



## **DISTRICT WORKSHOP WITH YOUTH OF NYKS AT KARALI**

**“CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY”**

**BAL ADHIKAR SARKSHAN SAJHA ABHIYAN ALLIANCE (DASHAM)**

16TH JUNE 2024

## **Preamble**

Rajasthan Bal Adhikar Sarkshan Sajha Abhiyan Alliance (DASHAM) 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 children and adolescents' rights, care, and protection at the state level.

To influence the state assembly election 2023, the network organized district meetings, and seven divisional level workshops across the state. further, it was followed by the state level consultation where adolescents handed over the demand charter to the political parties for including their issues in the party manifesto.

Further, to collate the voices of young people, specifically from Nehru Yuva Kendra a collective workshop was organized in association with NYKS and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, Karauli on 16th June 2024. The objectives of the workshop included:

- 1) Discussing the grassroots issues related to child rights, child marriage, child labour, child abuse, and children with disabilities.
- 2) Participation of NYKS volunteers in curbing the issues of children and young people in their respective areas.

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

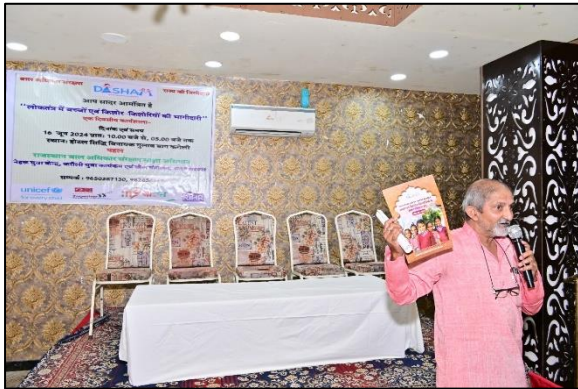
Mr. Vijay Goyal, General Secretary, Resource Institute for Human Rights (RIHR) welcomed the young people from NYKS and the representatives of partner NGOs which was followed by a brief introduction of each NYKS volunteer.

Further, he briefed about Bal Adhikar Sarkshan Sajha Abhiyan Alliance (DASHAM) a state level network of NGO representatives from different and difficult geographies. The network continues to advocate for the policies and programs for children and young people. Also, the endeavours of influencing the political parties' manifesto for including the issues of children and young people in the state assembly election from the year 2013.

A video was played that showcased the highlights of adolescent participation in the democratic state assembly election 2023. It included all the seven divisional workshops held in August-September 2023 across Rajasthan. Conducted the group activities to identify the existing problems related to their assigned topics including education, health, child rights, participation, safety & and protection with actionable solutions. The adolescents were engaged in collaborative brainstorming sessions. Toward the end of each workshop, the group representatives collectively prepared and presented their voices and demands to the chief guests representing the Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Jaipur (RSCPCR), District Child Protection Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, Child Welfare Committee and different political parties in all seven divisions.

A total of 62 youths from NYKS and NGO representatives participated in the workshop's deliberation.

Mr. Anil Sharma-Chairman and Mr. Faizal Ahmed from the Child Welfare Committee and MLA-Mr. Vishvendra Singh from Karauli were the chief guest of the workshop.



## 2. Involvement of NYKS in Addressing the Issues of Last Mile

Mr. Sharad Tripathi, District Youth Officer, NYKS shared that Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) is one of the largest youth organizations in the world. NYKS has a presence in 623 Districts of India. The objective of the program is to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities. The eight blocks of the Kaurli district (undivided) have about 20,000 youth registered under NYKS.

Further, Ms. Garima Valmiki, a Volunteer of NYKS oriented on PENCIL Portal which stands for Platform for Effective Enforcement of No Child Labour. It is an online platform that aims to combat child labour in India. It is a government initiative that facilitates the enforcement of child labour laws and also ensures the effective rehabilitation of rescued child labourers. The NYKS volunteers are actively working on the issue of child labour, education, abuse, and child marriage in their respective geographical areas.





### **3. Orientation on Laws that Protect Children**

The team of RIHR discussed in detail the national laws that protect children, including those that address their rights, protection, and education.

The Constitution of India, guarantees children's rights, including the right to free and compulsory education for children ages 6–14, and the right to be protected from hazardous employment until age 14. It also protects children from exploitation, discrimination and gives them opportunities to develop healthily.

Mr. Vijay Goyal explained with current scenario of crime against children in the state and about the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act (2000, amended in 2015) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) ensure that children are protected and that juvenile delinquents are tried amicably.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (1986, amended in 2016) prohibits the employment of children in factories, mines, and other hazardous jobs and processes.

Mr. Mangilal Shankar discussed the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006) to protect children. The act is armed with enabling provisions to prohibit child marriage, protect and provide relief to victims, and enhance punishment for those who abet, promote, or solemnize such marriage.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (2012) is a law in India that aims to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. The act defines various forms of sexual abuse, including physical assault, sexual harassment, and pornography. It also outlines punishments for offenses, establishes special courts to try these offenses, and provides a system to support victims and catch offenders.



#### **4. Child Friendly Panchayat**

Mr. Manish Singh, Secretary, Manjari Sansthan discussed child-friendly panchayat which is a local governance institution to works for the development of children in its area. The panchayat's four pillars are child survival, development, protection, and participation.

It ensures children's rights to health, education, nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation, protection from abuse, and ends child labour in the villages.

The children learn a democratic way of functioning by selecting their Bal Panchayat representatives, who in turn would represent all the children of the village while interacting with the Gram Panchayat members. Thereby, creating an opportunity for children to voice their issues, concerns, dreams, and aspirations without fear or hesitation.

He motivated the NYKS participants to play a crucial role in monitoring their respective village panchayat functioning for effective implementation of child-friendly panchayat.



#### **5. Community Health**

Mr. Saurabh Sharma District Consultant, UNICEF presented the scenario on child and reproductive health issues and services in Rajasthan. He emphasized the impact of the community value system on women and children's access to health care services. This results in inappropriate health seeking behaviour for services including immunization, neonatal care, nutrition, adolescent and women's health services. Therefore, he motivated the NYKS volunteers to mobilize the men, women, and adolescents in their areas to enhance the reach of health services.





## 6. Voices of Youth

The young people representing NYKS were encouraged to share the concerns and voices of their areas and take the same forward at the state level.

- Since Karauli has the prevalence of child labour specifically at the stone mines and marble fitting work, that was shared prominently by the participants.
- 25-30% children of Karauli district have not seen the doors of the school
- Child marriage exists in the communities, which is being addressed by the NYKS volunteers.
- The cases of child abuse are occurring in villages and at the schools as well.



## 7. Closing Remarks

Towards the end of the workshop, Mr. Manish Singh, expressed gratitude for the fruitful participation and discussions by young people of Karauli district. He emphasized that as per the State Child Policy, 2008, the State has the responsibility of providing quality education, health, nutrition, clean water, and sanitation services to every child. However, despite the state and community's efforts the present scenario is improving at a low pace.

Therefore, it becomes the responsibility of all of us to work hard at the grassroots level and the level of advocacy for bringing about a significant improvement in the status of children and young people in the state.

