

BSAF'S ALTERNATIVE REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNCRC IN BANGLADESH 2001-2006

**Bangladesh Shishu Adikhar Forum (BSAF)
Dhaka, Bangladesh
December 2007**



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Published

December, 2007

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB	:	Aparajeyo Bangladesh
ADB	:	Asian Development Bank
AFP	:	Acute Flaccid Paralysis
AIDS	:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARI	:	Acute Respiratory Infection
ARISE	:	Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children's Environment
ASD	:	Assistance for Slum Dwellers
BBS	:	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCG	:	Bacillus Calmette Guérin
BDHS	:	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey
BEHTRUC	:	Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Children
BEHTRUWC	:	Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children
BGMEA	:	Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Employers Association
BINP	:	Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Program
BNFE	:	Bureau of Non-formal Education
BRAC	:	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BSA	:	Bangladesh Shishu Academy
BSAF	:	Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum
CBO	:	Community Based Organization
CDD	:	Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases
CIDA	:	Canadian International Development Agency
CNSP	:	Children in Need of Special Protection
CODEC	:	Community Development Centre
CPE	:	Compulsory Primary Education
CPR	:	Contraception Prevalence Rate
CRC	:	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DAM	:	Dhaka Ahsania Mission
DFID	:	Development Fund for International Development
DNFE	:	Directorate of Non-formal Education
DOE	:	Department of Education
DPE	:	Directorate of Primary Education
DPHE	:	Department of Public Health Engineering
DPT	:	Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus
EB	:	Executive Board
ECD	:	Early Childhood Development
EFA	:	Education for All
EmOC	:	Emergency Obstetric Care
EPI	:	Expanded Program on Immunization
ESP	:	Essential Service Package
FFE	:	Food for Education
FIVDB	:	Friend's in Village Development in Bangladesh
FLE	:	Family Life Education
FPAB	:	Family Planning Association of Bangladesh
GoB	:	Government of Bangladesh
HAPP	:	HIV/AIDS Prevention Project
HIV	:	Human Immuno Deficiency Virus
HNPSP	:	Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Program
HPSP	:	Health and Population Sector Program
ICIDH	:	International Classification for Impairment, Disability and Handicap
IDA	:	International Development Association
IDD	:	Iodine Deficiency Disorder

ILO	:	International Labour Organization
IMCI	:	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
INGO	:	International Non-government Organization
JCF	:	Jagorony Chakra Foundation
JCLWG	:	Joint Child Labour Working Group
MDG	:	Millennium Development Goal
MICS	:	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MJF	:	Manusher Jonno Foundation
MMR	:	Maternal Mortality Rate
MNGO	:	Member Non-government Organization
MoHFP	:	Ministry of Health and Family Planning
MoWCA	:	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NCP	:	National Children Policy
NFE	:	Non-formal Education
NFOWD	:	National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled
NGO	:	Non-government Organization
NID	:	National Immunization Days
NNP	:	National Nutrition Program
NORAD	:	Norwegian Agency for International Development
NPA	:	National Plan of Action
OPAC	:	Optional Protocol of the Child in Armed Conflict
OPSC	:	Optional Protocol of the Child on Sale of Children
OPV	:	Oral Polio Vaccine
ORT	:	Oral Rehydration Therapy
PCAR	:	Protection of Children at Risk
PEDP	:	Primary Education Development Project
PLAGE	:	Policy Leadership and Advocacy for Gender Equality
PSTC	:	Population Services and Training Centre
RDRS	:	Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Services
ROSC	:	Reaching out of School Children
SPK	:	Samaj Poribortan Kendra
TBP	:	Time-Bound Program
TFR	:	Total Fertility Rate
TLM	:	Total Literacy Movement
UNCRC	:	United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child.
UNFPA	:	United Nation Population Fund
UNICEF	:	United Nation Children's Fund
USAID	:	United States Assistance for International Development
USS	:	Udayankur Seba Sangstha
VARD	:	Voluntary Association for Rural Development
VERC	:	Village Education Resource Centre
VOSD	:	Voluntary Organization for Social Development

LIST OF CONTENTS

PART ONE : INTRODUCTION	...	...	...	...	...	...	07
1.1 Background	...	...	...	...	...	...	07
1.2 Methodology	...	...	...	...	...	...	07
1.3 Organization of the Report	...	...	...	...	...	...	08
PART TWO: IMPLEMENTATION OF UNCERC IN BANGLADESH	...	...	...	...	...	...	09
2.1 Demographic Situation of Children in Bangladesh	...	...	...	...	...	...	09
2.2 General Measures of Implementation	...	...	...	...	...	...	09
2.3 Definition of Child	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
2.4 General Principles	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
2.4.1 Non-discrimination	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
2.4.2 Best Interest of the Child	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
2.4.3 Right to life, Survival and Development	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
2.4.4 Respect for the views of the child	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
2.5 Civil Rights and Freedom	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
2.5.1 Legal aspects	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
2.5.2 Name and Nationality	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
2.5.3 Preservation of Identity	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
2.5.4 Freedom of Expression	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
2.5.5 Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
2.6 Family Environment and Alternative Care	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
2.6.1 Parental Responsibility	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
2.6.2 Separation from Parents and Reintegration	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
2.6.3 Illicit transfer and Non-return	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
2.6.4 Recovery of maintenance for the Child	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
2.6.5 Adoption	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
2.6.6 Periodic review of Placement	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
2.7 Basic health, nutrition and welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
2.7.1 General Health and Nutrition Activities for the Children	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
2.7.2 Care of Adolescent Girls: General and Reproductive health	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
2.7.3 Care of the Disabled Children	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
2.8 Education, leisure and Cultural Activities	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
2.8.1 Education	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
2.8.2 Leisure and Cultural Activities	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
2.9 Early Childhood Care and Development	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
2.10 Special Protection Measures	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
2.10.1 Children in Conflict with law	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
2.10.2 Children in the situation of Abuse, Torture and Trafficking	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
2.10.3 Children belonging to Minority and Indigenous groups	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
PART THREE: RECOMMENDATIONS	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
ANNEXES	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Annex-01: Findings of the Workshops with the MNGOs	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Annex-02: Findings of the Workshops with the Children	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
REFERENCE	...	...	...	...	...	...	48

FORWAD OF THE CHAIRPERSON

After the ratification of the UNCRC with the Bangladesh Government, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), a National Network of 235 NGOs working for the protection & promotion of the children in the county has been playing an imperative role from its inception on 1990. Since its origin it has been working all over the country as a sentinel of the children.

As a National Network of Child Rights Organization, BSAF has been submitting periodic report from the establishment of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child with the Government. Because, though Government is the main actor to establish Child rights in the country but there are some certain NGOs, CBOs and individuals whose dynamic & effective role is very much tremendous to uphold the child rights in the country.

Since children are the main beneficiaries of this report so we have made consultation with the children in the six divisional cities of the country to make the report more effective. And as a national network of MNGOs BSAF also conducted six workshops in the six division of the country with the MNGOs. A series of consultation meeting has taken place with the relevant NGOs, INGOs and Forums. Finally the report is made through National Consultation.

So, for better understanding of the real situation of the child rights condition this report is reasonably indispensable.

BSAF has already submitted its periodic report on 1996 and 2001 and this year's report is another effort for the realization of the real scenario of the child rights situation of the country.



Wahida Banu
Chairperson
Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF)

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Bangladesh has been fulfilling its commitment to establish rights of the child through its ratification of the UNCRC since August 1990. The constitution of Bangladesh is also laid down the principles of protecting children and elders through Articles: 27, 28 and 31. Articles 28(4) of the constitution declare that 'Nothing shall prevent the State for making special provision for women and children, or for the advancement of any backward sections of Citizen'. The constitution of the country also guarantees the rights of the child to primary education, health and nutrition.

The initial report on implementation of the convention on the Rights of the Child was submitted in November 1995 and a supplementary report in December 1996 by the Government. The second report was submitted in December 2000. The government, following the latest guidelines, also prepares the combined third and fourth periodic report. All concern Ministries of the government contributed to prepare the report under the guidance of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA).

However, the above periodic report details mostly the achievements of the projects and programs undertaken by different ministries of the government over the last five years for uplifting situation of Child Rights in the country. It is evident that Government is the main actor to establish Child Rights in the country but there are efforts from other sectors, such as NGOs, CBOs and individual who are also playing important role establishing Child Rights in the country. So a report that covers efforts of all individual sectors would be more useful to understand the situation of Child Rights in the country. This is the only rationale of preparing the present alternative report on the situation of Child Rights in the country by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF). BSAF deserves the right to prepare such a report as it is the only national forum of about 235 NGOs in Bangladesh who have diverse programs uplifting Child Rights situation in the country.

1.2 Methodology

Several methodologies were followed to prepare the present report. These include —

(a) Reviewing existing literature: A desk review of the existing literatures produced by different ministries of the Govt. and the Non-govt. agencies on the situation of Child Rights in the country was done to understand the past and the existing situation of the implementation of Child Rights in Bangladesh. References of these documents were mentioned in the text as well as at the end of the report.

(c) Divisional Workshop with the Children and the MNGOs: Twelve divisional workshops— six workshops with the children and six workshops with the MNGOs were conducted to understand the views of the children and the MNGOs on different aspects of Child Rights situation in Bangladesh. These views are the most important ingredients of the present report as they provide both the recipients' and the providers' reflection on the situation of the implementation of Child Rights in Bangladesh. Practical views of the Children and the MNGOs on several aspects of child rights situation in the country have been made in respective sections of the report.

(b) Meeting and Sharing with the Concern Agencies: Some sharing meeting with the concern agencies like Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Women & Children Affairs, UNICEF, ILO, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), were also made as and where possible, to collect information as felt necessary to improve the quality of the report.

Besides, the draft report was shared with the Executive Board of BSAF and its Program sub-committee. Finally, the draft report was presented in a national seminar. Feedback received from the BSAF Executive Board, the program sub-committee and the participants of the national seminar. Feedback has been incorporated in the final report to make it more authentic and useful for all concerned agencies and individuals who care for the children and their rights.

1.3 Organization of the Report

This report has been divided into three parts, each of which comprises several headings. Part One, which sets the stage of preparing the report, has provided the background and rational of preparing such a report by BSAF and the methodology followed to accommodate the contents and information for preparing the report. Part Two explained the detail situation of implementation of UNCRC in Bangladesh. Necessary recommendations were presented in Part three of the report.

The report starts with an abridge forward of the Chairperson of the Forum highlighting major issues of the present report while annexes on the findings of the workshops with the members organization of BSAF and the findings of the workshops with the children and references used producing the report are appended at the end of the report.

PART TWO: IMPLEMENTATION OF UNCRC IN BANGLADESH

2.1 Demographic Situation of Children in Bangladesh

According to the population census of 2001, the total population of Bangladesh was 130 million. The current population of the country is estimated to be over 140 million, giving a population density of 881 persons per square kilometers. As in the Table-01 below, the BBS statistics— 2001 provides the information that children aged 0-04 years constituted 12.99% of the total population. The country had then a population of 16.88 million children (considering the total population as 130 million). There were about 17.62 million children of age 5-9. So the largest group of children was in the age range of 5-9 years. The 10-14 years old children made up 16.64 million (13.18%, female). Since the ratification of the UNCRC the situation had improved much in some areas like expanded programme on Immunization (EPI), Polio eradication programme, Vitamin A distribution programme, Education for All, Stipend for girl children education etc. But in other cases problems remain due to lack of awareness and planned efforts. So, more efforts are needed to create more opportunities for additional number of children in schools, on extending and improving the health and nutrition care services, on sustaining the safe water supply, extending the sanitation coverage and ensuring improved hygienic environment for them.

Table 01: Percentage Distribution of Population in Bangladesh by Age and Sex¹

Year	Sex	Age group								Total
		00-04	05-09	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60+	
1991	Male	16.54%	16.58%	12.52%	16.01%	04.02%	10.27%	08.31%	05.75%	100%
2001	Male	13.09%	13.81%	13.18%	17.45%	14.41%	11.94%	09.54%	06.58%	100%
1991	Female	17.02%	16.41%	11.58%	17.90%	15.21%	09.23%	07.58%	05.07%	100%
2001	Female	12.88%	13.27%	12.40%	19.56%	17.18%	10.96%	08.12%	05.64%	100%
1991	Both	16.77%	16.50%	12.06%	16.92%	14.60%	09.77%	07.95%	05.42%	100%
2001	Both	12.99%	13.55%	12.80%	18.47%	15.75%	11.47%	08.85%	08.13%	100%

2.2 General Measures of Implementation

Bangladesh is committed to establish rights of the child through its ratification of the UNCRC. Besides, GOB signed and ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Sale of Children (OPSC), Children Prostitution and Child Pornography on 6 September 2000. Bangladesh government is also a signatory of the Optional Protocol to the Convention to the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC). Respective ministries of the government are carrying out relevant activities to materialize the protocol including implementing the UNCRC.

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) is empowered to playing a role of coordination among different ministries in favour of uplifting UNCRC in the country. And, under the leadership of MOWCA, the third National Plan of Action (NPA) for the children (2005-2015) was formulated and a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the plan has also been established. In order to deal with the specific areas of the NPA, five multi-sectoral and inter-disciplinary Advisory panels were formed. About twenty persons from different sectors (Government, civil society, and private sector, NGOs, INGOs and Donors) were included in each panel. Two children—one girl and one boy were also members of each panel. The panel took into consideration the CRC, Plan of Action of the WFFC agenda, MDG and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in its preparation. Specific roles were assigned to the panels for

¹ Statistical Year Book of Bangladesh, 2002, 25th edition, January 2007, Planning Commission

completing the draft NPA. The five advisory panels were: on **Food and Nutrition, Health, Education and Environment of Women, Protecting against Abuse, Exploitation and Violence, and Environmental Sustainability**. Apart from the above, MOWCA has specific projects with the Department of Women Affairs and the Bangladesh Shishu Academy. The National Children Council is the highest policy level body of the children, is also headed by MOWCA.

Besides, there are efforts of NGOs and CBOs to realize the rights of the child in the country through implementing different projects. A good number of NGOs in the country are working quite actively to ensure children's rights to survival, protection, development and participation. Collaborative attitude between GO and NGO is also growing significantly to uplift the situation. Projects like: Basic Education for Urban Working Children, Adolescent Girl's empowerment, Early Childhood Development project, HIV/AIDS, anti-trafficking, 'Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children's Environment' (ARISE), now named as 'Protection of Children at Risk (PCAR)' etc. are few ventures between GO-NGOs being implemented quite satisfactorily in the country. GO-NGO collaboration is supplementary as well as complimentary to improve the quality of life of the vulnerable group such as street children, working children, adolescent children, Children with disability and ethnic community etc. through providing services, such as health, education, water, sanitation etc. quite effectively.

2.3 Definition of Child

There are 36 laws in Bangladesh in relation to the children but they do not provide a consistent definition of a child. Thus, the country suffers a lot due to a numbers of anomalous definitions of the child in different contexts and purposes. So the issue needs to be attended seriously to bring in a unified definition of a child. There is a hope that the government has formed a committee to revise the very laws those contradict most with the age range of a child and to recommend an age range compatible to the principles of UNCRC that refers a child is a 'human being below the age of 18 year'. Meanwhile the committee in association with the UNICEF identified different laws through an assessment and suggested to review these laws to synchronize with the CRC articles. But no significant achievement is done so far in this case.

At this stage the govt. agencies follows the National Children Policy that defines a child as 'a boy or a girl below the age of 14 years. In conformity with the definition, the private development agencies—mostly NGOs have kept their definition of a child more flexible in their several need-based projects. Though there is an age-old system of recording of the birth and deaths down at the level of the Union Parishad and the Municipality, black and white, the NGOs and the Government are moving toward a more effective system to ensure birth registration of the children in selected areas with support from UNICEF and USAID. If the effort is continued and become successful within few years, it will — (a) reduce disputes over the age of a child in the country and ensures more justice in this regard, (b) enhance the possibility of identification of the child through preservation of photograph and date of birth, especially for use in the cases of suits over the issues of trafficking, abduction etc. of the child.

2.4 General Principles

2.4.1 Non-discrimination:

Although Article 28 of the Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees non-discrimination by the State on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, in reality the situation is quite different. Discrimination is practiced widely till today in every sphere in the society. The most visible acts of discrimination are those against girl children, which are of various kinds, ranging from amount of food available to them in comparison to their brothers, to early marriages. Though gender discrimination and disparity reduction is one of the "overarching strategies" of the National Plan of Action for Children (2005-2015), the overall culture of discrimination on the basis of gender remains not only a policy challenge, but also a serious national attitudinal blockage (MJF Alternative Report, 2006).

GOB claims that Bangladesh recorded remarkable achievement in primary education. Girls' enrolment increased by over 30% during the period. Another initiative, the secondary girl's stipend projects have been implemented in the country since 1994. Funded by IDA, ADB and the Norwegian Government as well as the Government of Bangladesh, the project pay tuition fees and provide monthly stipend for all unmarried girls upto Grade X who attend recognized institutions, maintain at least 75% attendance and secure marks of at least 45% on the annual examinations. From June 2002, the Government extended the female stipend program to include the Higher Secondary Phase for Grade XI and XII. Now all these sound nice to increase opportunities of girls to get access into education. But there is a lack of effective monitoring and factual study and so, it cannot be claimed that all these efforts are quite effective to reduce gender disparity from the society.

It is assumed that with a rise in education, discrimination and vulnerability will automatically reduce over time. But it has never been proven through any form of field level research. Based on this assumption, it would mean that with a rise in education for girl children, cultural discriminations and vulnerability such as trafficking and child prostitution would come down. But available statistics show that in the last 10 years, the number of women and children being trafficked and girl children becoming victims of sexual exploitation are mostly because of extreme poverty, scarcity of the alternative job in the country that tempted both women and children to go abroad for better job etc. The number of rescued victims has gone up but that does not necessarily mean that the number of victims have gone down.

Again, although government has waived tuition fees for girls students upto grade X and introduced the female stipend program to include the Higher Secondary Phase for Grade XI and XII but serious questions have been raised by NGOs working in the education sector on the effectiveness of this initiation when most people in the rural areas are unaware of this opportunity for girl children. In fact the inherent gender-discrimination is curving most development efforts of the country towards a 'business as usual' option, which in no way can be accepted as an approach to improve the situation. The situation demands more effective measures from both the govt. and the private sectors to turn things functional. Although discrimination is usually understood as a gender disparity but it takes place in different forms. There is a significant population of non-Bengalis, indigenous communities, and religious minorities in Bangladesh. There are personal experiences and views of the children as well as of the MNGO activists who work closely with the people at the grassroots level, which make it clear that racial and religious discriminations persist within communities in different part of the country.

2.4.2 Best Interest of the Child

The major objective of the National Children Policy (NCP) of the country is to ensure 'the best interest of the children in all national, social, family or personal situations'. Activities identified to achieve the objective include—

- Giving priority to the interest of children in all circumstances;
- Collecting information on children from institutions and conducting research on child-related topics;
- Publication and broad dissemination of annual reports showing improvements in the situation of children;
- Observing Universal Children's Day and National Children's Day

The state party mentioned in its periodic report that 'while the family environment is intensely child-centred, the public institutions are frequently the opposite appearing to be driven by more rules and systems than by the interest of the children'. The recent incidents of slum evictions that left thousands of children, along with their families, homeless and completely destitute, echoed the above statement.

In fact Bangladesh is lagging behind to fully materialize the article related to the best interests of the child. There are some scattered efforts during the last five years in both public and private sectors that at least indicate that awareness about the best interest of the child is being increased. But prevalence of corporal punishment to the children still exists within the legal system and educational institutions of the country. So the country is still long way to establish child-centered approach in managing and fortifying interventions for the children. The UN committee recommended establishing a Directorate for Children's Affairs to manage interventions for the best interests of the children but the Govt. is yet to establish such a directorate under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

2.4.3 The Right to Life, Survival and Development

The right to life, survival and development for every child is guaranteed Bangladesh Constitution but in practice the country is far behind to ensure the very rights for all its children. Though several steps have been taken over the time to improve health and nutrition status of the children and their mother, economic inequality also mounted out of control making a strong barrier to get benefit out of these. With a rise in income, opportunities to develop oneself have not appeared resulting to high level of inequalities. Around 65 of about 130 million Bangladeshi still live in absolute poverty, and they are amongst the world's poorest. So poverty eradication should be the paramount thrust within the overall goal of promoting sustainable human development and thereby to ensure a better quality of life for the children in Bangladesh.

2.4.4 Respect for the Views of the Child

Respect for the views of the child means children and young people thinking for them, expressing their own views effectively and interacting in a positive way with other people. Children's participation received increased attention in Bangladesh in recent years. The National Plan of Action for the Children (2005-2010) developed under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs also stressed on child participation and summarized it in the words: 'The Government of Bangladesh is committed to children's participation in policy development and implementation'. Although there is still resentments as to what level of freedom of choice should be given to the children, particularly the adolescents, in the cases of disseminating information on reproductive health etc. as the issues are tabooed by the existing culture. The common mass often complain that such information might promote immoral practices among them by way of free mixing which is again not grossly accepted in the culture of Bangladesh. The challenge of involving children on sensitive issues is that there is lack of child-friendly trained Social Worker, and Counselor who are capable of addressing sensitive issues without emotionally harming them or provoking to the wrong way.

If the best decisions in respect of children are to be made, then it is important to obtain the best information available. Consulting children and drawing on their perceptions, knowledge and ideas are essential both to the development of effective public policy and positive outcomes for individual children. Children have a body of experience and knowledge, which is unique to their situation. Many of the efforts and initiatives could not be succeeded or partially achieved due to ignorance of the consultation with the targeted children. For example, national and international campaigns to end child labour have too often failed to address the reality of working children's lives. By failing to consult with children themselves as well as their families, the impact of such campaigns has sometimes been to worsen children's situation. In Bangladesh, for example, when children were laid off from garments industry job, after an American campaign to end the employment of children under 15 years age in this industry, many of them entered into the forms of employment which were less appropriate and more hazardous than the jobs from which they were sacked (UNICEF, 1997).

The principles of child participation are that children should be consulted and listened. But listening to the opinions of children doesn't mean simply endorsing their views rather engaging them in dialogue and exchange, allows them to learn constructive ways of influencing the world

around them. NGOs such as Save the Children Alliance and Aparajeyo Bangladesh (AB) have developed codes of conduct of children participation in accordance to the CRC. Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) is developing its child rights policy. Save the children Alliance and other NGOs are also promoting guidelines for stakeholders on how to deal with children issues. The media is being sensitised on the necessity to protect the privacy of the children and not to sensationalise news that disgraces rights of the children (MJF Alternative Report, 2006).

2.5 Civil Rights and Freedom

2.5.1 Legal Aspects

The constitution of Bangladesh is committed to ensure the rights of all citizens, including women and children. The state has introduced special laws to safeguard the child rights to food, cloth, education, health etc. through the adoption of the main state principles and basic human rights. In 1990, Bangladesh passed the Primary Education Act and, in 1993, it established the compulsory primary education system for children aged 6 years and above. With the setting-up of the Primary and Mass Education Division in 1992 and the Directorate of Non-Formal Education in 1996, the Government introduced remedial steps to tackle the high dropout and low attendance rates in the formal school system. There is also Women and Children Repression Prevention Act. But in practice Women and Children are still becoming victims of several cruelties and number of children in difficult situation is increasing day by day. Lack of children is now somehow forced to enter into the labour market instead of going school in their early childhood age. The non-implementation of the labour laws regarding child labour, ignorance of the concerned authority, social discrimination and the overall socio-economic structure of the country is responsible for this situation (The Daily Star, June 30, 2007).

National Legislation and Policies Against Child Labour in Bangladesh is antiquated and fragmented and deals only with children working in the formal sector. There is no single code or law dealing with this area.² In March 2001, the Government ratified the ILO Convention No. 182 and, in December 2001, the Ministry of Labour and Employment took the initiative to begin developing a national policy on child labour that would constitute a policy foundation for the IPEC Time-Bound Program (TBP) and contribute to the implementation of Bangladesh's obligations under the ILO Convention No. 182. The government is still examining a draft policy developed in consultation with national stakeholders.

The Joint Child Labour Working Group (JCLWG) that was formed in 1999 to tackle the vast problem of child labour in Bangladesh argues that there is a strategic opportunity for all concerned to work together in a comprehensive way and make the rights of children in the most hazardous and exploitative forms of child labour, a living reality. The JCLWG aims at achieving greater program synergies through systematic sharing of information and lessons learnt from the various activities of the group members, as well as planning joint research agendas, policies, and strategic plans. The JCLWG focuses on the development and effective implementation of the National Time-Bound Program, within the frameworks of the ILO Convention No. 182 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2.5.2 Name and Nationality

Birth registration is the primary step to protect child rights. It is the permanent and official record for the existence of a child. It is part of the civil registration and gives lawful recognition of existence of a child in the society. It also creates bonds in the family. Birth registration helps a child to get certificate and legality by the law in the society. So naturally it is a document of child's nationality that helps to protect and save his/her rights.

² National Legislation and Policies Against Child Labour in Bangladesh, ILO, Bangladesh Website

The birth and Death registration Act 1873, and the Birth, Death and Marriage Registration Act 1886 were repealed with the new Act of Birth and Death Registration passed by the parliament in 2004. The Act of 2004 requires the birth certificate as a proof of age for services that directly affect child rights, including enrolment in educational institutes, marriages registration and transfer of property, as well as other services. Conventionally a child's nationality is based on the nationality of his or her father. Now where a father's nationality is unknown and cannot be ascertained, the possibility exists that his children may be stateless. The existing birth registration rules prevents children with a Bangladeshi mother and a non-Bangladeshi father who were not born in Bangladesh from acquiring their mother's rather than their father's nationality and from acquiring dual nationality.

The present rate of birth registration in Bangladesh is between 7 and 10 per cent (UNICEF Bangladesh website) because of lack of awareness; system is not so familiar, inadequate media coverage. With the help of partners such as UNICEF and the non-governmental organization, Plan Bangladesh, the government is endeavoring to boost the figure substantially. However, it seems the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives with the Family Planning Departments have to go long way to bring the issue of birth registration down to the earth as the popular mass of the country is still indifferent about the importance of registration of birth of their child.

2.5.3 Preservation of Identity,

Preservation of identity of a child is directly linked to its birth registration. With the implementation of new Act of Birth and Death Registration, 2004 and the rules of 2006, a child's right to identity is also fulfilled because, including all necessary information, both mother and father's names are to be documented in the birth registration for his/her identification. In Bangladesh tradition, the practice is still different where children are identified only by their father's and their own name. At the same time sex workers children's identity are not preserved duly as they have no father's identity. In other case we also mention about the identity of the children of Bihari¹ as they are less interested to register their name in the registration process. It is hoped that through the process of the initiatives of Govt. and NGOs, the situation will be changed gradually where a child would be identified both by his/her mother and father's name and address.

2.5.4 Freedom of Expression

The constitution of Bangladesh guarantees freedom of expression, association and peaceful assemble of every citizen. But these are not fully reflected in adequate legislative and administrative measures. Even many restriction often imposed by law, particularly when the system is faced with conflicting social, political and economic issues. Poverty combined with certain deep-rooted social attitude and practices forces a large number of children in highly exploitive and hazardous situation. Often political parties, in the name of freedom of expression, misuse disadvantage street children in their political demonstration and violent activities.

The United Nations Human Rights Charter reaffirms the rights to freedom of opinion and expression. Everyone has the rights to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, says article 19 of the UN Charter.

Bangladesh is a signatory to the Charter. Besides, the country has also ratified an International Treaty 1966 on 'Citizen and Political Rights' on September 6, 2000. According to this, the government is bound to keep open all information for people. But the old practice of hiding information is still going on. There is always a tendency in the ruling quarter to keep people away from information. But the free flow of information is necessary for social changes. In an age of globalization when every country should have information act, Bangladesh nurtures a century-old law, 'the Official Secret Act, which deprives people of necessary information.

¹ Urdu speaking community those who interested to go Pakistan

However, as a recent move to way forward, a core group for drafting a revised Right to Information Act on the basis of the Law Commission working paper was facilitated by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF). Former Advisor to the caretaker government, Advocate Sultana Kamal, Advocate Shadeen Malik, Dr. Shamsul Bari, Advocate Alina Khan, Professor Asif Nazrul and Baristar Tahjib Ul Alam have taken the lead in drafting this proposed 'Rights to Information Act'².

2.5.4 Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion

Article 39 of the constitution of Bangladesh upholds citizen's rights to freedom of thoughts and conscience while article 41 of the constitution recognizes the fundamental rights of the citizens to profess and practice any religion, subject to law, public order and morality. As in the past, the state party could not achieve much during this period with respect to the very rights except providing some protection to the Kadiani community from the anger of some radical Muslim groups. While other basic rights are yet to be confirmed or long way to be materialized, freedom of thoughts of the children is found very ambitious by the state party and therefore, remained limited with in a number of NGO projects and media messages only.

2.6 Family Environments and Alternative Care

2.6.1 Parental Responsibility

There has been a long tradition of family ties in the culture of Bangladesh. These ties play a positive role nurturing children. Children are brought up in the family with love and care of their parents and relatives. Although this is a shared responsibility of both the parents, the mother has to bear the greater part of the responsibility for the child. Besides, when father abandons his children, particularly in the poor community due to poverty, exploitation, divorce, separation etc. children become fully depended on their mother. So the paradox of shared responsibility to bring up children is still in the books more than in the reality. Neither Govt. nor the NGOs have any remarkable achievements to gear up the senses of the male dominated society about the 'shared responsibility' to bring up their children.

2.6.2 Separation from Parents and Reintegration

Bangladesh is marked with a large number of abandoned, neglected street and orphan children due to acute poverty, over population, parental death, unemployment, river erosion, urban migration, separation, divorce etc. Apart from the above, as per the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) of 2006, about 6% of the children become orphan after losing either one or both their parents. All these factors force the children to come to the street. In the street, children are neglected and deprived of protection, affection, care and guidance from adult members of families and brought up in an environment of unhygienic, unconducive and, of course, in undesirable situation by any living standard. There is also violation of rights at every stage of their lives, having no means and access to protection, or support structure to prevent exploitation and negligence. The Project 'Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children's Environment' (ARISE), now renamed as 'Protection of Children at Risk' (PCAR) is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare for ameliorating the situation of vulnerable street children of the country with focus on providing them with safe shelter, health, education, counseling and survival skill. But the number of the children covered under the project, upto the day, is too small to mainstream the huge number of neglected street and orphans children in the country. The Department of Social Services of the Ministry of Social Welfare also runs 6 baby homes in six division of the country for the orphans children of age 0-5 and also 74 Children homes for the orphans children of age 5-9 in different parts of the country. It is laudable but the effort is too small to cater the need of mammoth number of vulnerable children in the country. Initiatives of other departments of the government to tackle the situation are also found insignificant.

However, a number of International NGOs, like SCF, Plan International etc. and National NGOs, like, Aparajeyo Bangladesh (AB), Incidin Bangladesh, Ain-O-Salish Kendra, Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendro, Population Services & Training Centre (PSTC) and Samaj Poriborton Kendra (SPK) at Dhaka are contributing to uplift the situation by running projects and shelter homes to mainstream the very children. However there is an initiative taken by the Department of Social Services with its partner organizations under the Ministry of Social Welfare to reintegrate the children in their family. A policy for the street children is also in the process of development. Other NGOs like, Voluntary Association for Rural Development (VARD) at Sylhet, Voluntary Organization for Social Development (VOSD) at Barisal, Jogajog at Chittagong, Assistance for Slum Dwellers (ASD) at Rajshahi and ACLAB at Khulna Division are also working to uplift the situation by running projects to rehabilitate these children either through their families or into the mainstream development activities.

2.6.3 Illicit transfer and Non-return

The state report defined the issues only with the illicit transfer and non-return occurs due to (a) intermarriage between Bangladeshi national and nationals of other countries and (b) existence of large numbers of Bangladesh community to other countries of the world. So illicit transfer and non-return of large number of women and children in the country occurs due to trafficking have been totally dropped in the state report. But the fact is, a great number of children are trafficked from Bangladesh, but there are no rescue activities to protect these children. Although IOM, BNWLA, Dewalka Foundation, ATSEC, Aparajeyo Bangladesh etc. are also working on the trafficking issue but the effort is not enough to tackle the mammoth crises. The great concern is that there is no authentic information source to know exactly how many children are being trafficked from Bangladesh. According to Ministry of Home Affairs 196 women and children are trafficked during March 2006 to March 2007. In this figure 83 are children. And from non-government organization sources it's mentioned that every year around 15,000 to 20,000 women and children are trafficked, of them majority are children.

There is also no proper record of rehabilitation. From different sources it is known that 95% trafficked / lost women and children are not traced out. It is learnt from the Home Ministry that 69 women and 86 children were rescued in 2005-2006. Among them only 145 women and children were handed over to their parents. Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers Association (BNWLA) rescued around 1,600 women and children and rehabilitated around 600 women and children upto the day. Some of them were rescued and handed over to their families. Some of them were kept in the safe home and then rehabilitated in the society. Dhaka Ahsania Mission has rescued only 170 women and children upto the day, of them 150 were handed over to their families.

As there is no specific rule for rehabilitation and follow up, many of the rescued go back to their previous profession for livelihood, as society doesn't accept them easily. Law procedure of the country to punish the traffickers is not very effective. And although there is a regional forum like: SAARC but this forum also could not work effectively due to lack of specific guideline to handle the trafficking issue. As per the government record 116 cases of trafficking were recorded from the period March, 2006 to March, 2007 under the women & Children Repression Prevention Act 2000. 100 cases were resolved. Indulged in these cases 100 traffickers were arrested out of 432 but what happened to them at the end was not made public yet to all.

2.6.4 Recovery of maintenance for the Child

Father is primarily responsible to maintain his children. The Family Court Ordinance, 1985 governs the situation after separation or divorce: fathers are liable to maintain their sons until their puberty and beyond if they are sick or disabled and their daughters until marriage. The hierarchy of financial responsibility for children which is conditional on the person concerned having sufficient means: the father bears primary responsibility for maintenance, followed by mother

and then the grandfather. The state is responsible to maintain cost of bringing up the children while father, mother or other close relatives of the children are unable to maintain them. Bangladesh, as a state, is far behind to make effective provision of law, although huge numbers of children are floating around whose parents are unable to bring them up properly.

2.6.5 Adoption

The state report clearly mentioned that no law regarding adoption exists in Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh passed President Order No. 124 in 1972 entitled 'Bangladesh Abandoned Children (Special Provision) Order to provide for the special guardianship and adoption of abandoned children in Bangladesh to cope with emerging issues of so many war babies in 1972'. The Order was later withdrawn due to the fact that 'Islamic laws does not recognize adoption, it does allow an individual to take charge of a child and provide for his or her maintenance. The child fostered enjoys no inheritance right except the right of will and heba (gift)' under Islamic laws. But the child right activists feel there should be well-developed adoption system with proper follow-up measure to limit factors against many cruelties and injustice done upon vulnerable children in the society.

2.6.6 Periodic Review of Placement

It is the responsibility of the state to 'ensure proper care, protection, mental and physical treatment and regular review for the child victims of armed conflict, torture, neglect, malnutrition or exploitation.' The state report stated that 'children found homeless and taken by the police are often confined in vagrant homes and shelters'. Environment of these homes and shelters are not at all child-friendly. The state report also mentioned that 'the government is in the process of reviewing the Vagrancy Act, 1945 for possible amendment' because the age old Vagrancy Act, 1945 is incompatible to the UNCRC. Again, although the minimum age of criminal responsibility has been amended from seven to nine years in 2005 but many children of this age still undergo legal complexities and harassment by the law enforcing agencies.

2.7 Basic Health and Welfare

The last few decades have brought significant improvements in child health in Bangladesh. The mortality rate in children under-five declined from 152 deaths per 1,000 live births to 94 deaths per 1,000 live births, but these rates are still high, and have remained constant for several years. Pneumonia, diarrhoea, measles, malaria, malnutrition, injuries and the high number of neonatal deaths, and poor care-seeking behaviour, all contribute to the high levels of child mortality.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has, for the last decade, implemented several vertical programs – centrally organized services focused on single issues such as the control of diarrhoeal diseases (CDD) and the control of acute respiratory infections (ARI). The Child Health Program, promotes the rights of children to survival and well-being through interventions under four categories:

- Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI)
- Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases (CDD)
- Control of Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI)
- Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI).

The project aims to meet the following targets by the year 2005:

- 80 per cent of children under one year are fully immunized
- 80 per cent of caregivers know the three golden rules: (1) Increase fluid consumption, (2) Continue feeding, including breastfeeding and (3) Recognize when to seek care from trained health workers.

- 60 per cent of caregivers are knowledgeable in the use of Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT)
- All public health providers are trained in the management of ARI
- All health providers in all upazilas sub-district are knowledgeable and skilled in IMCI.

A major milestone for the national program has been the formulation and approval of the National Strategy for Maternal Health in 2001, a comprehensive work plan to ensure safe motherhood for all women throughout the country. The Program Implementation Plan of the Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HNPS) has also reflected the priorities of the National Strategy. The Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) has recognized the need to address the impact of poverty on health and emphasized the issue of maternal mortality and violence against women.

The health of women is a crucial factor in the health of children, but gender discrimination leaves women particularly vulnerable to disease and death. In Bangladesh only 8.6 per cent of births take place in hospitals or local health centers. Doctors, midwives, nurses or family welfare visitors assisted only 11.8 per cent of deliveries in 2001. The remaining 88.2 per cent were attended by relatives or other people, of whom only 11.9 per cent by trained traditional birth attendants (UNICEF, 2001).

The health seeking behaviour of women during pregnancy and childbirth is also low in Bangladesh: only 48 per cent utilize antenatal care and 16 per cent postnatal care (UNICEF, Bangladesh Website). There is also evidence of a disparity in health seeking behaviour according to educational and economic status. Poorer, less educated women are less likely to seek qualified routine or emergency obstetric care. Only 40 per cent of women who perceived that they had life threatening complications during their pregnancy sought immediate care – 70 per cent of women in the highest wealthy fifth of the population and 50 per cent of those in the lowest fifth (UNICEF, Bangladesh Website).

The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) declined from 440 per 100,000 childbirths in 1997 to 320 per 100,000 childbirths in 2001. Translated into real numbers, this means that of 2.5 million women who become pregnant each year, an estimated 370,000 develop fetal complications, which the health facilities in the country are neither equipped nor able to handle (UNICEF, Bangladesh Website).

Increasing access to emergency obstetric care (EmOC) is a key element in reducing maternal mortality. Maternal malnutrition, infections during pregnancy, anaemia and repeated pregnancies contribute to low birth weight babies and a high rate of maternal mortality. The nutritional status of women in Bangladesh is also alarming. The body mass index (BMI) of 52 per cent of women of reproductive age is less than 18.5; this means they are very underweight. They are also very stunted. This has been compounded by a high prevalence of iron deficiency anaemia (more than 50 per cent) and Vitamin A deficiency (more than 2.8 per cent suffer from night blindness).

The poor nutritional status of female children at birth is compounded by a lack of access to various services, resources and opportunities associated with high workloads and lack of rest. All this results in poor health, and low birth weight of babies, who tend to go on to be more malnourished in childhood and beyond. This vicious cycle has been repeated for centuries.

Reducing the rate of maternal deaths is not possible solely through health and nutrition initiatives. Maternal mortality is an indicator of the overall situation of women in a society, so a more comprehensive social development approach is needed. This means nurturing a socio-cultural movement that addresses the reduction of maternal mortality as a woman's right and also enhances women's self esteem and status.

Again water and sanitation are also key prerequisites for reducing child and maternal mortality

(MDGs 4 and 5) and combating diseases (MDG 6). And they are key to reducing child under-nutrition (MDG 1) and achieving universal primary education (MDG 2). Girls, especially, are likely to spend more time in school when they spend less time fetching water and when adequate sanitation facilities are available on school grounds. (Progress for Children, UNICEF, Sept. 2006).

Bangladesh has made significant strides in lowering infant and child mortality in recent times. Deaths of under-fives due to diarrhoea were reduced from 260,000 in 1995 to approximately 45,000 in 2003a and death due to pneumonia fell from 150,000 in 1991 to 95,000 in 2003. Even then, no less than a hundred children still die each day from diarrhoea, caused by poor hygiene and sanitation. These factors also cast negative impacts on children's, especially girl students', school attendance and academic performance, and the dignity of women by exposing them to open and unsafe sanitary options.

Bangladesh mounted the biggest Measles vaccination campaign in the world from 25th February-16th March 2006. An estimated 33.5 million children aged between 9 months and under 10 years were vaccinated during the 20-day period. This is the largest public health mobilization effort in the history of Bangladesh and involved approximately 50,000 skilled vaccinators and 750,000 volunteers covering 62 districts and 5 city corporations (UNICEF Bangladesh Website).

Measles is the fifth leading cause of death among children under five years of age in Bangladesh. Annually, an estimated 20,000 children die from measles. Almost 70 per cent of children under one year of age are reached through routine measles vaccination. However, measles vaccine is only 85% efficacious when given at 9 months of age, leaving approximately 40% of children in each birth cohort susceptible to measles (UNICEF Bangladesh Website).

There has been intensive effort to eradicate polio from Bangladesh. Indigenous transmission of wild poliovirus has been controlled for the last 3.5 years through National Immunization Days (NIDs) and the establishment of a certification standard surveillance system. With the last case of wild poliovirus transmission recorded in August 2000, Bangladesh has progressed towards polio-free status. Successful National Immunization Days (NIDs), emphasis on the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), and continuing Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance, all need to be maintained in order to achieve certification of the country as polio-free, as there still is wild polio virus transmission across the border with India.

The implementation of Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) started in 2001 with pilots in three sub-districts. Bangladesh is now in the expansion phase of IMCI implementation. Currently IMCI is being implemented in 18 sub-districts and will cover the whole country in phases by 2011.

2.7.1 General Health and Nutrition Activities for the Children

Bangladesh has seen impressive progress in health and nutrition in the last few decades. Initiatives to prevent illness have substantially reduced six vaccine-preventable and diarrhoeal diseases that killed hundreds of thousands of children even two decades ago. Malnutrition has been steadily declining by 1-2 per cent each year, though the level remains high.

The infant mortality rate (IMR) declined from 87 per 1,000 live births in 1989 to 56 per 1,000 live births in 2001. The under-five mortality rate (U5MR) also dropped from 133 to 82 per 1,000 live births over the same period. The total fertility rate (TFR), contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) and birth-spacing have all improved, and trends are generally positive.

Bangladesh also made substantial progress in reducing malnutrition between 1990 and 2000, with the proportion of underweight children falling from 66.6 per cent to 51.1 per cent, and the level of child stunts falls from 65.5 per cent to 48.8 per cent. If this current rate of improvement continues, the percentage of underweight and stunted children will be halved by 2015. While

these findings are encouraging, they mask the fact that infants and children continue to consume diets that are grossly inadequate in Vitamin A, iron and other micronutrients. This is indicated by surveys in early 2003, which found that anaemia, which is largely due to iron deficiency, affects about 50 per cent of children under five, a level that denotes a severe public health problem still in Bangladesh and this is a major cause of death and disease of children and women in the country.

In addition to causing individual tragedies like maternal and child mortality, malnutrition exacts heavy costs from the health care system through excess morbidity, increased premature delivery, and elevated risks of heart disease and diabetes. The economic consequences of Bangladesh's malnutrition problem are profound, resulting in lost productivity and reduced intellectual and learning capacity.

The nutritional status of adolescent girls and women is a key factor in the persistence of malnutrition in Bangladesh. Children are much more likely to be of low birth weight and to remain malnourished throughout their lives if their mothers were malnourished during adolescence and before and during pregnancy. Malnourished children are physically weak, they lack resistance to disease, they do less well at school, they are less productive as adults and they remain vulnerable for the rest of their lives.

In Bangladesh, malnutrition is caused by multiple factors. The immediate causes are diseases and inadequate intake of food. The underlying causes of malnutrition include the inability of households to grow and/or purchase sufficient food for their needs; poor maternal and child-care practices, including inadequate breastfeeding and complementary feeding for infants and young children and inadequate provision of food for adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women. These are compounded by delays in recognizing the signs of malnutrition or disease and in seeking care for children and women, inadequate access to quality health services, including family planning, immunization and medical services and poor access to sanitary facilities and potable water.

Health Care System: Although primary health care services have been extended notably over the time to different part of the country, the state report rightly mentioned that 60% of the populations still have no access to the modern primary health care services in the country. This is mostly because modern health service facilities have been extended in the urban settings only. The health care system is available up to Thana and in some Union level. 'Thana and Union health complexes, in more places, are far away and due to lack of road and fast transport, children could not be taken there in time of needs'. Thus poverty stricken rural people hardly afford to attend there to receive appropriate health services from those places.

Besides, Thana/Union health complexes do not have Specialist Doctors. Regular post-natal care of children is also absent in the health care centers. As a result, most of the rural people cannot avail modern health facilities of the government and willingly or unwillingly, turns to use private services for curative care than government services. The poor marginal population of the country still depends on Homeopathic and Ayurvedic treatment because it is cheaper than Allopathic system and so easily affordable for them.

The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI): The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) is the most successful public health intervention in Bangladesh, and has contributed significantly to reducing mortality and morbidity from vaccine-preventable diseases. The service delivery mechanism of EPI throughout the country has been used as the role model and a platform to deliver other interventions.

It is estimated that a total of 1.2 million deaths have been prevented from 1987-2000 through EPI services. More than 95 per cent of infants receive BCG vaccine on first contact. However, the coverage gradually falls with subsequent doses. Nationally, 63 per cent of infants receive all antigens at the right time and at appropriate intervals.

The elimination of neonatal tetanus is progressing well. Pregnant women and women of childbearing age are provided with tetanus vaccine through EPI. A survey conducted in 1986 found neonatal deaths due to tetanus were 41 per 1,000 live births. By 2000 this had fallen to 2.3 per 1,000 live births. According to a survey in 2000, neonatal tetanus accounts for fewer than 10,000 neonatal deaths a year. It is also estimated that some of the districts have reached the elimination goal, however, this needs to be validated through survey.

Iodine deficiency disorder (IDD): Iodine deficiency disorder is still a major problem for children of Bangladesh. Children in the rural areas, particularly in the northern parts of the country are yet to get iodized salt as required. Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) can be prevented by consuming tiny amounts of iodine on a regular basis. UNICEF is working with a range of partners in Bangladesh to promote iodization of salt, so that everyone receives enough of this micronutrient in their diet to avert IDD.

Nutritional Blindness: Vitamin-A deficiency is a major cause of preventable blindness in children in Bangladesh. It also impairs growth, lowers resistance to infections and increases the risk of dying. In pregnant and postpartum women, Vitamin-A deficiency can have serious consequences for the health and survival of women and for the Vitamin-A status of their children.

The government started a national program for the control of Vitamin-A deficiency among children with the technical support from UNICEF and financial support from CIDA, in 1973. Since then Bangladesh has distributed Vitamin-A capsules to children aged 12-59 months twice a year. Until the mid-1990s, the distribution system relied on door-to-door distribution of Vitamin-A capsules by health workers. From 1995, the distribution of vitamin A capsules was linked with the National Immunization Day (NID) for polio at over 120,000 fixed sites in the country. This change in strategy resulted in an increase in coverage from around 45 per cent to over 80 per cent. These impressive results led the government to implement National Vitamin-A Weeks, to distribute the other biannual Vitamin-A dose in years when only one NID was conducted. From 2003, the Government of Bangladesh recognized that distributing multiple nutrition and health interventions would be more cost-effective than Vitamin-A supplements alone, and implemented a package of health and nutrition services for children through a national Vitamin-A Plus Campaign. In the first campaign, in October 2003, Vitamin-A supplements were distributed to children aged 12-59 months, albendazole to children aged 24-59 months (UNICEF Bangladesh website).

However, it must be emphasized that since vitamin A deficiency is being controlled by the Vitamin-A supplementation program rather than being eliminated, vitamin A supplementation program must continue until production and consumption of Vitamin-A rich foods are increased.

HIV/AIDS: Although the HIV prevalence rate is still low in Bangladesh, behavioural patterns suggest that the number of people infected with HIV could reach epidemic proportions unless major efforts are undertaken to prevent it. According to government sources, there were 363 reported cases of people who were HIV-positive as of December 2003. Of those, 12.3 per cent are adolescents and youth (aged 15-24) and 3.7 per cent are infants and children. However, it is believed that the actual number of cases is much higher. According to UNAIDS, by the end of 2001 the estimated number of adults in Bangladesh living with HIV, irrespective of whether or not they had developed symptoms of Aids, was 13,000.

The results of the 4th round of the National Serological Surveillance has shown an alarming increased in HIV rates among injection drug users (IDU) in central Bangladesh, where Dhaka, the capital, is located. In this group of people, prevalence has jumped from 1.7 per cent in 2002 to 4 percent in 2003. This is just short of the 5 percent mark required for a situation to be identified as

a 'concentrated epidemic'. The report, released on 25 June 2003, found HIV infection in the general population to be below one per 1,000 adults.

In October 2003, the Government of Bangladesh entered a co-operation agreement with UNICEF on the HIV/AIDS Prevention Project (HAPP) in Bangladesh. The project is supported by the International Development Association (IDA) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

The \$12 million project aims at preventing the HIV/AIDS virus from gaining a larger foothold in Bangladesh within high-risk groups and to limit its spread in the general population. Following recent restructuring of the project by the donors and the government, UNICEF was asked to assist with managing the four components of the project:

- Procurement of NGO services in HIV/AIDS prevention;
- Management of an HIV/AIDS Intervention Fund;
- Advocacy and communication support for HIV/AIDS prevention; and
- Procurement of goods and supplies.

Under the project NGO services are procured to increase HIV/AIDS prevention among the following high-risk groups:

- injecting drug users,
- internal migrants,
- brothel-based,
- street-based, and
- hotel-based sex workers, and their clients.

The Intervention Fund aims to support innovative HIV/AIDS projects in co-operation with NGOs and Community Based Organizations in the areas of campaigns, counseling, testing, intervention, care and support (UNICEF Bangladesh website).

The underlying causes of the epidemic include poverty, gender inequality and high mobility of the population, all of which are present in Bangladesh, a densely populated country with about 140 million inhabitants. Most people live in rural areas (76.6 per cent), but there is continuous migration to urban areas. Emigration to other countries for employment is also very common, particularly amongst younger people, largely to the Middle East, followed by Singapore and Malaysia.

Through girls' education and gender-based development movements, Bangladesh has made progress in promoting gender equality in the past two decades. However, much remains to be done to achieve genuine gender equality.

2.7.2 Care of Adolescent Girls: General and Reproductive health

Issue of Adolescent's health was not considered very important in Bangladesh. Very recently when United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) and other development partners and NGOs emerged with several projections on adolescent reproductive health in the country, some positive changes were found to be started in this case.

United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) has projections with the related Ministries of the government to help adolescent develop into healthy, productive adults of the society. It works with the Ministry of Education to incorporate contents relating to adolescent reproductive health into the secondary education curriculum. It also stated a project, 'Family Life Education (FLE)' with the then Directorate of Non-formal Education (DNFE). The second phase of the very project was over in 2005. Contents of the Family Life Education included:

- Population and Development issues

- Safe Motherhood
- Adolescent Reproductive Health and Rights
- Gender equity and equability
- Population and Environment
- Prevention of HIV/AIDS
- Male Participation in Reproductive Health etc.

Adolescent is a period of transition from childhood to adulthood. It is a period of rapid development when young people acquire new capacities, and are faced with many new situations. This is a precarious phase when they can be confused about making choices and can easily be influenced by various factors. As a result, these can be positive or negative impact on their future life. So they should be provided accurate information on secondary sex characters, sexual health, menstruation and maintenance of health and hygiene during menstruation as well as education on maternal, child health and fertility control, etc.

23% of total population of Bangladesh is adolescent. 48% of 15-19 year olds adolescent girls are married and 60% of them are becoming mother before reaching the age of 19. 35% of all pregnancies in the country are to teenage girls. 39% of 15-19 years old have never used contraception. Mean age at marriage is 16.9 years and 76.5 of total adolescent population do not have access to health facilities (UNFPA, Issue Brief, 2003).

Table –02: Total Population and Adolescent Population (10-19 years)²

Population	1991	1996	2000	2010
Total population (in million)	111.51	122.1	129.3	146.4
Adolescent	22.9	26.4	29.5	34.8
Adolescent as % of total population	20.5	21.6	22.8	23.8

Adolescent reproductive health is determined by social, cultural and economic factors. Policy makers, parents, health system managers and educators should work to help adolescent develop into healthy, productive adults by providing them with safe and supportive environment. All adolescent — married or unmarried, male or female, in-school or out of the school should have access to accurate information on growing up, reproduction along with building life skills, good quality reproductive health services and counseling.

2.7.3 Care of the Disabled Children

In Bangladesh approximately 14 million people are with different forms of disabilities that constitute significant part of the extreme poor people of the country (The Daily Star, July 28, 2007). They do not receive adequate attention of the policy makers. As a result, poor and severely disabled persons, who are facing deprivation, makes them marginalized and vulnerable to all forms of repression. They face environmental and attitudinal barriers while trying to enjoy or exercise human rights and fundamental rights in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field on an equal basis with other citizens of the country. The state report also mentioned, 'discriminatory attitudes to children with disability persist, largely due to ignorance about disability, fear and superstitions. Such attitudes cause families to feel ashamed of a child with a disability, who is then confined at home away from public view. In a public setting, children with disabilities are often the object of ridicule and unlikeness'. More planned campaigns and mass awareness programs for a positive attitude towards disabled children thus become a priority issue for Bangladesh to create a better environment for healthy development of these children.

Although Ministry of Social Welfare provides both integrated and special services for children with disabilities but these are not comprehensive to address the rights of the disabled children.

² Abul Barkat: Keynote Paper Presented at a Dialogue on Adolescent Reproductive Health, September, 2000

The National Centre for Special Education provides some disability related services. But there are only 3 such centers in the country. The one National Disabled Development Foundation supposed to train teachers of persons with visual, hearing and intellectual impairment is also inadequate in number and capacity compare to the requirement of the disable children of the country.

Other intervention in the name of inclusive education also exists in the government schools for children with visual impairments only. This is also found not very effective in many schools, as in many cases, school authorities do not like to pay extra efforts to cater the need of these children. At the grassroots level, however, some NGOs are trying their best to develop these children through providing them special education and life skills training. Bangladesh National Protibondi Foundation (BNPF), Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) and SEED-Trust are the organizations who working on this issue.

On December 13, 2006, the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. This was a culmination of five years negotiations and decades of struggle by persons with disabilities and allied advocacy organizations to achieve global recognition of disability as human rights issue. Bangladesh has signed the Convention on May 9, 2007 (The Daily Star, June 16, 2007).

In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, state parties should closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities through their representative organizations.

2.8 Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities

2.8.1 Education

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in primary education over last few years. This has been achieved due to introduction of Compulsory Primary Education (CPE) in 1992 along with many other innovative educational initiatives at this level. But as the State Report stated, 'major challenges still remain in respect of quality of education and learning outcomes, and/or competencies that are set out by the formal and non-formal institutional approach as well as access and participation of a big number of children most of whom are poor and disadvantaged.'

There are more than 18 million children of primary school age (6-10 years) in Bangladesh out of a total population of 137 million. Almost half of them are girls. **Gross enrolment** has increased to 97.5 per cent, whereas **net enrolment** is 82 per cent, and there are almost equal numbers of boys and girls in primary education (although the State Report claims that net enrolment of girls in primary education is higher than the boys).

Table 03: Primary School enrolment and completion

Basic data ³	Boys	Girls
Primary school enrolment (% net)	82	86
Never been enrolled in school (%)	15	13
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%)	54	

One third of children drop out before they have completed five years of primary education, and of those who do graduate from primary school, most do not acquire the nationally defined basic competencies (UNICEF Bangladesh website).

³ Source: State of the World's Children 2006

The State Report also clearly stated that 'it has not been possible to bring all children to school in neither the formal system nor the non-formal stream. Available statistics on exclusion indicate that children never enrolled and children enrolled but dropped out account for nearly one-fifth of the primary school age group'. Findings of the different studies, as stated in the State Report, also pointed that —

- The children of hard-core poor families are less likely to enroll and remain in school than others;
- The children of illiterate parents are more likely to remain out of school than others;
- In the poor families and the families where parents are illiterate, the girl child is more likely to be excluded from educational opportunity than the male child;
- Compared to families in the plain land, the children of the tribal living in forest and the hills are less likely to have access to educational opportunity;
- The children of families living in remote areas, in char land and areas with undeveloped communication are more often excluded from school;
- Children suffering from various types and forms of physical and mental disability and impairment have limited access to education;
- Children who are considered to have come from refugee household or those who belong to parents who have migratory jobs are less likely to have access to education.

To meet the above challenges Government has undertaken Primary Education Development Project (PEDP) under the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education. This is the second phase of the project and termed as PEDP-II which is designed on the basis of the learning of the PEDP-I project. Overall goal of the project is to —

- Increase primary school access, participation and completion in accordance with Government's National Education Policy (NEP) 2000, EFA and other policy commitments.
- Improve the quality of students learning and performance outcomes

However, tremendous efforts in the past decade have been successful in getting more girls into school, resulting in gender parity in enrolments in primary and lower secondary schools, but the percentage of girls begins to decline in the later secondary years. When the girl dropouts are added to the number of girls who have never enrolled, there are still approximately 1.5 million primary school age girls out of school.

10 per cent of girls and 15 per cent of boys of the primary school age group have never been enrolled in school, and the poor quality of education is reflected in poor attendance, high repetition rates, high dropout rates (37 per cent for girls and 38 per cent for boys) and low achievement. This results in just over a quarter of girls of the age group completing primary education with a minimum level of the expected competencies. Of the total cohort, 10 per cent (15 % boys) never enroll, 34 per cent (32 % boys) drop out, 28 per cent (25 % boys) complete but do not achieve the minimum expected learning outcomes and only 28 per cent (28 % boys) complete with satisfactory achievement (UNICEF Bangladesh website).

Table 04: Enrolment by types of School ⁴

Enrolment by types of school (%)	Boys	Girls
Formal school	85	86
Non-formal school	8	9
Madrasa (Islamic school)	7	5

Education in Bangladesh is still guided by the social attitude and beliefs about the results of the conventional system of rote learning. The lack of conceptual understanding of the people about the child-focused teaching-learning pedagogy seriously affects curriculum and classroom

⁴ Source: State of the World's Children 2006

of our primary schools that do not reflect a child's natural interests rather entirely lack in challenge but rich in unhappiness and inactivity. So Generation of a common urge among the people for a child-focused, life oriented and meaningful education is, therefore, very much important in Bangladesh.

Again, lacs of children are now somehow forced to enter into the labour market instead of going school in their early childhood age. Although poverty is the main reason for child labour but there are so many reasons exists which insisted a child to earn his or her livelihood by physical labour. Inadequate income at family level is another cause that pressurized child to leave school. In this way lacs of children are being deprived of right to education.

It is estimated that 7.9 million children work in some form or other in Bangladesh. Of these, 1.5 million are working children living in urban areas and 850,000 are aged between 10 and 14 years. Working children are involved in many different types of work, many of them with little or no pay, and some of them hazardous, such as brick-chippers or domestic servants. Many girls and boys who work do not have access to education and become trapped in low skilled, low return work that further pushes them into the vicious cycle of poverty. The picture is particularly bleak for working children and adolescents in urban slums.

Table 05: Total Child Population and Children at Work ⁵

Total Child Population and Children at Work	
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	59
Child work (% , children 5-14 years old)	7.9

Together with the Government of Bangladesh, UNICEF implemented a project: 'Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Children (BEHTRUC)', from October 1997 to June 2004, covered for the Education of these children. Phase One, known as the Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Children (BEHTRUC), from October 1997 to June 2004, covered more than 346,000 children aged 8 to 14 working in the informal sector in 6 divisional cities. More than 50 per cent of the children were girls. They were provided with a two-year basic education course to reach the equivalency of grade 3. It used the 'earn and learn' approach. One thousand of those BEHTRUC Project graduates, aged from 12 to 14 years, were then provided with livelihood skills, such as a trade, in Dhaka, Sylhet and Barisal on a pilot basis. These graduates were helped with self-employment, job placement and follow up for the first six months.

Phase Two - the Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children (BEHTRUWC) project - started in July 2004 and will run to June 2009. A total of 8000 centres will be set-up in two stages serving 200,000 urban working children and adolescents in the six divisional cities of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet and Barisal. The children will be aged 10 to 14 years. It will target at least 60 per cent of working girls who have missed opportunities to either go to primary school or to complete their basic education. The three major components of the project are:

- Quality non-formal education which is based on a life skills approach to prepare children for broader options available to them so that they can make their own choices regarding their future.
- Livelihood skills education program.
- Advocacy, social mobilization and communication.

Besides, a project for Reaching Out of School Children (ROSC) is also in operation under the Directorate of Primary Education of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education to provide basic education to the drop out children of the country. To achieve the broad and specific objectives, the ROSC project is designed to support the community people to establish, operate and

⁵ Source: State of the World's Children 2006

monitor learning centres. At present about 12,000 learning centres are being operated in 60 upazillas of the country and ROSC project is supporting these centres by providing allowances to students and education grants to the centres.

Bureau of Non-formal Education (BNFE), under the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education is responsible for providing non-formal education to the adult and adolescent who could not have the opportunity to attend primary school. Many NGOs with sub-contract from BNFE, are implementing Post Literacy and Continuing Education for the neo-literate who were provided basic literacy course under Non-formal Education Project-1 (NFE-1), Non-formal Education Project-2 (NFE-2), Non-formal Education Project-3 (NFE-3), and Total Literacy Movement (TLM) by the then Directorate of Non-formal Education (DNFE), now called as BNFE.

NGOs are envisaged to play a key role as the interface between the project, and the stakeholder communities concerned. They would in collaboration with BNFE provide long-term support to communities that are of key importance dealing with the management of human resources. NGOs also have an important role to play in creating linkages between the learner/center and the existing loan mechanisms and resource-user groups, technical training providing institutions and employers.

2.8.2 Leisure and Cultural Activities

The need and management of cultural activities to educate and train the children with useful life skill is beyond question but Bangladesh could not do much in this area as its conservative society do not encourage children's participation and involvement much in leisure and cultural activities. 'This anti-freedom trait is noteworthy at both homes and the institutions'.

The largest Government setup under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOCWA) is the Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA), established in 1976, now in operation in 64 districts with wide range of cultural activities including painting, drama, poetry recitation, dance, singing and playing music. But children of rural areas hardly participate in the activities of BSA as its setup is located in the urban areas of the country. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Home and Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs are also involved with cultural and life skill development of the children. Like BSA, beneficiaries of these agencies are mostly the well-off children of urban areas. So poor children of rural areas are deprived of availing the opportunities provided by these agencies too. Similarly, children's organization, namely 'Kanchi Kanchar Ashar', Shapla Kurir Ashar' 'Nuton Kuri' etc. that organize cultural activities for the children are again confined to the urban areas and denied access to the greater majority of children living in rural areas of the country. Clubs, social organizations and NGOs are operating various cultural activities for the children round the year on several occasions have created some access to both rural and urban children of the country. But as the scope and the capacity of these clubs and organization are also limited, they too cannot fulfill the total requirement and rights to recreation of majority children of the country.

'While cultural activities are adopted to allow the children have recourse to mental and social development through recreation, leisure in the absolute sense of the term making room for their freedom to choose pastimes is also beneficial for remaining healthy in both physical and mental terms. Stress faced by child early in his or her life could sometimes be detrimental' (BSAF Alternative report, 2000).

So both Government and NGOs need to review following gaps and constrains to create further access of the children of both rural and urban areas to cultural activities. That means —

- Various ministries and the BSA must create opportunities to reach relatively disadvantaged children of both rural and urban areas.

- Budget allocation of the BSA and the Ministries should be increased to meet greater coverage.
- In designing various cultural programs, emotional and intellectual development of the children should be given highest priority.
- Substantial linkage between media and child development should be established.
- More emphasis on establishing facilities for recreational activities of the children in both rural and urban areas is very necessary.

2.9 Early Childhood care and Development

'A greater portion of the capacity for success in life depends on the quality of parental care of mothers, on nutritional adequacy during pregnancy, and on physiological and spiritual nurturing of children during early childhood. Beside the physiological basis for good health, the essential values that have such benefit-potentials are also transmitted from parents to their children' (BSAF Alternative Report 2000). But the concept is not translated into appropriate actions widely by the state nor there are adequate provisions of early childhood education in all formal primary schools of the country.

The Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey 2006 shows that only 14.6 percent of children aged 3-5 year were attending pre-school. Urban-rural and regional differentials are not so significant — the figure is 12.0 percent in the urban areas, compared to 15.5 percent in rural areas. Among children aged 3-5 years, attendance to pre-school is highest in Khulna division (17.4 percent), and lowest in Rajshahi division (10.3 percent). Differentials by socioeconomic status are not significant but in term of mother education it is noteworthy. In case of mothers having secondary education or higher, the rate goes up to 19.7 percent.

For a child to develop and learn in a healthy and normal way, it is important not only to meet the basic needs for protection, food and health care but also to meet the basic needs for interaction and stimulation, affection, security and learning through exploration and discovery. So early childhood development activities should be given highest priority to develop a child with his or her highest ability.

While government is trying to change the situation, several NGOs are also trying to do something meaningful in this field. SUCCEED, a Early Childhood Education Initiative was developed by Save the Children USA (SC-USA) Bangladesh on the underlying principle that effective intervention in the early years is the key to increase learning achievement. Working with the neglected lower grades of primary schools, in cognizance to the development of children's confidence, communication, cognitive and social skills before they enter school, is very important. Such transition activities ensure that children are ready for school; schools are also ready for children with welcoming environment and learning opportunities; and families are strengthened enough to support the schools.

Two sub-precipitants, Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB) and Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Services (RDRS) are contributing with technical and field insights at the management level based on their experiences of serving disadvantaged communities, implementing education programs and working with the government officials. Five exemplary NGOs — Jagoroni Chakro Foundation (JCF), Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Services (RDRS), Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB), Community Development Centre (CODEC), Village Education Resource Centre (VERC) as sub-grantees, are managing and implementing field activities in five regions under the SUCCEED project. Also UNICEF supported NGO Aparajeo Bangladesh started operation of ECD in the old part of Capital city Dhaka as a pilot project. Considering the impact of the project we can say it is a role model and best practices in Bangladesh.

Apart from this, Plan Bangladesh is also implementing Early Childhood Education projects, particularly in northern and central part of the country, in collaboration with several NGOs, like Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Surovi, and Udayankur Seba Sangstha (USS) etc. The most

laudable step is the establishment of the Bangladesh Early Childhood Development Network under the BRAC University, which is a network of about 190 NGOs in the country who works, in different degrees, on early childhood development field in different parts of the country.

2.10 Special Protection Measures

The need of special protection for the children is becoming more evident all over the world with the gradual increases of more complex and dynamic social settings. But due considerations are not being paid in this regard and almost everywhere children are subject to neglect, deprivation and in many cases inhuman treatment in varying degrees and manners. Bangladesh is not an exception to this situation. Appropriate and timely measures are therefore very much necessary to limit the curving situation before it becomes too severe to cure.

The following special protection measures are emphasized here as these are considered the most important measures to save and support children and help them grow, in an enabling environment, as better and prospective human resources of the society.

2.10.1 Children in Conflict with Law

The Children's Act 1974 and The Children's Rules 1976 have been enacted especially for the protection of Children who come in conflict with the law. But in many cases these laws are ineffectively enforced in Bangladesh. There are allegations that homeless and street children are rounded up by the law enforcing agencies, often for a silly cause or without any causes. They are then kept with the adult criminals in jails without recourse to legal protection. The Vagrancy Act 1943 lays down no limit to the period of detention and so children are detained arbitrarily for long periods of time until they are produced before the Magistrate. Besides, the Vagrancy Act 1943 does not allow legal representation on behalf of the detained person. Thus if a child is detained or arrested, he or she cannot defend him/herself in a legal system, which, under no circumstances can be termed as a lawful event.

Children are often used by adults to carry out criminal activities like carrying drugs and arms or engaging in theft. The law enforcing agents are authorized to arrest a person without warrant, on the basis of reasonable suspicion of involvement in a criminal act, under the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898. These laws are sometimes used to arrest children suspected of involvement in criminal activities like the above. So the legal provisions are inherently contradictory to the best interests of the children who come under their purview.

Recently there had been reports of maladministration of justice in case of children encountering legal steps. On April 8, 2007 a Chittagong court sent an eight-year old boy to jail after he was charged with raping five-year old girl (The Daily Star April 09, 2006). There was an alarming report in newspaper (Prothom Alo) on April 11, 2007 that police prevented arrested mother to take her child with her. Although the court later ordered the child to accompany the mother, it did not bring the intended result. The child was only 18 months old as per the newspaper report.

Although Articles 37 of the Convention on the Rights of Child declares, 'No child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily. The arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time' but the law enforcing agency in this country resorts to arrest at the very first instance. Dr Mizanur Rahman, Professor of Law in Dhaka University while evaluating Children Act in his study, 'Tracing the Missing Cord: A Study on the Children Act 1974' observed that most of the Magistrates in the country have no legal backgrounds. Most Magistrates do not understand the inner meaning of a specific law and they are unaware of the existence of the Children Act. He also observed very few lawyers in the country represent the juveniles except victims of trafficking.

Children who are apprehended by police, brought to the vagrant or shelter homes, detained there for months together or maximum up to the age 18. The prevailing environment of these homes is not at all child-friendly. There are reports that children are behaved inhumanly in the vagrant homes and shelters. There are reports of sexual and physical abuse of children by the vagrant homes. Girls are particularly vulnerable to the sexual exploitation by the staff members of the shelter homes. Again when they are produced before the court, the hearing is brief and hastily dispensed with no legal representation of the victims or opportunity for expressing their views.

The Children Act prohibits the use of capital punishment against children under 16 and life imprisonment in special circumstances. In January 2000, there were four children under 15 years serving life sentences in Togni Correction Centre. The 'Convention on the Rights of the Child' and the 'Beijing Rules' require the government to establish a minimum age below which children would be presumed innocent. Since children are the bearer of future society, juvenile justice system should be one of the priorities for the government to ensure implementation of Children Act 1974.

2.10.2 Children in the situation of abuse, torture and trafficking

In Bangladesh children are employed with a little or almost no pay for longer hours. They work as daily wage earner, such as 'labourer in the factories, helper in transport, child domestic etc. for their own survival as well as their families. And sometimes they work in hazardous conditions. They are deprived of their basic rights such as education, health and recreation. In there work place, they are the victims of exploitation, abuse and torture. The children and their family member are unable to protest against the exploitation or deprivation of the child workers by their employers.'

As mentioned earlier in the report that 7.9 million children work in some form or other in Bangladesh. Of these, 1.5 million are working children living in urban areas and 850,000 are aged between 10 and 14 years. Working children are involved in many different types of work, many of them with little or no pay, and some of them hazardous, such as brick-chippers or domestic servants.

So this is a striking feature in Bangladesh and need to be eliminated, 'BSAF and its partners are providing advocacy, legal support and media coverage to safeguard the children from such torture and punishment. Experiences have shown that there has been a greater need of coordination between the Governments's various departments, NGO and donor communities for a better stand on the issues'.

Sexual abuse is the worst form of abuse that exists in all societies including in Bangladesh in several forms. Children especially the girls are more vulnerable to sexual abuse. 'In our society which is rather conservative, such incidents are kept secret, but this leaves a long- lasting adverse effect on the life of the victims'. Children who are sexually molested at home, on the streets or in the workplace tend to regard themselves as spoilt or polluted. Consequently, many resign themselves to a lifetime of sex slavery (The state Report 2006).

The enactment of the Women and Child Repression Prevention Act is an effective and timely effort of the government to combat such abuse upon women and children. It now requires further enforcement. Efforts of UNICEF, Save the Children Alliance, several national NGOs like, Nari Maitree, ACLAB, PIACT, DORP, BNWLA, My Rights, DAM, Aparajeo Bangladesh etc. are quite commendable to control such disgraceful behaviour with the women and the children of the society.

Trafficking is another striking problem in Bangladesh. Many children and women are being trafficked out of the country each year and this problem is being increased day by day. According to Ministry of Home's, from March 2006 to March 2007, 196 women and children are trafficked. In this figure 83 are children. In the last year (2005-2006) 155 women and children were

rescued. Among them 86 were children. CUBUCAS a non-government organization's source mentioned that during 1990 to 1999 (10 years) around 3 thousand three hundred ninety one children were lost. During that period 987 girls and boys children were kidnapped. Specialists mentioned that many of the trafficking news aren't covered properly, other wise this figure would be higher.

The Women and Child Repression Prevention Act provided for adequate deterrence on child repression, rape, kidnapping, trafficking and other offenses.

2.10.3 Children belonging to minority and indigenous groups

More than 98% of the population of Bangladesh belongs to the homogeneous ethnic group known as Bengali. Among them around 12 percent populations comprises of Hindu, Christian and Buddhists who are termed as minority in the country. The remainder is composed of indigenous tribal peoples, together with a small number of migrants from various part of India. As per the constitution of the country, all its citizens are protected against any form of discrimination by the state on the ground of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

But in reality, as state report mentioned, 'situation of indigenous children and the children of ethnic minorities continues to be a matter of concern. These children are constrained in various ways from accessing rights to food, health care, education, survival and development and protection from abuse, violence and discrimination'.

Issues of the children born & living under vulnerable conditions in Repatriation camps like the stranded Pakistanis living in Bangladesh should come under the purview of the article-22 of the CRC and countries concerned should take appropriate measures immediately to rehabilitate those unfortunate stranded Pakistanis living in Bangladesh in an inhuman and subhuman condition.

Freedom to all religions and protection from discrimination on ground of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, with specific protection for 'backward sections of the society' are guaranteed by the constitution of the country but in fact it does not have any specific safeguard for protecting the rights, culture and tradition of 'ethnic minorities'. Often government behaves in a way that 'there is no racial discrimination in Bangladesh since there is but only one mixed race'⁶. This 'assimilationist' views can be seen as denial of minorities and indigenous people's identity and culture.

⁶ South Asia Human Rights Documentation Center, Racial Documentation: The Record of Bangladesh, 1999, SAHRDC, New Delhi

PART THREE: RECOMMENDATIONS

Demographic Situation of Children and General Measures

- More efforts are needed to create new places for additional number of children in schools through extending and improving their quality of life.
- Media-based and field-based motivation of the communities toward according equal status to the boys and girls should be enhanced.
- The state party should not overlook slum evictions that left thousands of children, along with their families, homeless and completely destitute.
- The respective agencies should involve child-friendly trained personnel while addressing sensitive issues with the children without emotionally harming them or provoking them to the wrong way.
- The Govt. should expedite establishment of the Directorate for Children's Affairs under the MOWCA to easily manage and fortify interventions for the best interests of the children.

Civil Rights and Freedom

- The present GO-NGO efforts to ensure birth registration of the children should be strengthened more through effective monitoring.
- The draft law on 'Rights to Information Act' that was developed recently by imminent lawyers of the country and submitted to the Caretaker Government should be accepted as soon as possible.

Family Environments and Alternative Care

- Proper database and appropriate monitoring of the trafficked women and children should be developed to collect accurate information on trafficked women and children
- The state party should immediately take an arrangement for re-introducing the law related to Adoption of Children.

Basic Health and Welfare

- The findings from the periodic MICS should be disseminated widely and each department of GoB, the NGOs and the Donors should be advised to abide by these, thus ensuring uniniformity, objectivity and transparency in all activities related to children.
- Immunization of the children should continue, with increased emphasis on vaccination against such emerging diseases as dengue etc.
- BCC on adolescent's health and reproductive health should be expedited through NGOs as well as through the community based organizations.
- Vitamin A supplementation program must continue until production and consumption of Vitamin-A rich foods are increased.
- All adolescent — married or unmarried, male or female, in-school or out of the school should have access to accurate information on growing up, reproduction along with building life skills, good quality reproductive health services and counseling.
- In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, State Party

should closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities through their representative organizations.

Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities

- Adequate studies should be undertaken to evaluate effectiveness of the scholarship program for the girls of primary and secondary school with respect to their enrolment, completion and dropouts.
- Training on child-to-child management should be imparted to the professional working with child related departments, agencies, or project in the public sectors.
- Training on child-focused teaching learning pedagogy and techniques and how these can be implemented in the classroom should be imparted to the teachers of primary schools.
- In designing various cultural programs, emotional and intellectual development of the children should be given highest priority.
- Substantial linkage between media and child development should be established.
- More emphasis on establishing facilities for recreational activities of the children in both rural and urban areas is very necessary.

Early Childhood care and Development

- Early childhood development activities should be given highest priority by the state to develop a child with his or her highest ability.
- Training on the importance early childhood development activities to be imparted to the teachers of primary schools.
- Training on ECCD activities and how these can be implemented in the Baby Classes should be imparted to teachers of pre-primary schools.

Special Protection Measures

- The state should ensure that 'the Children's Act 1974' and 'the Children's Rules 1976' are effectively enforced in the country.
- The state party must ensure the enactment of the women and child Repression (special provision) Act of 1995 to combat abuse upon women and children.
- A stronger emphasis should be laid on launching of proactive projects to introduce preventive steps against trafficking of women and children.
- The state party should take appropriate measures to rehabilitate unfortunate stranded Pakistani living in Bangladesh in an inhuman and subhuman condition in line with the article 22 of the CRC.
- The state party should develop appropriate strategy to safe guard the rights, culture and tradition of 'ethnic minorities'.

Annex-01: Summary of the findings of the Workshop with the MNGOs

Convention on the Rights of Children	Projects/Programs being Implemented by GO-NGOs	Strengths	Weaknesses
Article-1: For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education, Advocacy and campaign Birth registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum children brought under education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of education is yet to reach
Article-2: (a) States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status. (b) States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and campaign Legal awareness, supports etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some laws were reformed in favors of protecting child rights. Advocacy and campaign activities expanded more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical implication of the laws quite negligible Quality or vertical expansion is still very limited.
Article-3: (a) In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration. (b) States Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures. (c) States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Advocacy and campaign Legal awareness and supports Health and emergency sheltering Reintegration etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum children brought under education Some laws were reformed in favors of protecting child rights. Advocacy and campaign activities expanded more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of education is yet to reach Practical implication of the laws quite negligible Quality or vertical expansion is still very limited.
Article-4: States Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States Parties shall undertake such measures to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international co-operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Advocacy and campaign etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum children brought under education Expanded advocacy and campaign activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of education is yet to reach Quality or vertical expansion is still very limited.
Article-5: States Parties shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents or, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child, to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the present Convention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Training Advocacy and campaign etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum children brought under education Expanded advocacy and campaign activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of education is yet to reach Quality or vertical expansion is still very limited.
Article-6: (a) States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life. (b). States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several programs on survival and development of children operated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality or vertical expansion is still very limited.
Article-7: (a) The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents. (b) States Parties shall ensure the implementation of these rights in accordance with their national law and their obligations under the relevant international instruments in this field, in particular where the child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth registration Advocacy and campaign etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness extended Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality coverage is still very limited.

would otherwise be stateless.			
Article-8: (a) States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference. (b) Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, States Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to re-establishing speedily his or her identity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Birth registration ▪ Advocacy and campaign ▪ Legal awareness and supports ▪ Emergency shelter etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Legal support is still very limited.
Article-9: (a) States Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. Such determination may be necessary in a particular case such as one involving abuse or neglect of the child by the parents, or one where the parents are living separately and a decision must be made as to the child's place of residence. (b) In any proceedings pursuant to paragraph 1 of the present article, all interested parties shall be given an opportunity to participate in the proceedings and make their views known. (c) States Parties shall respect the right of the child who is separated from one or both parents to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis, except if it is contrary to the child's best interests. (d) Where such separation results from any action initiated by a State Party, such as the detention, imprisonment, exile, deportation or death (including death arising from any cause while the person is in the custody of the State) of one or both parents or of the child, that State Party shall, upon request, provide the parents, the child or, if appropriate, another member of the family with the essential information concerning the whereabouts of the absent member(s) of the family unless the provision of the information would be detrimental to the well-being of the child. States Parties shall further ensure that the submission of such a request shall of itself entail no adverse consequences for the person (s) concerned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legal awareness and legal supports ▪ Advocacy and campaign etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Legal support is still very limited.
Article-10: (a) In accordance with the obligation of States Parties under article 9, paragraph 1, applications by a child or his or her parents to enter or leave a State Party for the purpose of family reunification shall be dealt with by States Parties in a positive, humane and expeditious manner. States Parties shall further ensure that the submission of such a request shall entail no adverse consequences for the applicants and for the members of their family. (b) A child whose parents reside in different States shall have the right to maintain on a regular basis, save in exceptional circumstances personal relations and direct contacts with both parents. Towards that end and in accordance with the obligation of States Parties under article 9, paragraph 1, States Parties shall respect the right of the child and his or her parents to leave any country, including their own, and to enter their own country. The right to leave any country shall be subject only to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and which are necessary to protect the national security, public order, public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present Convention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocacy and campaign ▪ Legal supports etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mass awareness extended ▪ Legal reforms are underway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited practical implementation ▪ Legal support is still very limited.
Article-11: (a) States Parties shall take measures to combat the illicit transfer and non-return of children abroad. (b) To this end, States Parties shall promote the conclusion of bilateral or multilateral agreements or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocacy and campaign ▪ Legal awareness and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mass awareness extended ▪ Legal reforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited practical implementation ▪ Legal support is

accession to existing agreements.		are underway	still very limited.
Article-12: (a) States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. (b) For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Advocacy and campaign Legal awareness etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness extended Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality coverage is still very limited. Limited practical implementation
Article-13 (a) The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice. (b) The exercise of this right may be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary: (1) For respect of the rights or reputations of others; or (2) For the protection of national security or of public order or of public health or morals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Advocacy and campaign Legal awareness etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness extended Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality coverage is still very limited. Limited practical implementation
Article-14: (a) States Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. (b) States Parties shall respect the rights and duties of the parents and, when applicable, legal guardians, to provide direction to the child in the exercise of his or her right in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child. (c) Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals, or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Advocacy and campaign Legal awareness etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness extended Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality coverage is still very limited. Limited practical implementation
Article-15: (a) States Parties recognize the rights of the child to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly. (b) No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of these rights other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order, the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Advocacy and campaign Legal awareness etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness extended Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality coverage is still very limited. Limited practical implementation
Article-16: (a) No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation. (b) The child has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and campaign Legal awareness and supports etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness extended Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality coverage is still very limited. Limited legal implementation
Article-17: States Parties recognize the important function performed by the mass media and shall ensure that the child has access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of his or her social, spiritual and moral well-being and physical and mental health. To this end, States Parties shall: (a) encourage the mass media to disseminate information and material of social and cultural benefit to the child and in accordance with the spirit of article 29; (b) encourage international co-operation in the production, exchange and dissemination of such information and material from a diversity of cultural, national and international sources; (c) encourage the production and dissemination of children's books; (d) encourage the mass media to have particular regard to the linguistic needs of the child who belongs to a minority or indigenous group; (e) encourage the development of appropriate guidelines for the protection of the child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Advocacy and campaign Legal awareness etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness extended Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality coverage is still very limited. Limited legal implementation

from information and material injurious to his or her well-being, bearing in mind the provisions of articles 13 & 18.			
Article-18: (a) States Parties shall use their best efforts to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child. Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child. The best interests of the child will be their basic concern. (b) For the purpose of guaranteeing and promoting the rights set forth in the present Convention, States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children. (c) States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that children of working parents have the right to benefit from child-care services and facilities for which they are eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Advocacy and campaign ▪ Legal awareness etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited legal implementation
Article-19: (a) States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child. (b) Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programs to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Health care ▪ Advocacy and campaign ▪ Legal awareness and supports ▪ Emergency sheltering etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited legal implementation
Article-20: (a) A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State. (b) States Parties shall in accordance with their national laws ensure alternative care for such a child. (c) Such care could include, inter alia, foster placement, kafalah of Islamic law, adoption or if necessary placement in suitable institutions for the care of children. When considering solutions, due regard shall be paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Advocacy and campaign ▪ Legal awareness ▪ Alternative care ▪ Family reintegration etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited practical implementation
Article-21: States Parties that recognize and/or permit the system of adoption shall ensure that the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration and they shall: (a) Ensure that the adoption of a child is authorized only by competent authorities who determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures and on the basis of all pertinent and reliable information, that the adoption is permissible in view of the child's status concerning parents, relatives and legal guardians and that, if required, the persons concerned have given their informed consent to the adoption on the basis of such counseling as may be necessary; (b) Recognize that inter-country adoption may be considered as an alternative means of child's care, if the child cannot be placed in a foster or an adoptive family or cannot in any suitable manner be cared for in the child's country of origin; (c) Ensure that the child concerned by inter-country adoption enjoys safeguards and standards equivalent to those existing in the case of national	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Advocacy and campaign ▪ Legal awareness ▪ Alternative care ▪ Family reintegration etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited practical implementation

adoption; (d) Take all appropriate measures to ensure that, in inter-country adoption, the placement does not result in improper financial gain for those involved in it; (e) Promote, where appropriate, the objectives of the present article by concluding bilateral or multilateral arrangements or agreements, and endeavor, within this framework, to ensure that the placement of the child in another country is carried out by competent authorities.			
Article-22: (a) States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee in accordance with applicable international or domestic law and procedures shall, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by his or her parents or by any other person, receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of applicable rights set forth in the present Convention and in other international human rights or humanitarian instruments to which the said States are Parties. (b) For this purpose, States Parties shall provide, as they consider appropriate, co-operation in any efforts by the United Nations and other competent intergovernmental organizations or nongovernmental organizations co-operating with the United Nations to protect and assist such a child and to trace the parents or other members of the family of any refugee child in order to obtain information necessary for reunification with his or her family. In cases where no parents or other members of the family can be found, the child shall be accorded the same protection as any other child permanently or temporarily deprived of his or her family environment for any reason, as set forth in the present Convention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Advocacy and campaign ▪ Legal awareness ▪ Alternative care ▪ Family reintegration etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited practical implementation
Article-23: (a) States Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions, which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community. (b) States Parties recognize the right of the disabled child to special care and shall encourage and ensure the extension, subject to available resources, to the eligible child and those responsible for his or her care, of assistance for which application is made and which is appropriate to the child's condition and to the circumstances of the parents or others caring for the child. (c) Recognizing the special needs of a disabled child, assistance extended in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article shall be provided free of charge, whenever possible, taking into account the financial resources of the parents or others caring for the child, and shall be designed to ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, including his or her cultural and spiritual development (d) States Parties shall promote, in the spirit of international cooperation, the exchange of appropriate information in the field of preventive health care and of medical, psychological and functional treatment of disabled children, including dissemination of and access to information concerning methods of rehabilitation, education and vocational services, with the aim of enabling States Parties to improve their capabilities and skills and to widen their experience in these areas. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Advocacy and campaign ▪ Health service ▪ Legal awareness ▪ Alternative care ▪ Life skill training etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited practical implementation
Article-24: (a) States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Health service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still

<p>standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services. (b) States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures: (1) To diminish infant and child mortality; (2) To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care; (3) To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution; (4) To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers; (5) To ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents; (6) To develop preventive health care, guidance for parents and family planning education and services. (c) States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children. (d) States Parties undertake to promote and encourage international co-operation with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the right recognized in the present article. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage expanded 	<p>very limited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited practical implementation
<p>Article-25: States Parties recognize the right of a child who has been placed by the competent authorities for the purposes of care, protection or treatment of his or her physical or mental health, to a periodic review of the treatment provided to the child and all other circumstances relevant to his or her placement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and campaign Health services Emergency shelter etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness extended Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality coverage is still very limited. Limited practical implementation
<p>Article-26: (a) States Parties shall recognize for every child the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance, and shall take the necessary measures to achieve the full realization of this right in accordance with their national law. (b) The benefits should, where appropriate, be granted, taking into account the resources and the circumstances of the child and persons having responsibility for the maintenance of the child, as well as any other consideration relevant to an application for benefits made by or on behalf of the child.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and campaign Education, Health and other social services etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness extended Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality coverage is still very limited. Limited practical implementation
<p>Article-27: (a) States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. (b) The parent(s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development. (c) States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programs, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing. (d) States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to secure the recovery of maintenance for the child from the parents or other persons having financial responsibility for the child, both within the State Party and from abroad. In particular, where the person having financial</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and campaign Education, health and other social Services Legal supports etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness extended Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality coverage is still very limited. Limited practical implementation

responsibility for the child lives in a State different from that of the child, States Parties shall promote the accession to international agreements or the conclusion of such agreements, as well as the making of other appropriate arrangements.			
Article-28: (a) States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular: (1) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all; (2) Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need; (3) Make higher education accessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means; (4) Make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children; (5) Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates. (b) States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the present Convention. (c) States Parties shall promote and encourage international cooperation in matters relating to education, in particular with a view to contributing to the elimination of ignorance and illiteracy throughout the world and facilitating access to scientific and technical knowledge and modern teaching methods. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Advocacy and campaign etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited practical implementation
Article-29: (a) States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to: (1) The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential; (2) The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations; (3) The development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for civilizations different from his or her own; (4) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin; (5) The development of respect for the natural environment. (b) No part of the present article or article 28 shall be construed so as to interfere with the liberty of individuals and bodies to establish and direct educational institutions, subject always to the observance of the principle set forth in paragraph 1 of the present article and to the requirements that the education given in such institutions shall conform to such minimum standards as may be laid down by the State.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education and awareness ▪ Advocacy and campaign etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited practical implementation
Article-30: In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education and awareness ▪ Advocacy and campaign etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited practical implementation
Article-31: (a) States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education and co-curricular activities ▪ Leisure and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited

arts. (b) States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.	recreational programs ▪ Advocacy and campaign etc.		practical implementation
Article-32: (a) States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. (b) States Parties shall take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the implementation of the present article. To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of other international instruments, States Parties shall in particular: (1) Provide for a minimum age or minimum ages for admission to employment; (2) Provide for appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment; (3) Provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of the present article.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formal and non-formal education program ▪ Legal awareness ▪ Need based but child-friendly skill training ▪ Advocacy and campaign etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited practical implementation
Article-33: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocacy and Anti-drug campaign ▪ Preventive and curative health care etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited practical implementation
Article 34: States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent: (1) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; (2) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; (3) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Birth registration ▪ Advocacy and campaign ▪ Legal awareness and supports ▪ Emergency shelter etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited practical implementation
Article 35: States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent abduction of, sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Control trafficking ▪ Awareness and campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited practical implementation
Article 36: States Parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good governance ▪ Legal awareness and supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited practical implementation
Article 37: States Parties shall ensure that: (1) No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age; (2) No child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily. The arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time; (3) Every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age. In particular, every child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interest not to do so and shall have the right to maintain contact with his or her family through correspondence and visits, save in exceptional circumstances; (4) Every child deprived of his or her liberty shall have the right to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance, as well as the right to challenge the legality of the deprivation of his or her	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocacy and campaign ▪ Legal awareness ▪ Legal support etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited practical implementation

liberty before a court or other competent, independent and impartial authority, and to a prompt decision on any such action.			
Article 38: (a) States Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts, which are relevant to the child. (b) States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities. (c) States Parties shall refrain from recruiting any person who has not attained the age of fifteen years but who have not attained the age of eighteen years, States Parties shall endeavor to give priority to those who are oldest.(d) In accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legal awareness, measures etc. ▪ Advocacy and campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited practical implementation
Article 39: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of: any form of neglect, exploitation, or abuse; torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or armed conflicts. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment, which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health care ▪ Family reintegration ▪ Legal awareness and supports ▪ Emergency shelter etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited. ▪ Limited practical implementation
Article 40: (a) States Parties recognize the right of every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth, which reinforces the child's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others and which takes into account the child's age and the desirability of promoting the child's reintegration and the child's assuming a constructive role in society. (b) To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of international instruments, States Parties shall, in particular, ensure that: (a) No child shall be alleged as, be accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law by reason of acts or omissions that were not prohibited by national or international law at the time they were committed; (b) Every child alleged as or accused of having infringed the penal law has at least the following guarantees: (i) To be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law; (ii) To be informed promptly and directly of the charges against him or her, and, if appropriate, through his or her parents or legal guardians, and to have legal or other appropriate assistance in the preparation and presentation of his or her defence; (iii) To have the matter determined without delay by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body in a fair hearing according to law, in the presence of legal or other appropriate assistance and, unless it is considered not to be in the best interest of the child, in particular, taking into account his or her age or situation, his or her parents or legal guardians; (iv) Not to be compelled to give testimony or to confess guilt; to examine or have examined adverse witnesses and to obtain the participation and examination of witnesses on his or her behalf under conditions of equality; (v) If considered to have infringed the penal law, to have this decision and any measures imposed in consequence thereof reviewed by a higher competent, independent and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legal awareness, measures etc. ▪ Advocacy and campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited practical implementation

<p>impartial authority or judicial body according to law; (vi) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if the child cannot understand or speak the language used; (vii) To have his or her privacy fully respected at all stages of the proceedings. (c) States Parties shall seek to promote the establishment of laws, procedures, authorities and institutions specifically applicable to children alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law, and, in particular: (1) The establishment of a minimum age below which children shall be presumed not to have the capacity to infringe the penal law; (2) Whenever appropriate and desirable, measures for dealing with such children without resorting to judicial proceedings, providing that human rights and legal safeguards are fully respected. (d). A variety of dispositions, such as care, guidance and supervision orders; counseling; probation; foster care; education and vocational training programs and other alternatives to institutional care shall be available to ensure that children are dealt with in a manner appropriate to their well-being and proportionate both to their circumstances and the offence.</p>			
<p>Article 41: Nothing in the present Convention shall affect any provisions which are more conducive to the realization of the rights of the child and which may be contained in: (1) The law of a State party; or (2) International law in force for that State.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Legal awareness ▪ Advocacy and campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended ▪ Coverage expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality coverage is still very limited.
<p>Article 42: States Parties undertake to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known, by appropriate and active means, to adults and children alike.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Advocacy and campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness extended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited practical implementation

Initiatives to be taken by following individual/agencies raising Awareness on CRC				
Government	National and International Organizations	Donor Community	Community and Civil Society	Individual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Making Birth registration and uplifting child rights issues mandatory in Govt. Institutions. ▪ Introduce quota system for the disable and the ethnic minority children in enrolling into primary schools. ▪ Introduce stipend for the poor children in the urban areas. ▪ Strengthen NGO initiatives by providing adequate grants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Making effective role implementing child rights in line with the NPA. ▪ Use print, electronic media and the journalists to create awareness in favour of CRC. ▪ Celebrate Child Rights day and other related national days jointly with others. ▪ INGOs to work with the national NGOs to bring concerted results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase grant and technical supports to implement more programs on CRC . ▪ Extend support to more NGOs in operating programs on CRC. ▪ Extend support to smaller NGOs in operating programs on CRC. ▪ Extend support to capacity building of local organizations ▪ Extend support to develop a core fund to support CRC activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the CBOs and the local organizations in implementing programs on CRC. ▪ Support CBOs and NGOs who work for the children in the local area. ▪ Help in cash or kind to facilitate programs in support of the children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the CBOs and the local organizations in implementing programs on CRC. ▪ Share knowledge and skill in support of child rights issues. ▪ Participate in the training, workshop organized for the interest of the children ▪ Support financially as and when possible to uphold interest of the children.

Initiatives to be taken by following individual/agencies to increase birth registration, education and moral values of the children

Government	National and International Organizations	Donor Community	Community and Civil Society	Individual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Making Birth registration and uplifting child rights issues mandatory in Govt. Institutions. ▪ Ensure cent percent enrolment of children in the primary school. ▪ Ensure accountability of the local government representatives for compulsory primary education in his/her area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extent supports in implementing Govt. projects of birth registration. ▪ Create social movement in favour of child education. ▪ Work with the local govt. representatives at the local level. ▪ Implement social mobilization program in favour of CRC. ▪ Take initiatives to review activities relating to CRC regularly with the government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase grant and technical supports to implement more programs on CRC . ▪ Extend resources for long project than shorter ones. ▪ Monitoring overlapping activities in the field. ▪ Extend collaboration with the NGOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the CBOs and NGOs to facilitate programs in support of the children. ▪ Help in cash or kind to facilitate programs in support of the children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the CBOs and the local organizations in implementing projects on Birth registration. ▪ Share knowledge and values to uphold children's morality. ▪ Participate in the training, workshop organized for the interest of the children ▪ Support financially as and when possible for the education of poor children.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure implementation of existing laws to limit child labour, torture and trafficking. ▪ Ensure reviewing existing laws as and where require. ▪ Ensure accountability of the government officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize workshop, seminar to limit Child labour, torture and trafficking. ▪ Ensure proper implementation of project relating child labour, torture and trafficking. ▪ Create mass awareness against child labour, torture and trafficking through social mobilization ▪ Create pressure upon the authority to implement CRC issues as signed by the government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase grant and technical supports to implement more programs on eliminating child labour, child torturing and trafficking. ▪ Extend resources for long project than shorter ones. ▪ Monitoring overlapping activities in the field. ▪ Extend supports to the smaller NGOs operating project relating to limiting child labour, trafficking and torturing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the CBOs and NGOs to facilitate projects to eliminate child labour, trafficking and torturing. ▪ Help in cash or kind to facilitate programs in support of the children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the CBOs and the local organizations in implementing projects against child labour, trafficking and child torturing. ▪ Participate in the training, workshop organized for the interest of the children ▪ Support financially as and when possible for eliminating child labour, trafficking and child torturing.

Initiatives to be taken by following individual/agencies to develop disable and socially disadvantaged children				
Government	National and International Organizations	Donor Community	Community and Civil Society	Individual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure implementation of existing laws and provisions for the development of the disable and the disadvantaged children of the society. ▪ Setup proper school for the development of the disabled children. ▪ Organize adequate training for the professional to deal with the disable children. ▪ Arrange adequate treatment facilities for the disabled children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Setup specialized schools for the development of the disabled children. ▪ Organize adequate training for the professional to deal with the disable children. ▪ Arrange adequate treatment facilities for the disabled children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase grant and technical supports to implement projects for the development of disabled and disadvantaged children. ▪ Extend resources for long project than shorter ones. ▪ Extend supports to the smaller NGOs operating project relating to the development of disabled and the disadvantaged children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the CBOs and NGOs to facilitate projects for the development of disabled and disadvantaged children. ▪ Help in cash or kind to facilitate projects relating to the development of disabled and disadvantaged children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the CBOs and the local organizations in implementing projects for the development of disabled and disadvantaged children. ▪ Participate in the training, workshop organized for the interest of the children ▪ Support financially as and when possible for the development of disabled and disadvantaged children.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide adequate training to the teachers and related personnel on the importance of child-friendly environment. ▪ Provide adequate training to the teachers and related personnel on how to create child-friendly environment. ▪ Introduce ECCD component in all the primary schools. ▪ Ensure setting up adequate arrangement for the recreation of the children. ▪ Supply adequate toys and games materials to the primary schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize workshop, seminar on the importance of child-friendly environment for a better value of life. ▪ Undertake massive advocacy and campaign to create mass awareness on the importance of child-friendly environment. ▪ Support govt. initiatives in introducing ECCD activities in the primary schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase grant and technical supports to implement ECCD activities in the primary schools. ▪ Extend resources for long project than shorter ones. ▪ Extend supports to the smaller NGOs operating project relating to early childhood care and development activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the CBOs and NGOs to facilitate projects on creating enabling environment for the children. ▪ Help in cash or kind to facilitate programs in support of the children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the CBOs and the local organizations in implementing enabling environment for the children. ▪ Participate in the training, workshop organized for the interest of the children ▪ Support financially as and when possible to create child-friendly environment for the children for their better value of life.

Annex-02: Summary of the findings of the Workshop with the Children

Convention on the Rights of Children	Expectations of the children to their parents, guardians and other adults with respect to different conventions
Article-01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Treat All as children under 18 years old ▪ Respect all rights of the children
Article-02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Treat all children equal irrespective of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.
Article-03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents should pay first priority to the benefit of the children. ▪ Expect that parents and other pay due effort to meet basic requirement of the children
Article-05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that parents be supported by the state to exercise children's right.
Article-07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that parents maintained proper identity of the children.
Article-08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that parents maintained proper identity and birth registration of the children.
Article-09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children always be brought up with love, care of their parents, and always be with their parents.
Article-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that there is no barrier to meet and stay with the parents, wherever they live.
Article-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that children are not transferred to the places or forced to stay in the places where they become alone and cannot meet their parents.
Article-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that the parents and other adults respect their opinions and ideas.
Article-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that the adults respect their thoughts and religion.
Article-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that the adults respect children's right to assemble with the other children.
Article-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that parents and other adults allow them to access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources,
Article-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that both parents will bear common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the children.
Article-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that parents and others will abstain from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation of the children.
Article-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that a refugee child receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance from the concern authority.
Article-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions, which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.
Article-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health be ensured.
Article-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that a child who has been placed for the purposes of care, protection or treatment of his or her physical or mental health, to a periodic review of the treatment provided to the child and all other circumstances relevant to his or her placement.
Article-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that all children be provided social security.
Article-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that the parents ensure the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development properly.
Article-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity are done properly by the parents.
Article-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that the development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential be ensured through proper education.
Article-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that a child belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.
Article-31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts, be not denied in any case.
Article-32.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.
Article-33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that children must be protected from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and prevent use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.
Article 34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that children must be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse.
Article 35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that children must be prevented from abduction, sale or trafficking.
Article 36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that children must be protected from any forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.
Article 37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that no child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
Article 38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that children who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities.
Article 39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim is made appropriately.
Article 42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expect that the Convention is widely known to all adults and children alike.

Initiatives to be taken by following individual/agencies raising Awareness on CRC			
Government	Non-government Organizations	Community and Civil Society	Individual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase awareness through mass media. ▪ Establish separate ministry for children affairs. ▪ Can allocate more resources for children's development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake more awareness program on children affairs. ▪ Undertake projects /programs on children development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support CBOs and NGOs who work for the children in the local area. ▪ Help increase awareness of the people on CRC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help parents so that they are aware of CRC. ▪ Cooperate with others in implementing CRC
Initiatives to be taken by following individual/agencies to increase birth registration, education and moral values of the children			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake mass awareness program on the importance of birth registration, education and moral development of the children. ▪ Make birth registration and primary education mandatory for all. ▪ Ensure participation of all people in the implementation of birth registration, education and moral development of the children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create social movement in favour of birth registration and child education. ▪ Implement social mobilization program in favour of education and birth registration. ▪ Capacity building of the people who would be involved in implementing education, moral development and birth registration of the children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperate with the GO and NGOs activities on education, birth registration and moral development of the children. ▪ Ensure that everybody in the community is aware of the importance of birth registration, education and moral development of the children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperate with GO and NGOs in implementing projects/programs on birth registration, education and moral development of the children.
Initiatives to be taken by following individual/agencies to limit Child labour, torture and trafficking			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure implementation of existing laws to limit child labour, torture and trafficking. ▪ Ensure reviewing existing laws as and where require. ▪ Ensure legal supports to the victims of child labour, torture and trafficking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct adequate research on child trafficking, torture and implication of hazardous child labour. ▪ Under take project/program against hazardous child labour, child trafficking and torture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the CBOs, NGOs and government agencies to facilitate projects to eliminate child labour, trafficking and torturing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create local fund to support projects/programs to eliminate hazardous child labour, trafficking and torture. ▪ Work as volunteers to limit child labour, child trafficking from the society.
Initiatives to be taken by following individual/agencies to develop disable and socially disadvantaged children			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure implementation of existing laws and provisions for the development of the disable and the disadvantaged children of the society. ▪ Setup rehabilitation center for the disabled children. ▪ Setup Separate school for the disabled children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase grant and technical supports to implement projects for the development of disabled and disadvantaged children. ▪ Extend resources for longer project. ▪ Operate special need education for the disabled and vulnerable children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create social fund for the development of disabled children of the locality. ▪ Work with the NGOs to facilitate projects for the development of disabled and disadvantaged children. ▪ Provide social rehabilitation facilities to the disabled children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Treat every child equally. ▪ Provide emergency to the disabled children. ▪ Behave gently with these children.
Initiatives to be taken by following individual/agencies to create a child-friendly society and environment			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduce ECCD component in all the primary schools. ▪ Ensure setting up adequate arrangement for the recreation of the children. ▪ Supply adequate toys and games materials to the primary schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize workshop, seminar on the importance of child-friendly environment for a better value of life. ▪ Undertake massive advocacy and campaign to create mass awareness on the importance of child-friendly environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the NGOs to facilitate projects on creating enabling environment for the children. ▪ Help in cash or kind to facilitate programs in support of the children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the CBOs in implementing enabling environment for the children. ▪ Participate in the training, workshop organized for the interest of the children.

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