshop was organized by Urmul Trust, Bikaner at Bharat Public School. The workshop was attended by 69 children and various NGOs representatives.

The workshop was started by introducing innovative energizers to break the ice between children and create a friendly environment for children. Afterwards, the agenda and the objectives of the workshop were shared with children. Children were encouraged to share their issues, concerns and demands. The children manifesto prepared under the DASHAM – Participation of Children in Democracy program was shared with children.

During the workshop strategies were decided to meet the representative of major political party. A roadmap was prepared for the same. Once the strategy or roadmap was prepared the children also with the facilitators and NGO

representatives went to meet the candidates of different political parties to forth their demands. As part of the strategy, children met following candidates:-

- Shri Ashok Chandak, Congress Party candidate from Shri Ganganagar Constituency
- Shrimati Vinita Ahuja, Bhartiya Janta Party candidate from Shri Ganganagar Constituency
- Shri Prahalad Rai Tak, BSP candidate from Shri Ganganagar Constituency
- Shrimati Kamini Jindal, Jamindar Party from Shri Ganganagar Constituency

During the workshop children met these representatives and present their demands before them and got the oath letter signed from them. Children interacted with candidates and shared their concerns. On the other hand, the candidates assured children that they will make every possible effort to fulfill all the demands of children.

7. Jodhpur – The Jodhpur workshop was also organized by Urmul Trust, Bikaner. In the workshop 78 children and NGOs representative participated. The workshop was started by welcome of the participants. To break the ice between the participants the facilitator of the workshop introduced innovative energizers which helped to create a friendly environment for children. Afterwards, the agenda and the objectives of the workshop were shared with children. Children were encouraged to share their issues, concerns and demands. The children manifesto prepared under the DASHAM – Participation of Children in Democracy program was shared with children.

During the workshop strategies were decided to meet the representative of major political party. A roadmap was prepared for the same. Once the strategy or

roadmap was prepared the children also with the facilitators and NGO representatives went to meet the candidates of different political parties to forth their demands. As part of the strategy, children met following candidates:-

- Shri Kishan Meghwal, Communist Party candidate from Shri Ganganagar Falaudi Constituency
- Shri Mahesh kumar, Congress Party candidate from Falaudi Constituency
- Shri Pabbaram Vishnau, Bhartiya Janta Party candidate from Falaudi Constituency
- Shri Kumbh singh, Independent candidate from Falaudi Constituency

During the workshop children met these representatives and present their demands before them and got the oath letter signed from them. Children interacted with candidates and shared their concerns. On the other hand, the candidates assured children that they will make every possible effort to fulfill all the demands of children.

8. Karuli – A support mobilization workshop was also organized in the district of Karuli. In the workshop approximately 125 children participated. Apart from children NGOs and CBOs who are working for the realization of child rights also actively participated in the workshop.

In the workshop potential candidates and representatives of major political parties were invited.

In the workshops discussion were held with children regarding their demands and they were also made aware about their rights. The objectives of the

workshops were also shared with them. Children shared their views as to how they see election and how these elections affect their lives. Children also voice their concerns, issues and demands.

Further, children presented their manifesto to the candidates or representatives of the parties and an oath letter was taken from candidates and representatives for the support of children demands.

The representative from the parties also assured children that they will put forth their demands before the party and will made every possible effort to include them in their party manifesto and if they win the election they will make efforts to fulfill all their demands.

The workshop was concluded with the distribution of children manifesto to the guests, representatives of political parties and children and other participants.

- 9. Alwar** – In the mobilization workshop at Alwar district 30 children participated. The workshop was organized by AMIED Sansthan and Swakshi Santhan. The workshop was started with energizing games for children. In the workshops discussion were held with children regarding their demands and they were also made aware about their rights. The objectives of the workshops were also shared with them. Children shared their views as to how they see election and how these elections affect their lives. Children also voice their concerns, issues and demands.

Further, children presented their manifesto to the candidates or representatives of the parties and an oath letter was taken from candidates and representatives for the support of children demands.

The representative from the parties also assured children that they will put forth their demands before the party and will made every possible effort to include them in their party manifesto and if they win the election they will make efforts to fulfill all their demands.

The workshop was concluded with the distribution of children manifesto to the guests, representatives of political parties and children and other participants.

10. Ajmer – A joint workshop was organized in the district of Ajmer. In this workshop 25 children participated. The workshop was organized at Khndelwal Dharmshala by Antakshari Foundation.

The workshop started by welcoming the participants. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Shiv Singh Nayal and Ms. Reena. The facilitators also introduced the games or activities to create a positive and friendly environment for the children. In the workshops discussion were held with children regarding their demands and they were also made aware about their rights. The objectives of the workshops were also shared with them. Children shared their views as to how they see election and how these elections affect their lives. Children also voice their concerns, issues and demands.

During the workshop, children also presented a **Nukkad Natak** to express their issues and problems that they face on daily basis.

Later children along with the facilitators presented the children manifesto to the representatives of major political parties viz-a-viz Congress, BJP, AAP and BSP. Children interacted with the representatives and presented the children manifesto to them and also got the oath letter signed by them.

The workshop was concluded with the distribution of children manifesto to the participants of the workshop.

11. Jaipur– Another joint support mobilization was organized by the Antakshari Foundation at Nagar Paalika Chawk. In the workshop approximately 35 children participated. The workshop started by welcoming the participants. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Shiv Singh Nayal and Ms. Reena. The facilitators also introduced the games or activities to create a positive and friendly environment for the children. In the workshops discussion were held with children regarding their demands and they were also made aware about their rights. The objectives of the workshops were also shared with them. Children shared their views as to how they see election and how these elections affect their lives. Children also voice their concerns, issues and demands.

During the workshop, children also presented a **Nukkad Natak** to express their issues and problems that they face on daily basis.

Later children along with the facilitators presented the children manifesto to the representatives of major political parties viz-a-viz Congress, BJP, AAP and BSP. Children interacted with the representatives and presented the children manifesto to them and also got the oath letter signed by them.

The workshop was concluded with the distribution of children manifesto to the participants of the workshop.

The support mobilization workshops were an exciting and enthralling experience for the children, NGOS and organizers. In the workshop every effort was made by children and organizers and NGOs to meet and mobilize the support of political parties. In district where these workshops were organized the organizers made an effort to meet leaders of political parties. They were also sent invites to attend the workshop but unfortunately due to paucity of time and busy schedule of the leaders they could not attend the workshop and rather send their representative to meet and interact with children. Overall, the experience of the mobilization was exhilarating.

PHOTO'S OF MOBILIZATION WORKSHOPS





