

Children’s Week Celebration

14th to 20th November 2024

Cheerful activities with children by Partner NGOs of Rajasthan Bal Adhikar Sanrkshan Sajha Abhiyan (RBASSA)

Contextual

National Children’s Day in India is celebrated on November 14 which is the birth anniversary of the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. World Children's Day is celebrated on November 20th to mark the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 by the United Nations General Assembly and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

Thus, Children’s Week is celebrated to raise awareness about the rights, education, the welfare of children, and to reflect on the progress and challenges children face.

Preface

Rajasthan Bal Adhikar Sanrkshan Sajha Abhiyan (RBASSA), DASHAM is a strong network at the state level that works towards children's and adolescents’ rights, care, and protection. Since 2008, it has been raising collective voices and influencing policies at the state level. Resource Institute for Human Rights (RIHR) continues to play an important role for the Alliance in convening it at the state and national levels.

The network celebrated the week in association with UNICEF in three approaches:

1. Articulating creativity through drawings by children of Rajasthan
2. Activities with children at the local level by the partner NGOs
3. World Children's Day celebration at Jaipur

Articulating creativity through drawing

The network NGOs were approached to motivate their children further to articulate their creativity through drawings on Children’s Day. The children of 8 to 18 years of age were encouraged to make drawings on the theme “What should our future be like” by highlighting artificial intelligence, child rights, employment opportunities, and climate change.

A total of 50 children from Ajmer, Dausa, Dungarpur, Kekri, Jaipur, and Jodhpur unleashed their creativity and expressed their thoughts through pencils and colors. The drawings were shared in soft copy through the WhatsApp group of the network.

Further, the e-certificate was sent to all the participants as a token of appreciation on behalf of the network.



Activities with children at the local level by the partner NGOs

In the entire week, about 12 partner NGOs organized varied creative activities with their children at the grassroots level in their respective geographical areas. It included representation from Ajmer, Balotra, Baran, Bikaner, Jaipur, Karauli, and Tonk districts.

1. Amar Shashi Balika Grah, Hindaun City, Karauli

The shelter home, On 14th November, the management of Balika Grah organized a celebration of Jawahar Lal Nehru's Birth Anniversary. The girls were explained the significance of Children's Day by the experts, they all offered floral tribute to Nehruji's photo and the girls also prepared posters on the day.

On 16th November along with maintaining the nutrition garden of the home, the girls also changed the soil in the pots. Prepare the soil beds and sow vegetable seeds. In the entire process, the girls participated with great enthusiasm.

On 17th November the girls themselves made new pots and painted them with attractive colors and also did various types of paintings. About 33 girls participated in all the activities.



2. Rise Foundation, Balotra

RISE Foundation focuses on the empowerment of adolescent girls, women, and children for sustainable and holistic development.

Various events were organized in the five villages of three panchayats including Tapra, Asada, Kitpala of Balotra district from 14th to 20th November 2024. The week fostered a spirit of love and encouragement, reminding everyone of children's vital role in shaping the future.

Throughout the week, various activities were conducted with about 286 children, making the celebration memorable.

The week was inaugurated in three panchayats with some art and craft activities along with an inauguration speech delivered by the Sarpanch of Kitpala Panchayat, he praised the parents, who are concerned about child-related issues and want to create a child-friendly atmosphere across the family and village. "Children are not just the members of the families but are the future of the nation". He requested everyone to curb gender discrimination in our families and treat our children with equality.

In Asada and Tapra panchayats painting competitions in the government schools were conducted. Several group activities were conducted in these panchayats between the 14th to 20th of November throughout the Children's Day week, including:

Painting competitions: where children unleashed their creativity and expressed their thoughts through pencils and colors. Children made drawings on multiple themes like climate change, child-related issues, and artificial intelligence.

Poetry: Some children showed their interest in poetry and it encouraged them to express their talents. Many patriotic poems were recited by the children, which were heartwarming celebrations of their innocence, imagination, and boundless potential.

Mehndi sketches: in Tapra a special mehndi sketches program was filled with laughter and creativity as children showcased their artistic skills, designing colourful mehndi patterns. It was a wonderful opportunity to nurture their talents and express themselves through art. The celebration not only brought smiles to their faces but also created a vibrant and engaging atmosphere.

Open discussion on child related issues: a series of discussions were held with parents and a group of adolescent girls. These sessions provided the platform for constructive dialogue on topics such as education, health, safety, and the importance of supportive environments for the holistic development of children and also explored solutions to common challenges. The discussions fostered awareness, strengthened communication, and emphasized the collective responsibility of families and communities to ensure the well-being and rights of children.

As the closing ceremony, three events were organized in Tapra, Kitpala, and Asada panchayats.



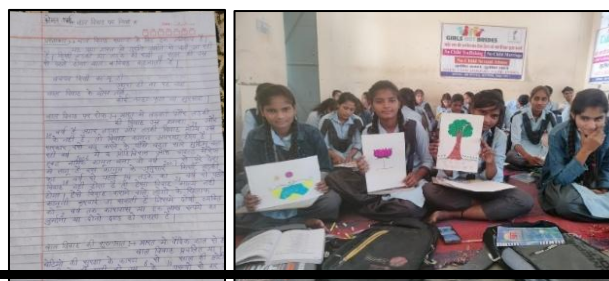
3. Gram Chetna Kendra, Khedi Milak

The organization focuses on the promotion and fortification of integrated and holistic development of an individual and communities residing in the Shambar Lake region of Rajasthan.

On the children's week celebration, the essay writing and drawing competitions on the topic "Child Marriage and its Effects" and "How to Remove Child Marriage" were organized in the government schools of Chordi village of Dausa district, where about 400 students participated. Students were also provided with comprehensive awareness of the legal laws related to child marriage and its detrimental effects on individuals and society. Different ways to prevent child marriage and empower them to become advocates for change. Local teachers also received training on the critical role they play in educating students about the consequences of child marriage.

To reinforce this commitment, a collective pledge was taken by all participants, symbolizing their dedication to eradicating child marriage and promoting a society where children's rights are protected.

By focusing on both students and local teachers, the program created a ripple effect, with participants encouraged to spread awareness within their families and communities.



4. Lok Vikas Sansthan, Ajmer

The organization is generating mass awareness on the prohibition of child labour through puppet shows and also sensitizing school children on child labour, sexual abuse, and nutrition through creative activities.

During the children's week celebration about 60 children were covered through different activities. The inspiring speech of a ward member of Hingonia village and an NGO representative was organized for the children. Child rights, health care facilities, and abstinence from substance abuse along with discipline and hard work in life were highlighted.

In the Surajpura village, a drawing and slogan writing competition on climate change and future life was conducted for the students of government and private schools. Felicitated the children with the prize for the first three best drawings and slogans.

On the last day, the essay writing competition was held in Indarpura village focusing environment, climate change, and our future. Also felicitated the children with the prize for the first three best essays.



5. Urmul Seemant Samiti ,Bajju, Bikaner

The organization has been working in the Indo-Pak border village of Bajju, Bikaner, to develop a safe and enabling environment for people that ensures their right to health, education, and employment, with a special focus on children and women.

The week initiated with a motivational talk at the government school of Bajju village on the significance of Children's Day followed by offering a floral tribute to Nehruji's photo and celebrating the day. The week followed by drawing making in Maru Balika Hostel highlighting the rights of children, and open discussion with children on preventing child marriage and its consequences on the overall development of young couples & their kids.

Further, the running competition and meditation were organized in association with Green Heartful for the students of all schools of Bajju. Sensitization on gender equality, role play on child labour and a rally with the message of child education and prohibition of child marriage were held by children in the village. A total of 60 children participated in all the activities.



6. Doosra Dashak, Bassi

The Foundation for Education and Development (FED) initiated its field activities in Bassi in 2007. Doosra Dashak, which literally means the second decade. Over the years, it has worked intensively with 1,11,209 adolescents.

During the children's day celebration, the organization conducted rangoli making, sports activities, debate, and a cleanliness drive in the four government schools of Jhinjha, Rojwadi, Rajolai, and Kesupura villages. About 270 adolescents participated in the program and showcased their talent enthusiastically.



7. Doosra Dashak, Kishanganj

Kishanganj block was one of the first blocks where FED started its work in June of 2001. It has covered 161 villages working with 6115 adolescents. However, Kishanganj remains a challenge to development planners

On 14th November celebrated Children's Day with the government school of Tejaji ka Danda village of Bhawargarh block. The students were explained about the significance of the day. Discussed the biography, his role in the freedom of our country, and constitution building in detail.

The day was followed by recreational activities for children at the school premises including a lemon race, balloon race, debate competition, cap making from the newspaper, group songs, and dance. About 70 students participated in the celebration and enjoyed it thoroughly.



8. Shiv Shiksha Samiti, Tonk

The organization commenced its function in 1989, working on health, education/child protection, livelihood, women empowerment, and PRI in 11 districts of Rajasthan.

Children's Week was celebrated enthusiastically across schools in 8 Panchayats covering 438 children in government schools. The aim was to engage children in diverse recreational and educational activities, promoting creativity, teamwork, and self-expression.

1. **Sports Competitions:**

- Kabaddi – a traditional Indian sport that fostered teamwork, strategy, and physical endurance.
- Volleyball – encouraged physical fitness and sportsmanship among the participants.
- Spoon Race – a fun and exciting activity that boosted students' coordination and focus.

2. Creative Competitions:

- Rangoli Making – enhanced artistic expression and cultural awareness.
- Mehndi Designing – celebrated traditional art forms and creativity.
- Poster Making – focused on themes of child rights, education, and the importance of community participation.
- Essay Writing – encouraged critical thinking and effective communication skills among the students.

A week's celebration was successful in bringing joy, enhanced learning, and community spirit to the forefront. The diverse activities entertained, educated, and inspired the youth, leaving a lasting impact on everyone involved. It also reaffirmed the importance of nurturing children's potential and promoting inclusive, community-driven initiatives.



9. Resource Institute for Human Rights, Jaipur

RIHR aims to advocate for the realization of internationally and nationally set standards for human rights, especially in the area of child rights and protection.

Talk on 94.3 MY FM with a Psychologist

On 14th November 2024, the psychologist was invited by 94.3 MY FM for a short talk show. The emphasis was on the impact of children becoming social media influencers. The social media platforms have become home to people from diverse backgrounds, opinions, and cultures. It provides vast exposure to the world, enhancing children's communication skills and fostering creativity. However, it is crucial to maintain a balance. Thus, parents and children can achieve this by using it in a controlled environment, such as setting fixed times for app usage, monitoring the type of content being consumed, and ensuring that it is integrated as a balanced part of daily routines alongside other responsibilities. Additionally, it is important



not to be influenced by the opinions of the general public on these platforms. By adopting these measures, both parents and children can enjoy the benefits of social media while minimizing its risks.

Activities at Rajkiya Balika Grah, Jaipur on 16th and 18th November 2024

The recreational activities aimed to provide the girls with a joyful experience, helping them momentarily forget their sorrows and immerse themselves in fun, creative, and engaging activities. The activities were thoughtfully planned to ensure every child could participate, express their emotions, and foster a sense of unity among them.

About 47 children participated in a craft session that involved making decorative items. They created flowers, lanterns, leaves, and alphabet chains using materials like colorful craft papers, ribbons, scissors, and glue. The children chose to decorate one shared room, transforming it into a vibrant and lively space.

In the paper mache session, materials such as paste, paints, and brushes were distributed among groups of seven to eight children. They crafted various items like shivaling, ganesh idols, stoves, utensils, flowers, leaves, human figures, and even a doll. The activity was engaging and allowed the children to channel their creativity while working as a team.

Further, the children participated in an octopus game, a new experience for them, requiring them to hold each other in a circle and move forward while maintaining balance and coordination, promoting teamwork. The kho-kho game was loud and energetic, revealing hidden talents as shy children surprised everyone with their clever strategies to win.

The activities were simple, engaging, and full of fun, ensuring inclusivity and happiness. The children thoroughly enjoyed the event, cherishing every moment of the celebration.



10. SMILE, Jaipur

Society for Mobilizing & Improving the Life Experiences of Underprivileged Women & Children (SMILE) works for the betterment of underprivileged women and children who live in destitute homes of government, slums of Jaipur, and its nearby villages.

The Children's Week was celebrated with the children of government schools at learning centres of Mansarovar and Hirapura. The week began with a 14th November celebration followed by a discussion on the significance of the day and recreational activities.

For the primary students, a film show emphasizing health & nutrition and a slogan writing on child rights was organized. The children participated wholeheartedly and enjoyed learning.

At Hirapura learning centre, the village Sarpanch interacted with the students of 7th to 10th standards on their rights and government schemes for them. Children also participated in essay writing, painting activities, sports, and a session on healthy lifestyle at the centre.

At Mansarovar learning centre an interactive session on self-identity and dignity for the students of 7th to 10th standards was conducted. They were motivated to identify their life objectives, plan steps, and take action toward achieving them.



11. Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti, Kekri and Ajmer

The organization is committed to raising a voice for women's rights as enshrined in the Constitution of India and the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights while maintaining the core part of our ethos which is cultivating young leadership through working with adolescent girls.

On the occasion of the Children's Week celebration, organized sports activities, quizzes on child rights, drawings, songs, poem writing, and dialogues on the importance of children's day at 6 government schools and 10 villages. About 700 children participated from the schools of Rajpura, Shivnagar, Mankhand, Bharai, Kaleda, and Krishna Gopal villages.

Children's Day Friendship- The children visited the district authorities of the Kekri and Ajmer districts. They shared issues related to education, security, and health and also tied friendship bands. In the Kekri district, the adolescent girls discussed safety related issues, tied protection thread, and conducted a signature campaign with the district administration, local authorities, and police dept.

About 25 adolescents represented the voices of children of Ajmer district in the network meeting with the district legal aid authority.



12. Manjari Sansthan

The organization articulates its mission as working for: the development of Women and Children thereby undertaking specific actions of human and institutional capacity building, community leadership development, collective action, and good governance.

Enthusiastically celebrated Children’s Week at Budhpura village, discussing the significance of the day and the ideals of Pandit Nehru, and also shared United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), committing to ensure that all children are treated with dignity and respect and have every opportunity to reach their full potential.

- active participants in their own lives and their communities
- active citizens who can and should meaningfully contribute to decisions that affect their lives.

The volunteers organized several activities for the children, including a dance competition, water relay race, lemon-spoon race, drawing competition, singing competition, etc., followed by refreshments. Activities were planned so all the children could participate in the maximum possible activities. About 100 children participated in the Bal Mela.

The events were full of energy, fun, learning, and excitement and were thoroughly enjoyed by the children, community members, schoolteachers, and volunteers.



World Children's Day celebration at Jaipur

The week's celebration was completed with state level workshop on World Children's Day on 20th November. The day is celebrated to promote international togetherness, raise awareness among children worldwide, and improve children's welfare globally.

A one-day workshop was organized by Rajasthan Bal Adhikar Sanrkshan Sajha Abhiyan (RBASSA), DASHAM in association with UNICEF at State Resource Centre, Jaipur on 20th November 2024. The objective was to provide an enabling environment for the children to articulate their ideas and their future.

A total of 86 people including 62 adolescents and 24 adult representatives from 13 partner NGOs participated from Bikaner, Karauli, Kekri, Tonk, and Jaipur districts.

Proceedings

Welcome and Briefing:

Mr. Vijay Goyal, Resource Institute for Human Rights (RIHR) welcomed all the participants and thanked all NGOs for ensuring the adolescent's representation. Further, he motivated the participants to share the significance of World Children's Day. He also updated them on the week-long celebration by the network NGOs at the local level and drawings created by children from different districts.

Introduction:

The young leaders, Ms. Pallavi Sharma, Consultant, Ms. Yuthika Chatterjee, and Ms. Mahisha Bairwa from RIHR facilitated the entire workshop.

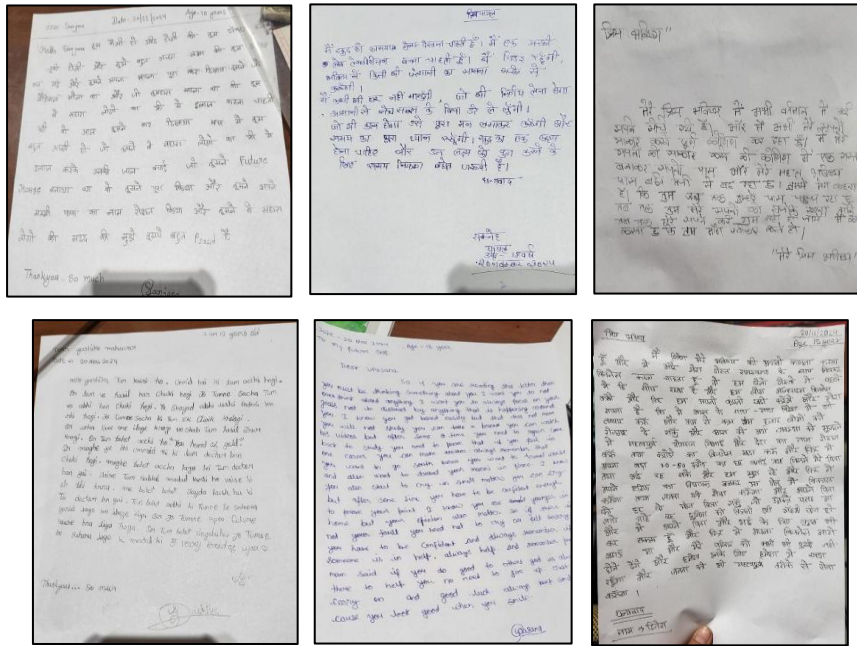
The participants were encouraged to introduce themselves by name and with an adjective depicting their personality. The adolescents found it interesting and receptively expressed change-maker, good listener, good, innocent, great, smart, nice, mischievous, cute, active, playful, confident, irritated, smiling, positive, twinkle, etc as their characters.

Illustrating and Presenting Dreamhouse:

The theme of World Children's Day 2024 is to listen to the future, encourage their right to self-expression, understand their ideas for a better world, and include their priorities in our actions today.

Therefore, to engage participants in creative activity and explore their future, they were encouraged to draw their dream house on the provided drawing sheet and sketch pen set. They were given sufficient time and liberty to utilize any location of the venue including a room, garden, open space, conference hall, etc for expressing their dream without interference.

Post completing their drawings the participants were collected in the conference hall, where each one of them was provided with a small chit mentioning the names of things generally available in the houses. They need to read the names of things loudly and raise their hands to those drawn in their drawings. It was observed that the majority of them drew human



Conclusion

This was the one it's kind of workshop that was led, managed, and participated by young people without the intervention and expertise of the seniors and representatives of the organizations.

Depicting personal feelings through drawing, portraying personal dreams on paper, and illustrating their dream house were unique experiences for the participants. The ice breakers and creative games such as body banding exercise, counting till 20 game, action song, command based funny physical activity helped in creating bonding among participants, formulating a more energetic and vibrant environment.

At the end of the workshop, the participants shared that they got equal chances to express their views without biases and intervention. They appreciated the forum as got to make new friends representing different geographies of the state. Also promised to continue their journey towards achieving their dreams and plans.