JJC/Issue-VII | Sept.2025 The Juvenile Justice Committee | High Court of Orissa

SISHU SURAKHYA

ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା




UNIVERSAL'S
The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009
BARE ACT WITH SHORT NOTES
2025
Universal LexisNexis
Justice P.S. Narayana
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THE JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT, 2015
As amended by
Alongwith
The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016
The Adoption Regulations, 2022
Gogia Law Agency
HYDERABAD
PROFESSIONAL'S
The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
(6 of 2007)
Relevant Provisions of Statutes Referred
The Family Courts Act, 1984
The Majority Act, 1875
The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929
PROFESSIONAL BOOK PUBLISHERS
Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
(32 of 2012)
as amended by
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[Act 61 of 1986]
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The Juvenile Justice Committee | High Court of Orissa

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ISSUE-VII | SEPT.2025

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Hon'ble
Mr Justice Harish Tandon

(Chief Justice)

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE



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Miss Justice Savitri Ratho

(Chairperson)



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(Member & Editor-in-Chief)



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Justice Harish Tandon
Chief Justice

High Court of Orissa
Chandini Chowk, Cuttack-753002

MESSAGE

Children are the potential resources of the society contributing significantly in the development of the country by fostering social and economic transformation.

Since time immemorial, the society was striving to provide sustainable opportunities concerning the health, education and protection with an avowed object of eradicating any element of abuse impacting the development of a child both physical and mental. The emerging need of bringing a legislation to protect the children, who come in conflict with law and also to take preventive measures to avoid any child to come under the juvenile system were felt by the Legislators. The legal framework and the legislation to be put in place are reaffirmation of the commitment to bring a specific legislation concerning the children. The significant step taken in this regard is the legislation concerning the children not only coming in conflict with law but also in need of care and protection.

The Parliament introduced Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 to reassuring its commitment as signatory to the UN Charter and subsequently reshaped such legislation either by repealing or bringing amendments in subsequent legislation necessitated by the pressing circumstances perceived from the research, the studies and the report submitted by various organizations. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 was enacted not only to deal with the child in conflict with law with empathy, sympathy and compassion but also to integrate the child into the society after undergoing the rehabilitation and/or reintegration process. The primary object of such legislation is to avoid retributive justice and embrace the reformative justice.

Justice Harish Tandon
Chief Justice

High Court of Orissa
Chandini Chowk, Cuttack-753002

Various categories of the children including abandoned, surrendered and/or orphaned are regarded as the children in need of care & protection and to reassure its commitment for giving a better life, several child protection schemes are framed viz., Mission Vatsalya, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), etc. by the Central Government. The respective States have also introduced several schemes taking into account the peculiar characteristics founded upon its geographical barrier, cultural dissimilarities, regional behaviour and diversity in cultural, traditional and social behavior to provide sustainable support to such children.

Despite all such schemes being framed, its implementation raises a concern for which the Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC) was set up in every High Court to oversee, monitor and provide guidance and advice to the Government. The JJC of the High Court of Orissa has arduously worked to accelerate the process of not only discharging the statutory obligations but also to create a bridge amongst the different stakeholders both governmental and non-governmental within the legal framework. The Committee held several seminars and discourses on the laps and gaps so felt to adopt the best practices to strengthen the juvenile justice system within the State. The dissemination of such best practices is a repository of the Newsletter 'Sishu Surakhya', which is released and published on periodical basis.

I feel it a privilege to introduce one of such editions of 'Sishu Surakhya' and extend my heartiest complements to the Committee for tireless work undertaken by them.

Justice Harish Tandon
Chief Justice
High Court of Orissa

Cuttack
8th September, 2025



Hon'ble
Miss Justice Savitri Ratho
(Chairperson)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

'***Sishu Surakhya***', the news letter of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Orissa High Court was earlier being published regularly. It had been discontinued since 2019, primarily due to the Covid Pandemic. It was again published in 2023 on account of the initiative of the then Chief Justice - Sri Subhasis Talapatra with Justice Mr S.K.Sahoo as its Editor. It could not be published in the year 2024 , This year, under the guidance and encouragement of our Chief Justice Mr Harish Tandon , and the efforts of the Editor in Chief - Justice Mr A.K. Mohapatra and his Editorial Team, the Juvenile Justice Committee has been successful in publishing the newsletter.

To keep up with the times and make it easily accessible for reading, the Committee decided to publish it in the form of an e - newsletter. This edition includes articles by Judges of our High Court, officers of the State Government, Judicial Officers and a Research Scholar Assistant.

The newsletter will shed light and provide information about the activities of the Juvenile Justice Committee, the State Government, other stakeholders especially activities and achievements of the children residing in Child Care Institutions. I am confident that the contents of the newsletter will not only inform but also inspire greater sensitivity and collaboration among all the stakeholders and further the cause of juvenile justice in our State.

Justice Savitri Ratho



ମାନ୍ୟବର ବିଚାରପତି **ଶ୍ରୀ ଆଦିତ୍ୟ କୁମାର ମହାପାତ୍ର**
(ମୁଖ୍ୟ ସମ୍ପାଦକ)

ସମ୍ପାଦକୀୟ

ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷାର ସପ୍ତମ ସଂସ୍କରଣକୁ ସମସ୍ତ ଶିଶୁପ୍ରେମୀ ସୁଧୀବୃନ୍ଦଙ୍କୁ ହୃଦୟରୁ ସ୍ୱାଗତ । ଏକ ମହତ୍ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ସାଧନର ଅଭିପ୍ରାୟ ନେଇ, ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷାର ଯାତ୍ରା ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୁଏ ୨୦୧୭ ମସିହାରେ । ପ୍ରଥମ ପଦାର୍ପଣରେ ଏହା ଏକ ୧୬ ପୃଷ୍ଠା ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ Newsletter କଲେବର ପ୍ରକାଶିତ ହୁଏ । ସତ କହିଲେ, ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଏବେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଶୈଶବାବସ୍ଥାରେ ରହିଛି । ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ସଂସ୍କରଣ ଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ଏହାର ପ୍ରାଧାନ୍ୟ, ଆକାର ଓ ସାଜସଜ୍ଜା ବିସ୍ତାରିତ ହୋଇଥିଲା । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର ସଂସ୍କରଣରେ ଯେଉଁ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିବିଶେଷ ନିଜର ବାର୍ତ୍ତା, ଲେଖା ଅବା ସଦିଚ୍ଛା ପ୍ରଦାନପୂର୍ବକ ଯୋଗଦାନ କରିଛନ୍ତି, ସେ ସମସ୍ତ ମହାନୁଭବ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୁଁ ହୃଦୟରୁ କୃତଜ୍ଞତା ଜ୍ଞାପନ କରୁଛି ଏବଂ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତର ସଂସ୍କରଣରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କ ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ଶିଶୁର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ବୌଦ୍ଧିକ ବିକାଶରେ ଅନ୍ତର୍ନିହିତ ରହିଛି ଦେଶ ଓ ଜାତିର ସାମୁହିକ ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥ ଏବଂ ପ୍ରଗତି ଓ ବିକାଶର ମନ୍ତ୍ର । ଶିଶୁଟିର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଏକ ଗୁରୁଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ଓ ତାହା ଶିଶୁର ପିତା ମାତା ଓ ଗୁରୁଙ୍କ ବ୍ୟତିରକେ ଆମ ସମାଜର ମଧ୍ୟ ଏକ ଉତ୍ତରଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ରହିଛି । ଆଜିର ଶିଶୁଟି ଆଗାମୀ ଦିନର ନାଗରିକ । ଶିଶୁଟିକୁ ଅବହେଳା କଲେ ଏକ ଦୁର୍ବଳ ନାଗରିକଟିଏ ଗଢ଼ିଉଠେ ଓ ସେ ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ କାଳରେ ଜନହିତ ଏବଂ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରହିତ ବିରୋଧୀ ହୋଇଥାଏ । ତେଣୁ ଦେଶ ଓ ରାଜ୍ୟର ବୃହତ୍ତର ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥକୁ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରେ ରଖି, ଆସନ୍ତୁ ସମଗ୍ର ସମାଜ ଏକଜୁଟହୋଇ ଶିଶୁର ସୁରକ୍ଷାକୁ ପ୍ରାଥମିକତା ଦେବା ଓ ଏକ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରୂପେ ତାହାକୁ ସମ୍ପାଦନ କରିବା । ଉକ୍ତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକୁ କେବଳ ସରକାର ଅବା କିଛି ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ସୀମିତ ରଖିବା ଏକ ନିହାତି ନିର୍ବୋଧତାର ପରିଚାୟକ ହେବ । କୋମଳମତି ଶିଶୁଟିଏ ଏକ ଅପ୍ରସ୍ଫୁଟିତ ଫୁଲକଢ଼ ସଙ୍ଗେ ସମତୁଲ୍ୟ । କବି କୁନ୍ତଳା କୁମାରୀ ସାବତଙ୍କ ଭାଷାରେ-

ଫୁଟିଲା ଫୁଲକି ଫୁଟେ ଆଉଥରେ,
ଫୁଟେ ସିନା ଫୁଲକଢ଼ି ।।

ଫୁଲକଢ଼ି ରୂପେ ଶିଶୁଟିକୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ରଖିପାରିଲେ ତାହା ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ସମୟରେ ବିକଶିତ ହୁଏ ଏବଂ ନିସନ୍ଦେହରେ ତାହାର ମହକ ଓ ସୁନ୍ଦରତା ଚତୁର୍ଦିଗରେ ବ୍ୟାପି ଏକ ସୁସ୍ଥ ସମାଜ ଗଠନ ସହିତ ଦେଶ ଓ ଜାତିକୁ ଗୌରବାନ୍ୱିତ କରିପାରେ । ବାସ୍ତବରେ ଶିଶୁଟିଏ ଦେଶ ଓ ଜାତିର ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ।

ଶିଶୁଟିକୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପ୍ରଦାନକରିବା ଅର୍ଥ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଓ ଦେଶର ଭବିଷ୍ୟତକୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ କରିବା । ଏହା କହିବା ବାହୁଲ୍ୟ ଯେ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ନାଗରିକର ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ର ଓ ଜାତିପ୍ରତି ଥିବା କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟର ଆୟମାରମ୍ଭ ଶିଶୁର ସୁରକ୍ଷାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହେବା ଉଚିତ୍ । ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପତ୍ରିକା ପ୍ରକାଶନର ମୂଳ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ହେଉଛି ଶିଶୁର ସୁରକ୍ଷା, ପ୍ରତିପାଳନ ଓ ଶିକ୍ଷା ସମ୍ପର୍କୀୟ ସୂଚନା ନାଗରିକମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବିତରଣକରି ସମାଜକୁ ତାହାର ଉତ୍ତରଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ପ୍ରତି ଜାଗ୍ରତ କରାଇବା । ଆଶାକରୁଛି ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପତ୍ରିକାରେ ପ୍ରକାଶିତ ଲେଖା ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ପାଠକମାନଙ୍କ ମନକୁ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳିତ ଓ ହୃଦୟକୁ ସ୍ପର୍ଶ କରିପାରିବ । ସମୟ ଓ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ସହିତ ତାଳଦେଇ ପତ୍ରିକାଟିକୁ e-magazine ରୂପେ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରିବା ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ସର୍ବଜନଆଦୃତ ହେବ । ଅନ୍ତରେ ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ବିଚାରପତି ଜଷ୍ଟିସ୍ ହରିଶ ଟଣ୍ଡନଙ୍କୁ ତାଙ୍କ ନେତୃତ୍ୱ ଓ ଦିଗଦର୍ଶନ ପାଇଁ କୃତଜ୍ଞତା ଜଣାଉଛି । ସେହିଭଳି ସମସ୍ତ ବିଚାରପତି ଭଗିନୀ ଓ ଭାଇମାନଙ୍କୁ ସହଯୋଗ କରିଥିବାରୁ ଅଶେଷ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ଜଣାଉଛି । ସର୍ବୋପରି ଜୁଭେନାଇଲ ଜଷ୍ଟିସ୍ କମିଟି ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷା ଭଗିନୀ ବିଚାରପତି ସାବିତ୍ରୀ ରଥ ମହୋଦୟାଙ୍କୁ, ମୋତେ ସମ୍ପାଦନା ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ତୁଲେଇବା ସୁଯୋଗ ଦେଇଥିବାରୁ , ହୃଦୟରୁ କୃତଜ୍ଞତା ଜଣାଉଛି । ଅବଶେଷରେ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାର, ସମସ୍ତ ସମ୍ମାନନୀୟ ସଚିବଗଣ, ସହଯୋଗ କରୁଥିବା UNICEF, ହାଇକୋର୍ଟର ରେଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରିରେ ଅବସ୍ଥିତ ଅଫିସରଗଣ ଓ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ବା ପରୋକ୍ଷରେ ଜଡ଼ିତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ବିଶେଷଙ୍କୁ ଅନେକ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ।

ବନ୍ଦେ ଉତ୍କଳ ଜନନୀ ।
ଜୟ ଭାରତ ।

HEINOUS CRIMES AND MINOR OFFENDERS: Balancing Reform and Accountability in India's Juvenile Justice System



Justice Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo

The concept of juvenile justice is rooted in the belief that children, by virtue of their age and maturity, deserve a chance at reform rather than retribution. However, this belief has been repeatedly tested in India, especially in the context of heinous crimes committed by adolescents. The public outrage following the 2012 Delhi gang rape (the Nirbhaya case), in which one of the main accused was a juvenile, brought this debate to the fore.

Following the 2012 Nirbhaya Delhi gang rape case a committee chaired by Justice J.S. Verma was formed on 23rd December, 2012 to "look into possible amendments of the Criminal Law to provide for quicker trial and enhanced punishment for criminals committing sexual assault of extreme nature against women." The Justice Verma Committee submitted its report on 23rd January, 2013 in which it declined to recommend reducing the legal age for juvenile delinquents from 18 to 16 years. "We are of the view that the material before is sufficient for us to reach the conclusion that the age of 'juveniles' ought not to be reduced to 16 years."

The legal response to the public outrage came in the form of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 — a watershed moment that fundamentally altered the landscape of juvenile justice in India.

Under the 2015 Act, children aged 16 to 18 years, if accused of heinous offences (punishable with seven years or more), can now be tried as adults after a preliminary assessment by the Juvenile Justice Board. This assessment considers the child's mental and physical capacity to commit such an offence, their ability to understand its consequences, and the circumstances under which the alleged offence was committed.

While this provision may seem to bridge the gap between justice for victims and accountability for juveniles, it opens up a legal and moral tightrope. Is a 16-year-old capable of full criminal intent? Neuroscientific research suggests that adolescent brains are still developing - particularly in areas related to impulse control and long-term reasoning. Punishing them as adults, therefore, may violate the very premise of juvenile justice: that children are inherently capable of change.

Relevant Provisions in the 2015 Act :

The key provisions governing this process are outlined in the following sections of the Act:

- **Section 2(33):** Defines "heinous offences" as offences under the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860) or any other law, punishable with imprisonment of seven years or more.
- **Section 15:** Mandates the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) to conduct a preliminary assessment for juveniles aged 16-18 alleged to have committed a heinous offence. The assessment evaluates the juvenile's mental and physical capacity to commit the offence, their ability to understand its conse quences, and the circumstances surrounding the act.

- **Section 18(3):** Empowers the JJB, after the preliminary assessment, to transfer the case of a juvenile aged 16–18 to the Children's Court for trial as an adult if deemed necessary.
- **Section 19:** Details the powers of the Children's Court, which decides whether to try the juvenile as an adult under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, while ensuring a child-friendly atmosphere and considering the juvenile's special needs. If not tried as an adult, the case is handled as per Section 18. The court must include an individual care plan for rehabilitation and ensure the juvenile is held in a place of safety until age 21, after which they may be transferred to a jail.
- **Section 21:** Prohibits death sentences or life imprisonment without the possibility of release for juve niles, even when tried as adults.
- **Section 24:** Ensures that juveniles tried as adults for heinous offences do not benefit from automatic removal of disqualification (e.g., criminal records), unlike those processed under juvenile provisions.

The process begins when a juvenile aged 16-18 is alleged to have committed a heinous offence, as defined in Section 2(33). The Juvenile Justice Board, comprising a Principal Magistrate and two social workers with expertise in child welfare (Section 4), conducts a preliminary assessment under Section 15.

Evaluation Criteria: The JJB assesses the juvenile's mental and physical capacity, understanding of the offence's consequences, and the context of the crime (e.g., premeditation, external influence). This may involve inputs from psychologists, social workers, or other experts.

Decision-Making: If the JJB determines the juvenile acted with an "adult-like" mindset, it may transfer the case to the Children's Court under Section 18(3). If the juvenile is deemed to have acted as a "child," the case is handled within the juvenile justice system, with rehabilitative measures like counselling or placement in a special home (Section 18(1)).

Children's Court Process: Under Section 19, the Children's Court, typically a Sessions Court designated for this purpose, decides whether to proceed with an adult trial, adhering to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, while maintaining a child-friendly environment. The court considers the juvenile's age, needs, and rehabilitation plan. If convicted, the juvenile is placed in a place of safety until age 21, after which they may be transferred to an adult jail, with continued access to reformative services like education and counselling.

Concerns:

1. **Conflict with International Standards:** The provision contradicts the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), ratified by India in 1992, which emphasizes treating children differently from adults and prioritizing rehabilitation over punishment. India's position thus invites international scrutiny.

Why does our position attract international scrutiny? It attracts scrutiny because India has ratified the UNCRC and should not deviate from the principles laid down in the said instrument.

The Supreme Court of India in Gramophone Company of India Ltd. Vs. Birendra Bahadur Pandey had held that "There can be no question that nations must march with the international community and the Municipal law must respect rules of International law even as nations respect international opinion. The comity of Nations requires that Rules of International law may be accommodated in the Municipal Law even without express legislative sanction provided they do not run into conflict with Acts of Parliament."

The Supreme Court in Safai Karamchari Andolan and Ors. Vs. Union of India (UOI) and Ors. held that, "...provisions of the International Covenants, which have been ratified by India, are binding to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the provisions of the domestic law."

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the defines children as **"For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier."**

In India the age of Majority is prescribed under Section 3 of The Majority Act, 1875, which states, "Age of majority of persons domiciled in India.- (1) Every person domiciled in India shall attain the age of majority on his completing the age of eighteen years and not before."

India's statutory recognition of the age of majority to be 18 years and its ratification of the UNCRC renders the 2015 Act's exception for 16-18-year-olds results in contravention of its international obligations. By permitting adult prosecution of juveniles despite ratifying the UNCRC—an instrument the Supreme Court holds binding when domestic law aligns-the process becomes violative of Article 1 of UNCRC and also fundamentally undermines the Convention's core rehabilitative ethos. This deviation raises significant questions about its alignment with the UNCRC's commitment to protecting and reforming young offenders, potentially compromising their rights and future societal reintegration.

The Act, nevertheless includes some measures aligned with the UNCRC, such as prohibiting the death penalty or life imprisonment without possibility of release for juveniles (Section 21 of the Act) and requiring a preliminary assessment before transfer to adult courts. Proponents might argue that this provision balances public safety with child rights, addressing societal demands for accountability in cases of serious crimes.

However, these safeguards do not fully mitigate the shift toward a punitive/ retributive approach, which contrasts with the UNCRC's rehabilitative focus.

II. Ambiguity in Preliminary Assessment: The criteria for assessing a juvenile's "mental and physical capacity" and "ability to understand consequences" (Section 15 of the Act) lack clear guidelines, leading to subjective interpretations. The absence of standardized psychological tools or training for JJB members can result in inconsistent decisions, with some juveniles unfairly transferred to adult courts. This raises concerns of arbitrariness and uncertainty, particularly when societal pressure demands "exemplary punishment."

The provision's reliance on subjective assessments further undermines its fairness, potentially leading to disproportionate outcomes for disadvantaged juveniles.

III. Risk of Stigmatization and Recidivism: Transferring juveniles to adult courts, where records are retained (Section 24), violates the Act's principle of non-stigmatizing semantics (Section 3(viii)). Exposure to adult criminal environments may increase recidivism, as adult incarceration often fails to rehabilitate young offenders, potentially entrenching criminal behavior.

A child tried as an adult is often placed in adult correctional facilities after turning 21, exposing them to hardened criminals and reducing chances of reformation. Moreover, the punitive approach disproportionately affects juveniles from marginalized backgrounds who lack legal and psychological support systems. Many juveniles committing heinous offences come from marginalized backgrounds where poverty, lack of education, and exposure to abuse often drive such behavior. Thus, the provision tends to have a disproportionate impact on Vulnerable Groups.

Broader Implications:

The 2012 Delhi case, while a catalyst, may have led to a reactive policy that overlooks the developmental differences between juveniles and adults. The provision reflects a tension between punitive public sentiment and the rehabilitative ethos of juvenile justice. While it addresses societal demands for accountability, it risks prioritizing retribution over reform, potentially alienating vulnerable youth.

The Act marks a significant shift from the reformative theory of punishment that has traditionally guided the nation's juvenile justice system. Historically, this system has emphasized rehabilitation and reintegration, aiming to transform young offenders into responsible citizens through education, counseling, and community-based interventions rather than merely punishing them. However, the new provision allowing juveniles aged 16-18 to be tried as adults for heinous offenses crimes punishable by seven or more years of imprisonment—introduces a notable departure from this approach.

While the intent may be to deter serious juvenile crime and ensure justice for victims, this shift risks undermining the rehabilitative ethos by exposing young offenders to the adult criminal justice system, which lacks the tools to address their developmental needs. Critics argue that such punitive measures may increase recidivism and neglect the underlying causes of juvenile delinquency, challenging the balance between holding juveniles accountable and fostering their potential for growth and positive societal contribution.

So where does the solution lie? It may lie in strengthening rehabilitation systems rather than simply widening the net of adult trial. Specialized child psychologists, trained probation officers, and robust aftercare programs must be institutionalized. India must resist the impulse to mirror adult justice in juvenile cases and instead invest in long-term solutions that focus on reform, not retribution.

In walking the legal tightrope of heinous offences committed by juveniles, Indian policy makers and stakeholders of the judicial system must not lose sight of the fact that these are still children complex, impressionable, and often victims of their own circumstances. True justice lies not in how harshly we punish them, but in how effectively we can transform them.

This philosophy resonates with the broader rehabilitative theory that underpins juvenile justice globally—the aim being to take the child out of the system of correction and rehabilitate him in the society, so that the child remains embedded within social structures rather than being alienated by institutionalization. By prioritizing reintegration over punishment, this approach acknowledges the developmental malleability of children and their capacity for reform, especially when supported through community-based interventions and restorative frameworks.

CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN



Justice Sashikanta Mishra

The boy of today is the man of tomorrow! If the child is reared well and taken care of, he shall, in all probability, grow into a complete human adult and a useful member of the society. Conversely, a child that is neglected and uncared for, more often than not, steps on to a disturbed adulthood. Taking due and proper care of children is a human imperative that all civilizations and cultures the world over have acknowledged and respected at all times. In fact, it is a trait inherent in all living beings to care of their offspring and to protect them from all possible dangers. An old Sanskrit saying (loosely translated) goes like this – upto the fifth year, the son (child) has to be loved, up to the tenth year give him good education like a disciplinarian; after the sixteenth year treat him like your friend.

That said, the following instances may be considered:

i. A woman holding an infant in her arms begs for alms in a busy intersection of the city on a hot summer day
ii. A working couple engages a child, barely out of infancy, to care for their infant while they go to work
iii. A Dhaba owner employs a young child to clean the premises, utensils, cater to customers and also help in cooking
iv. A couple brands its infant with a red-hot iron rod to cure its illness and to ward off evil influences
v. A gang of criminals engage young children to commit heinous crimes dealing with narcotics and psychotropic substances having regard to the maximum punishment that may be imposed on them as per the Juvenile Justice Act.

Shocking as they may be, these serious violations of all canons of law are commonplace incidents. These violate not only the scriptural injunctions but also the ideals enshrined in the Constitution and different statutes, primary among them being the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (JJ Act). In fact, the very enactment of the JJ Act may be said to be an institutional acknowledgement of the ground realities relating to children. The statement of objects and reasons of the JJ Act notes, with some concern, that the previous law (JJ Act of 2000) with its amendments in 2006 and 2011 could not satisfactorily tackle the problems relating to children and thus the need for a new legislation, inter alia, to "xxx provide for general principles for care and protection of children, procedures in case of children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law, rehabilitation and social re-integration measures for such children xxxx". The new legislation was intended to "xxxx ensure proper care, protection, development, treatment and social re-integration of children in difficult circumstances by adopting a child-friendly approach keeping in view the best interest of the child in mind." Pious intent indeed! In fact, the JJ Act of 2015 has a whole chapter (Chapter-9, Sections 74 to 89) devoted to offences against children. There is now a statutory recognition of not only the problem but also the solutions that might be had.

Sadly, the intended result has perhaps not materialized as would be evident from the illustrations referred before. Needless to mention, all of the aforesaid illustrations would tantamount to commission of one or

more of the offences mentioned in the above provisions. Violations of the provisions are legion. Enforcement has not proved fully effective. This is because lack of awareness is at the root of the malady. For instance, the parents branding their own child with hot iron rod or the woman using the child as a prop to beg or a parent justifying his decision to entrust his child to a dhaba owner citing poverty, in all probability, do not have inkling that their actions are against the law of the land and could land them in prison. This is why, enforcement by way of penal actions, per se, may not work in the long run.

Any enforcement sans awareness of the law would ultimately prove meaningless. A two-pronged approach is necessary – enforcement with awareness could be an effective tool to tackle the problem leading thereby to a meaningful implementation of the JJ Act. Apart from the State, through its concerned departments and agencies and the Juvenile Justice Committees of the High Court, the legal services institutions of the state (OSLSA, DLSA, TLSC) can also play a major role in fostering awareness, particularly at the community level. If such efforts could be sustained, there is no reason why the intended object of the JJ Act cannot be achieved in the long run.

CHILD SAFETY - SOCIETAL OBLIGATIONS WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON ANCIENT INDIAN CULTURE.

"Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."

- Nelson Mandela



Justice A.K. Mohapatra

INTRODUCTION

All great civilizations of the past and all the developed nations of the modern era are built upon the active contribution of good citizens. Yet, the concept of "good citizens" is an unrealistic dream which cannot be achieved unless we as a society lay emphasis on the care, education, and protection of its children. After all, today's child will become tomorrow's responsible citizen who shall drive this great nation to even greater heights. As Nelson Mandela, the great statesman, the former President of South Africa, and a human and civil rights champion who had helped South Africa win its battle over apartheid, rightly observed, "***The true character of a society is revealed in how it treats its children.***"

Children are the true growth engine of a country. Unless they are cared for and nurtured properly from birth, no nation can hope to realize its aspirations. In the context of the present topic, we shall discuss and analyze how our society plays a vital role in ensuring child safety by fostering environments that protect children from harm and support their well-being through shared responsibility, education, vigilant support networks, and coordinated intervention systems. Despite several laws being enacted by the Indian Parliament with regard to the safety, care and protection of children, unless the society in general remains vigilant and takes up the issues of child abuse seriously, it would be difficult to achieve the desired objective. Thus, it can be said without any hesitation that the society in general has a major role to play in

child safety matters by fostering environments that protect children, support their well-being, and preserve our cultural values.

Shared responsibility

Child safety is a collective duty, involving not only parents, relatives and families but every individual and institution that interacts with children. Community partnerships—with parents, schools, healthcare providers, agencies, and neighbours—extend responsibility and improve the ability to respond to risks and incidents of abuse or neglect and eventually reducing the number of such cases and thereby taking the first step towards a healthy society.

Education & Awareness

Besides the steps taken by the Governmental agencies, the Society in collaboration with various frontline social workers and Non-Governmental agencies can promote child protection by organizing workshops, seminars, and distributing educational materials that raise awareness about abuse prevention and safety measures. These educational initiatives help children, parents, and the wider community recognize, prevent, and act against maltreatment. The Society also plays a role to report such cases of child right abuse to the Courts/ Boards/ Authorities and help them to take immediate measures to protect such children against any kind of abuse by taking shelter under the legal umbrella.

Creating Safe Environments

Communities, such as schools, play grounds, religious places, community centres and other public places that implement strict safety policies and encourage children to voice their concerns openly and without fear, are crucial when it comes to establishing safe physical and social spaces. Neighbourhood watch groups and after-school programs contribute further to maintaining secure environments. In other words, while creating safe environments for our children it is pertinent that they remain under the scanner of the society without any kind of discrimination. Any unusual development or deviation involving a child should not only be promptly reported to the authorities designated for the purpose, but such authorities must then act smartly and with promptitude without any unnecessary delay. Children thrive in secure and child-friendly spaces which reduce the risk of child safety to a substantial extent.

Support Systems and Resources

In the Indian context, our experience tells us that majority of child rights abuse cases, sexual atrocities on minor girls and child in conflict with law (CICL) cases are due to the complete ignorance, negligence and lack of understanding of the parents and/or guardians. Often, broken or disturbed families, and parents that are absent – either in connection with earning livelihood for the family –lead to scenarios where the child is deprived of the parents' supervision and guidance. Such lack of vigilance either leads to abuse of children or the children coming into contact with the misguided elements of the society. In such cases, the Society is required to provide critical support for families through resources like parenting classes, creating awareness, mental health services, housing, food assistance, and counselling. Social service agencies and volunteers also play a crucial role in providing intervention and support to children in high-risk situations, including cases of abuse, poverty, or neglect.

Reporting and Intervention

One of the greatest challenges to child-safety in India is underreporting, particularly in cases involving girls, where stigma often silences victims and their families. To overcome this, social workers, educated persons of the locality, NGOs, community members and the society at large must be encouraged to report suspected abuse or neglect. We must promote anonymous and accessible reporting channels which facilitate greater participation of our society in safeguarding children. The issue of underreporting of instances of child abuse in our country is particularly severe when it comes to girls. Insofar as young girls are concerned, a social taboo is attached to the victim and her family. Coordinated interventions at the community level involving diverse stakeholders — e.g., schools, health care providers, law enforcement, and social services — ensure prompt and effective response whenever there is an instance of child abuse. It is of paramount consideration that the every responsible citizen must think of and treat every child as his/her own and he/she should act in the way he/she would have, had it been his/her own child and report the matter to the local authority or law enforcement agency.

Building Social Bonding & Mutual Trust

Herein, I would like to draw the attention of the reader to the social fabric of ancient Indian civilization. In the earlier times, families were closely connected through a well-developed strong social structure. In villages, hamlets, localities families knew each other well and t maintained bonds of mutual trust. Here, I place specific emphasis on the social bond that was existing among the families living in a particular locality, in the ancient times. Such close bonding and mutual trust acted as a natural deterrent against child abuse, as the welfare of every child was regarded as a shared responsibility. Unfortunately, now-a-days, such bonding and mutual trust is fast eroding. Thus, it is imperative to rebuild trust and mutual reciprocity within neighbourhoods which would eventually help reduce child abuse. After all, communities that support each other are more proactive in preventing harm and assisting families in crisis. Successful children-centric social initiatives across the world demonstrate that fostering such collective responsibility is one of the most effective ways to reduce child abuse.

REVISITING ANCIENT INDIAN CULTURE & TRADITION

In ancient India, the societal responsibility of child safety was deeply embedded in cultural, religious, and communal practices, with strong emphasis on protection, nurturing, and right conduct. Ancient texts such as the Vedas and *Manusmriti* clearly articulated the moral and ethical duty of both the family and the society at large in safeguarding children. The joint family system, that was more prevalent in the ancient times, provided foundational safety since extended relatives collectively nurtured and protected children, preventing neglect and ensuring emotional bonding. Various rituals (*saṁskāras*) guided child development from conception through adolescence, which intense societal attention to health and moral upbringing.

- **Education and Socialization;**

The *Gurukula* system, which was the cornerstone of education in ancient India, institutionalized education and moral instruction, with gurus responsible for both academic and personal safety of students. Education was seen as a societal right and duty and parents could be punished by the king for denying education to children, signalling children as assets of the nation. Children's

welfare was prioritized via strict guidance in manners, skills, and values like truthfulness, respect, and self-restraint.

- **Collective and Community Role;**

In tribal and rural communities, child safety was the concern of all members—through collective responsibility, collective breastfeeding practices, and kinship networks, children's protection was ensured beyond just parental care. Community elders and local leaders acted as guardians and arbitrators, resolving conflicts and safeguarding vulnerable children.

- **Gender and Social Hierarchies;**

Societal protections sometimes varied with gender and caste; boys received particular spiritual and educational attention, while girls' protection and education depended on the period and local customs. Nevertheless, ancient legal codes condemned neglect and maltreatment of children, and legendary stories often imparted lessons regarding compassion, justice, and children's rights.

In essence, ancient Indian society's approach to child safety was holistic—blending family, education, religion, and local community to raise and protect children in a structured, supportive environment. In the Vedic civilization much emphasis was laid on protection of women, children and the elderly. The Vedas play a crucial role in child protection by emphasizing the spiritual, moral, and physical well-being of children through principles embedded in parenting, education, and societal care.

Important Principles of Child Protection Enshrined in The Vedas

The Vedas offer a holistic vision of child protection, blending spiritual, moral, and practical safeguards. Children were seen as divine trusts, to be nurtured with values, rituals, education, and community care, ensuring their growth into responsible and virtuous adults.

- **Spiritual and Moral Development;**

The Vedas affirm the presence of the divine (*Brahman*) within every child (*jivatman*), inspiring a sense of self-worth, purity, and purpose, which guides children towards righteous living and virtuous conduct.

- **Raising Children with Values;**

Vedic teachings encourage raising children in a gentle environment, stressing on moral values, good habits, respect for elders, kindness, and self-discipline, avoiding harsh punishments or cruelty.

- ***Samskaras* (Rituals);**

The Vedas prescribe 16 *samskaras*—life-cycle ceremonies—that promote physical health, mental strength, and social responsibility, marking critical stages in a child's life for holistic care and protection.

- **Parental Responsibilities;**

Vedic culture considers motherhood and fatherhood sacred duties, emphasizing care, nurturing, and protection, with strict admonitions against practices like abortion except to save the mother's life.

- **Educational Safeguards;**

Children were sent to *gurukulas* where male and female gurus taught boys and girls separately, ensuring a safe educational environment promoting intellectual and ethical growth.

Societal Protection;

The Vedas recognize the protection of children as vital for human life's continuation and liberation from material bondage; children are among those specially safeguarded in Vedic society alongside women, brahmanas, cows, and elders.

These Vedic principles show that child protection was not a private concern but a sacred duty shared by parents, teachers, and society. By emphasizing values, rituals, and community responsibility, the Vedas established a timeless framework for safeguarding childhood.

Vedic Prescriptions on Protection of Girl Child

The Vedas, which are amongst the oldest scriptures of India, lay down clear principles for the protection and education of girls. Far from neglecting them, these texts emphasized their dignity, safety, and role in shaping society. Through dedicated education, rituals, and community safeguards, girls were provided with both intellectual opportunities and protective measures during vulnerable stages of life. The responsibility of ensuring their well-being rested not only with parents but also with the wider community, reflecting a collective duty to nurture and safeguard the girl child.

- **Education for Girls;**

The Vedas advocate for universal education, and girls were given instruction by female gurus in separate *gurukulas*, ensuring safe and proper learning environments. Educated girls were highly valued, and ancient hymns confirm that daughters who completed their studies should marry learned men, promoting intellectual compatibility and respect.

- **Respect and Veneration;**

Girls and women were regarded with veneration in Vedic culture, and their education was considered crucial for the continuation and progress of society. Protective measures were emphasized for girls during vulnerable stages such as adolescence and marriage.

- **Protection During Adolescence;**

The *Atharva Veda* recognizes that girls at the cusp of maturity require "protective hand holding" akin to societal guardianship to prevent them from being led astray, highlighting community responsibility in safeguarding young females.

- **Samskaras (Rituals);**

The Vedic lifecycle rituals included special ceremonies marking important stages for girls, ensuring they received spiritual, physical, and social protection and blessings throughout childhood and adolescence.

- **Parental and Social Duty;**

Fathers and society were responsible for protecting girls until marriage, after which husbands assumed protection duties. The protection was both physical and moral, ensuring girls had safe reputations and well-being.

In summation, the Vedas provide a comprehensive framework that blends spiritual ideals, family duties, education, and community protection to ensure children grow safely, morally upright, and with a strong sense of purpose.

Rules for Girl Children in *Gurukulas*

The *Gurukula* system in ancient India emphasized not only learning but also safety and discipline for young girls. Recognizing their unique vulnerabilities, specific rules were framed to ensure protection, modesty, and order within these institutions. From female wardens and strict codes of conduct

to lessons in self-defence, *Gurukulas* created an environment where girls could study with confidence and dignity.

- **Supervision and Staffing:**

Gurukulas typically appointed female wardens or caretakers especially for girls' hostels or residential areas to ensure their safety and privacy.

- **Dress Code and Appearance:**

Girls were required to wear modest clothing, keep hair neat (either tied or plaited), avoid makeup, nail paint, and flashy jewellery to maintain decorum and reduce distractions or vulnerabilities.

- **Behavioural Discipline:**

Girls had to maintain respectful behaviour, avoid bullying or foul language, and adhere to strict movement protocols between classes or activities, often moving in silence and in controlled groups.

- **Restricted Contact:**

For protection, interaction of young females with outsiders were limited and monitored. Young women, who were under guardianship of an elder, were asked to report to authorities if lest unsupervised or during delays.

- **Self-Defense Training:**

Some traditional *Gurukulas*, like the '*Panini Kanya Mahavidyalaya*' in Varanasi, taught girls martial arts, archery, and other self-defence skills to empower them against any possible threat.

- **Prohibition of Valuables:**

Young girls were often restricted from bringing valuables or other lavish personal belongings within the *Gurukula* environment, so as to avoid theft or misuse thereof.

- **Cleanliness and Hygiene:**

Rules emphasized personal hygiene such as clean and trimmed nails, brushing teeth twice daily and overall neatness to promote health and discipline.

As we can see, the rules for girls in *Gurukulas* reflected a balance of care, discipline, and empowerment. By stressing supervision, hygiene, modesty, and even martial training, these institutions ensured that education was paired with safety and resilience. Such practices underline a timeless truth: safeguarding girls' education has always been a collective duty, and it remains so today.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing discussion makes it clear that Indian culture and tradition placed a profound responsibility on society to safeguard children. Such an onerous responsibility was being once diligently upheld and well discharged by the society as a whole. Today although modern India has witnessed remarkable growth, the influence of Western culture and centuries of foreign rule disconnected us from our roots, leading to a loss of cultural continuity and identity, but we cannot deny the Indian society was progressive and advanced in the ancient days. We owe our origin and identity to our culture, tradition and civilization. We were forced by foreign invaders to disconnect with our past and loose our identity. For the progress of our nation we have to revisit our ancient culture, tradition and civilizational practices which had brought us success and prosperity. Here I do not recommend that we should follow the cultural, traditional and civilizational practices of our wise ancestors blindly, but we cannot afford to completely ignore it either. Our society, which is unique in nature, owes its existence to its roots which is embedded in our great scriptures and teachings. Indubitably, such scriptures, teachings and practices laid emphasis on child care, nurturing and their safety at the hands of the society as a whole. The need of the time is to re-awaken the society's conscience and re-establish this shared responsibility by implementing various measures across all levels, so that we can ensure child safety in our country. Once we do that successfully, India can once again emerge as one of the foremost nations of the world, reclaiming the glory of its heritage while securing a brighter future for its children. In the end, I would once again like to quote the Nelson Mandela;

> ***"Let us reach out to the children. Let us do whatever we can to support their fight to rise above their pain and suffering."***
>
> — Nelson Mandela

JUVENILE JUSTICE IN INDIA: Navigating Law, Compassion, and Reform



Justice V. Narasingh, Judge,
High Court of Orissa

From bustling city streets to remote villages, India's youth constitute nearly one-third of the nation's population. When a minor steps across the lines of legality, society faces a profound challenge: how to balance accountability with the promise of rehabilitation. "*The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members,*" Mahatma Gandhi famously observed. Nowhere is that maxim more urgent than in our juvenile justice system, where the stakes are nothing less than a child's future closely intertwined with that of the Nation.

I. Tracing the Roots: From Colonial Apprenticeship to Welfare Legislation

During the Ancient times the Hindu kings were following the religious precepts of various Smriti, basically the Manu Smriti for the administration of the state. The Arthasastra is a valuable source recording justice administration. It says:

"मन्दापराधंबालंवृद्धंव्याधितंमत्तमुन्मत्तंश्रुत्पिपासाध्वक्लान्तमत्या
शितमाम काशितंदुर्वलंवानकर्मकारयेत् । १४।"

Chanakya specifically exempted minors from torture, only those about whom there is a strong presumption of guilt shall be tortured [to elicit a confession]. The following shall not be tortured: those suspected of minor offences; minors; the aged; the sick; the debilitated; those in a drunken state; the insane; those suffering from hunger, thirst or fatigue after a long journey; those who have eaten too much; and those who have already confessed.[i]

India's first colonial statute addressing young offenders-the Apprentices Act of 1850-treated children who committed minor infractions as apprentices rather than criminal[ii]. This rudimentary notion of reform foreshadowed a gradual shift from punitive containment to welfare-based care. The Children Act of 1920 and subsequent state laws such as the Bengal and Madras Children Acts introduced special procedures for neglected and delinquent minors, yet offered scant resources for genuine rehabilitation.[iii]

The post-Independence era brought a constitutional imperative: Articles 39(e) and (f), along with Directive Principles under Articles 45 and 47, demanded state action to protect childhood and youth[iv]. The Children Act of 1960 formalized separate procedures for offenders under sixteen, but its sparse guidance and limited institutional capacity constrained its reach. Overcrowded remand homes and inconsistent oversight rendered the dream of child-friendly justice elusive.

A watershed came in 1986 when Parliament enacted the Juvenile Justice Act, integrating the United Nations' Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules) into domestic law[v]. For the first time, non-custodial alternatives-probation, community service, foster cares were enshrined as default responses wherever feasible. "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men,

" Frederick Douglass had declared, and this Act strove, however haltingly, to translate that wisdom into law and practice.

II. The 2000 Act: Embracing Child Rights and Restorative Principles

During the Ancient times the Hindu kings were following the religious precepts of various Smriti, basically the Manu Smriti for the administration of the state. The Arthasastra is a valuable source recording justice administration. It says:

The turn of the millennium witnessed India's renewed commitment to juvenile welfare. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, widened the net covering observation homes, special homes, and after-care shelters, mandating that every child receive an Individual Care Plan drafted by probation officers and social workers[vi]. By defining a "child in conflict with law" as any person under sixteen, the statute aimed to keep minors out of adult penal regimes.

Yet, the 2000 Act's promise of holistic care collided with reality. Resource deficits hampered the very institutions it created. Many homes remained under-staffed, lacked educational programs, and offered little psychological counseling. In the Supreme Court's landmark Pratap Singh v. State of Jharkhand decision, the Court underscored that juvenility must be determined by age at the time of the offence-a reaffirmation that process must serve substance[vii]. Yet marginalized children, deprived of robust social services, often languished in an overburdened system.

Justice Altamas Kabir captured the 2000 Act's ethos: "The essence of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, is restorative and not retributive, providing for rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with law into mainstream society"[viii]. For that spirit to flourish, legislature, judiciary, and civil society would need to grow hand in hand.

III. The 2015 Act: Refinement, Uniformity, and Preliminary Assessment

The tragic 2012 Delhi gang rape, which involved three juveniles was the catalyst for national awakening. Critics decried the existing law's inability to deal with heinous crimes committed by older minors. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 was enacted standardizing the age threshold at under eighteen for all genders and introducing Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) alongside Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) in every district[ix].

Most controversially, the 2015 Act empowered JJBs to conduct a preliminary assessment for offenders aged sixteen to eighteen accused of heinous crimes, evaluating their mental and physical maturity, understanding of consequences, and potential for rehabilitation[x]. That assessment determines whether a minor faces trial as an adult or within the child-friendly system. While critics warned of a slippery slope toward blanket adultification, Parliament insisted that public safety and developmental science must both guide the law. Further the term "*child in conflict with law*" was also coined.

The 2015 Act further codified diversionary measures, mandating community service, apology letters, and family conferences. Automatic expunction of records upon majority-subject to narrow exceptions aimed to shield rehabilitated youth from lifelong stigma. As the Supreme Court held in Dr. Subramanian Swamy v. Raju, juvenile justice enjoys primacy over punishing statutes, reinforcing that nurturing potential outweighs inflicting punishment[xi].

IV. Judicial Landmarks: Principled Protections and Procedural Safeguards

Over decades, India's Supreme Court has steered juvenile jurisprudence toward child-centered justice. In ***Sheela Barse v. Union of India,*** the Court decried the mingling of minors with adult prison populations and mandated separate facilities, insisting that "treatment shall be such as to promote reformation and social rehabilitation"[xii].

In Abuzar Hossain @ Gulam Hossain v. State of West Bengal, the Court underscored that pleas of juvenility could be raised at any stage-even post-conviction - guarding against hyper-technical denials[xiii]. The reasoning was clear: a minor's right to the protective regime is fundamental and non-waivable by procedural lapses. Most recently, in **Om Prakash @ Israel @ Raju Das v. State of Uttarakhand (2025)** dramatized the stakes when an individual, convicted as an adult, languished years in special homes despite documentary evidence of his age. The Supreme Court ordered immediate release and compensation; it held that procedural defaults—failure to conduct medical age tests and social investigations-trumped formalities, as "substantive justice must eclipse procedural formalism"[xiv].

These decisions have cemented four guiding principles: age at offence, speedy resolution, liberal evidentiary standards for juvenility, and a presumption in favor of rehabilitation. Yet application remains uneven, and every new case reveals both progress and the system's fragility.

V. The New Frontier: 2024–2025 Case Studies

In ***Bipul Kumar v. State of Rajasthan (2025),*** a JJB's decision to try a seventeen-year-old for multiple homicide as an adult was upheld by the Rajasthan High Court. The judgment emphasized that when premeditation and grievous bodily harm converge, public safety considerations may justify adult trial-but not without careful maturity analysis*. Contrast this with the so-called "Pune Porsche Case." A JJB declined the state's plea to adultify a minor who, while intoxicated, fatally struck two pedestrians. Citing Supreme Court guidelines that "heinous" entails minimum sentences of seven years, the Board-and later the Bombay High Court-held that absence of such mandatory punishment precluded adult trial[xvi]. The decision sparked public outrage yet underscored the law's textual boundaries.

In **Lokesh Kumar v. State of Chhattisgarh (2025),** the Supreme Court quashed a character certificate that disclosed juvenile adjudication, reinforcing Section 24's promise of confidentiality and record expunction. Justice practice was crystal: a rehabilitated youth should not be haunted by past missteps[xvii]. In **Rahul Kumar Yaday v. State of Bihar (2024)** spotlighted courts' tendency toward hyper-technical evidence demands. The Supreme Court admonished magistrates for summarily rejecting juvenility pleas over minor discrepancies in birth certificates, reminding them that medical and radiological tests, along with terminological latitude, can vindicate bona fide claims[xviii].

These rulings reveal a dynamic transaction: ensuring due process and protecting society without sacrificing youthful potential on the altar of procedure.

VI. Systemic Hurdles: Resource Gaps and Attitudinal Barriers

A robust statute and enlightened judgments cannot alone guarantee transformation; implementation is the litmus test. Observation homes and special institutions languish under chronic overcrowding and staff shortages. The number of psychological counsellors, probation officers, and vocational trainers are woefully inadequate. The result: individualized care plans often remain aspirational rather than actual.

Police personnel, unversed in child-rights protocols, may interrogate minors without guardians or commit rights violations through coercion. Many magistrates and JJB members receive no formal induction on juvenile jurisprudence, resulting in uneven outcomes across districts. Meanwhile, sensational media coverage-blithely naming minors and highlighting gruesome details-erodes confidentiality and stigmatizes before trial. As journalist Shane Bauer cautioned, "Children are not adults, and that is precisely why we have a juvenile justice system." Yet attitudes lag behind statutes.

Equally, post-release aftercare programs are patchy. Without stable housing, vocational pathways, and psychosocial support, many juveniles re-enter environments that predispose them to recidivism. Despite the 2015 Act's promise, coordination between Child Care Institutions (CCIs), skill-development agencies, and employers remains ad hoc.

VII. Towards Sensitization: Cultivating Empathy and Expertise

Transforming the juvenile justice ecosystem demands more than periodic legal amendments; it requires cultivating empathy, expertise, and shared responsibility at every level. Sensitization efforts must weave together formal training, community engagement, technological innovation, and incentive structures so that every actor- from judge to journalist- embraces the restorative ethos of the Juvenile Justice Act.

Mandatory, Interactive Training for All Stakeholders: Judges, JJB members, probation officers, police personnel, and CWC members should undergo recurring, scenario-based workshops led by child psychologists, social workers, and restorative justice experts covering trauma-informed interviewing, diversionary options, and the primacy of rehabilitation[xix,xx]

Institutionalizing Training in Police Academies and Judicial Colleges: Juvenile justice modules must be embedded in every State Police Academy and Judicial Academy curriculum, ensuring cadets and officers complete certified courses on international child-rights norms and non-coercive investigative techniques before deployment.[xxi]

Immersive Cross-Sector Fellowships: Short-term fellowships placing magistrates, police officers, and probation officers within observation homes, special homes, and NGOs provide first-hand exposure to real world challenges- overcrowding, psychosocial struggles, and after-care gaps-igniting personal commitment and pragmatic policy insights.[xix]

Technology-Enabled Learning Platforms: Interactive e-learning portals and mobile apps featuring video scenarios, quizzes, and discussion forums ensure uniform access to best practices, case precedents, and SOPs even in remote districts.[xxii]

Judicial Sensitization Retreats: Annual retreats for High Court judges overseeing child-rights matters facilitate peer learning, reflection on emerging jurisprudence, and strategizing on regional implementation bottlenecks, strengthening coherence across benches[xxiii].

Media Accountability and Recognition Programs: Collaborating with the Press Council of India to update guidelines on juvenile reporting- mandating anonymity, contextual framing, and balanced narratives- alongside annual awards for empathetic coverage incentivizes transformative storytelling[xx].

Grassroots Champions and Community Dialogues: Empowering local Child Protection Committees-comprising panchayat leaders, educators, youth volunteers, and NGO representatives-to host village-level "justice circles" builds awareness of diversionary measures like family conferencing and victim-offender mediation before cases escalate.

Youth Advisory Councils: District-level councils of reformed juveniles, trained facilitators, and social workers channel first-hand insights into policy discussions and JJB reviews, ensuring the system remains responsive to adolescents' lived experiences.

Corporate and CSR Partnerships for Aftercare: Leveraging Mandatory CSR provisions to fund vocational training, micro-enterprise grants, and transitional housing through MOUs between companies and CCIs secures apprenticeship slots and mentorship under CSR Schedule VII initiatives.[xxiv]

Accreditation, Monitoring, and Incentive Frameworks: A nationally standardized accreditation system for CCIS and JJBs-evaluating infrastructure norms, staff training, and outcome metrics (e.g., recidivism rates, educational attainment)- coupled with performance grants and public recognition fosters healthy competition.[xxii]

Data-Driven Research Collaborations: Partnerships with universities and think tanks to conduct longitudinal studies on juvenile justice outcomes guide iterative policy refinements and targeted resource allocation.

Digital Legal Aid and Helpline Apps: A 24×7 helpline and mobile application offering multilingual legal information, real-time case tracking, and direct counselling by child-rights lawyers reduces information asymmetry and empowers vulnerable juveniles and families[xxi].

By weaving these strategies into an integrated sensitization framework-backed by statutory mandates, institutional incentives, and civil-society partnerships-India can ensure its juvenile justice system transcends mechanical procedures and truly champions the potential of every child.

VIII. Learning from Beyond Borders: Comparative Insights

While India's juvenile justice journey is distinct, global experiences offer instructive parallels. In Norway, a welfare-funded rehabilitation model emphasizes community-based psychosocial support[xxv]. The UK's Youth Offending Teams exemplify multi-agency collaboration, while restorative justice circles in New Zealand highlight victim-informed resolutions[xxvi].

Selective adaptation-enhanced community integration, outcome-oriented monitoring, and cross-sectorial coordination—can enrich India's approach.

IX. The Imperative of Reform: Moral, Legal, and Social Stakes

"Punishing young offenders without providing them with the necessary support and guidance is a recipe for failure, "Kareem Abdul-Jabbar reminds us. Juvenile justice is not merely a legal construct but a moral crucible in which society's values are tested. When Parliament, courts, and communities align around the conviction that no youth should be written off, the juvenile justice system transforms from a ledger of infractions into a ladder of possibility. India stands at an inflection point. A well-resourced, sensitized, and rights-centered juvenile justice ecosystem can break cycles of crime, uplift marginalized communities, and affirm every child's dignity. As civil-rights activist John Lewis declared, "The goal of juvenile justice should not be to simply punish young offenders, but to rehabilitate them and provide them with the tools they need to build a better future for themselves and their communities."

X. Conclusion: Restoring Hope, Reclaiming Futures

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and a lineage of landmark judgments have etched a progressive blueprint for India's approach to young offenders. Yet laws live in lived realities, and their promise endures only insofar as practitioners, policymakers, and citizens breathe life into them. Sensitization- from courtroom workshops to community dialogues must ignite a paradigm shift that regards every juvenile not as a case file but as a child brimming with potential.

"No society can prosper without caring for its children," warns Marian Wright Edelman. By marrying legal rigor with restorative compassion, and by reinforcing institutional capacity with grassroots empathy, India can ensure its juvenile justice system symbolizes neither indulgence nor draconian retribution, but a pledge: that in the crucible of mistakes, every young life deserves a second chance.

Endnotes

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SISHU SURAKHYA

CRY— BEYOND BOUNDARY



Justice Murahari Sri Raman

The concept of a "child in need of care and protection" (CNCP) encompasses a broad spectrum of vulnerable children who require societal intervention to ensure their well-being and development. These children are often marginalized due to their socio-economic and cultural circumstances, lacking adequate parental or community support. The protection of children is a universally shared value, recognizing that children are the future of society as well as nation-building and, therefore, require nurturing and safeguarding from various harms.

A CNCP refers to a child under the age of 18 who is vulnerable due to their circumstances and requires intervention to ensure their safety, well-being, and development. Development is meant over all-development. Children in the present context experience abuse (physical, emotional, sexual), neglect, exploitation (child labour, commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking), and those living in at-risk families or on the streets, children with disabilities, those affected by conflict or disaster, and juveniles in conflict with the law.

The categories of CNCP highlight the diverse vulnerabilities:

Children in Families at Risk:

These are children whose families are likely to disintegrate due to social, economic, or cultural pressures, or other crises such as illness, unemployment, or domestic violence. Such children are highly susceptible to neglect, abandonment, and destitution.

Street Children:

This highly vulnerable group lives on the streets due to compelling circumstances, lacking protection, supervision, and care from adults. They may resort to begging, rag-picking, or other informal labour to survive. Some maintain limited family ties, while others are completely abandoned. Dysfunctional families, poverty, exploitation, and abuse are common reasons children end up on the streets.

Working Children/Child Labour:

This refers to work that deprives children of their childhood, potential, and dignity, hindering their physical and mental development. The International Labour

Organization (ILO) defines child labour as work that interferes with a child's growth and development, including long hours, low wages, and hazardous conditions. This can occur in agriculture, hazardous industries, small workshops, or as domestic workers, often leading to deprivation of all child rights and long-term health issues.

Abused Children:

Child abuse encompasses any mistreatment or violation of a child's rights that can lead to temporary or permanent impairment of their physical, mental, emotional, or psychosocial development, disability, or even death. It manifests in four main types:

Physical Abuse: Intentional physical injury, such as beatings, burns, or fractures.

Emotional Abuse: Deliberate neglect, ill-treatment, lack of affection, or humiliating punishments that harm a child's psychological well-being.

Sexual Abuse: Any sexual behaviour directed at a child who cannot give informed consent, often by someone in a position of trust or power.

Neglect: Failure to provide basic necessities like food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or adequate supervision.

Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking: This involves using children for sexual activities for the material or monetary gain of adults, including prostitution, sex tourism, and child pornography. Trafficking also includes moving children for domestic work, adoption, or other exploitative situations.

Children Abused in Institutions: Children living in residential organizations entrusted with their care can also be victims of physical or sexual abuse by caregivers. This highlights the critical need for improved quality of child care and stringent oversight in such settings.

Children Engaging in Substance Abuse: Children under 18 years of age who are addicted or dependent on drugs, alcohol, or other substances. They are often lured into addiction and manipulated for drug trafficking, leading to severe physical and emotional dependence and irreversible health damage.

Children in Conflict and Disaster Situations:

Crisis situations like wars, insurgencies, natural disasters (droughts, floods, earthquakes), and man-made disasters (industrial accidents, deforestation) severely impact children, threatening their basic rights to survival and protection. Displacement

due to such events or developmental projects also disrupts their access to essential services.

Differently-Abled/Challenged Children:

Children with physical or mental impairments (locomotor, hearing, speech, visual, learning disabilities, mental illness, cerebral palsy) are more vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and abandonment. They often face isolation and discrimination, requiring inclusive education and accessible resources.

HIV/AIDS Affected/Infected Children:

Children infected with HIV and affected by the illness of their parents often face prejudice, social exclusion, and discrimination, leading to denial of access to schooling and increased financial pressures. Children contracted with contagious diseases may also be covered within this group.

Juveniles in Conflict with the Law:

Children under 18 who have committed offences reason for which may be factors like poverty, dysfunctional families, abuse, school dropouts, peer influence, and gang culture.

All these vulnerabilities touching the situation of a child require care and society has responsibility to initiate protective measures for rehabilitation. It is, thus, need of the hour to sensitise the children of their rights and necessity of getting advise of mentors for well-being (mentally and physically). In order to support and strengthen child rights, necessary focus is to be attempted towards imparting discourse, improvisation of child protection structures by leveraging knowledge exchange and adopting best policies at various levels for institutional governance and to make the child access to reality and juvenile justice system. To achieve the goal, the system put in place is to be made more accountable, efficient and effective for protecting and promoting child rights.

Importance of child protection vis-a-vis custody of child with its preference:

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of *Col. Ramneesh Pal Singh Vrs. Sugandhi Aggarwal, (2024) 6 SCR 259*, having said the *lis* is a classic case of 'parental alienation syndrome' ("PAS"), observed that the minor children (at the at age of around 11 and 8 years) are at an impressionable age and require the presence of their mother. Nonetheless by interacting with the children in the said judgment it has been culled out

that not only must the Court proceed to decide the lis on the basis of a holistic and all encompassing approach including inter alia

(i) the socio-economic and educational opportunities which may be made available to the Minor Children;

(ii) healthcare and over all well-being of the children;

(iii) the ability to provide physical surroundings conducive to growing adolescents but also take into consideration the preference of the Minor Children as mandated under Section 17(3) of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890;

(iv) the stability of surrounding(s) of the minor children is also a consideration to be weighed appropriately. [Shazia Aman Khan Vrs. The State of Odisha, 2024 INSC 163.]

(v) After interaction with the children, the Court came to hold that the natural and consequential deduction from the interaction(s) between the minor children and various Court (Family Court, Single Judge of the High Court and the Supreme Court) over a period spanning over 4 (four) years, is the unwavering and strong desire of the children to continue to reside with the father. The aforesaid desire/preference although in itself cannot be determinative of custody of the children, but it must be given due consideration on account of it being a factor of utmost importance.

(vi) Raising serious concern about *parental alienation syndrome vis-a-vis* its impact on the minor children the Court observed that:

"PAS is a thoroughly convoluted and intricate phenomenon that requires serious consideration and deliberation. In our considered opinion, recognising and appreciating the repercussions of PAS certainly shed light on the realities of long drawn and bitter custody and divorce litigation(s) on a certain identified sect of families, however, it is equally important for us to remember that there can no straitjacket formula to invoke the principle laid down by this Court in Vivek Singh Vrs. Romani Singh, (2017) 3 SCC 231.

***

Accordingly, it is our considered opinion that Courts must endeavour to identify individual instances of 'alienating behaviour' in order to invoke the principle of parental alienation so as to overcome the preference indicated by the minor children."

At this stage another aspect which disturbs every conscious and brooding citizen towards welfare of children in need of care and protection is *"parens patriae"*. With specific reference to persons with disability valuable discussion is found in *Pooja Sharma Vrs. State of U.P., 2023:AHC:193153-DB = 2023 SCC OnLine All 1047*. Recognising various legislations, *viz.*, the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890; the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956; the Mental Health Act, 1987 (Repealed); the Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 being repealed by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016; the National Trust Act for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999; the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017; the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, the Hon'ble Allahabad High Court proceeded to lay down the scope of invocation of parens patriae jurisdiction in the following:

"34. *Insofar as India is concerned, the recent judgment of the Supreme Court in Shafin Jahan Vrs. Ashokan K.M., (2018) 16 SCC 368, the Court has considered the scope of 'parens patriae' jurisdiction and has observed as under:*

> *'39. Constitutional Courts in this country exercise parens patriae jurisdiction in matters of child custody treating the welfare of the child as the paramount concern. There are situations when the Court can invoke the parens patriae principle and the same is required to be invoked only in exceptional situations. We may like to give some examples. For example, where a person is mentally ill and is produced before the court in a writ of habeas corpus, the court may invoke the aforesaid doctrine. On certain other occasions, when a girl who is not a major has eloped with a person and she is produced at the behest of habeas corpus filed by her parents and she expresses fear of life in the custody of her parents, the court may exercise the jurisdiction to send her to an appropriate home meant to give shelter to women where her interest can be best taken care of till she becomes a major.'*

35. *The Supreme Court of Canada in E. (Mrs.) Vrs. Eve (1986) 2 SCR 388 Canada observed thus with regard to the doctrine of Parens Patriae has held as under:*

> *'The Parens Patriae jurisdiction for the care of the mentally incompetent is vested in the provincial superior courts. Its exercise is founded on necessity. The need to act for the protection of those who cannot care for themselves. The jurisdiction is broad. Its scope cannot be defined. It applies to many and varied situations, and a court can act not only if injury has occurred but also if it is apprehended. The jurisdiction is carefully guarded and the courts will not assume that it has been removed by legislation. While the scope of the parens partiae jurisdiction is unlimited, the jurisdiction must nonetheless be*

exercised in accordance with its underlying principle. The discretion given under this jurisdiction is to be exercised for the benefit of the person in need of protection and not for the benefit of others. It must at all times be exercised with great caution, a caution that must increase with the seriousness of the matter. This is particularly so in cases where a court might be tempted to act because failure to act would risk imposing an obviously heavy burden on another person.'

36. *Recently, the Supreme Court of New South Wales, in the case of AC Vrs. OC (a minor) [(2014) NSWSC 53], has observed:*

> *'36. That jurisdiction, protective of those who are not able to take care of themselves, embraces (via different historical routes) minors, the mentally ill and those who, though not mentally ill, are unable to manage their own affairs: Re Eve [1986] 2 SCR 388 at 407-417; Court of Australia in Secretary, Department of Health and Community Services Vrs. JWB and SMB (Marion's Case (1992) 175 CLR 218 at 258; PB v. BB [2013] NSWSC 1223 at [7]-[8], [40]-[42], [57]-[58] and [64]-[65].*

37. *The Court further held that in order to invoke the parens patriae jurisdiction, exceptional circumstances have to exist. The scope of parens patriae jurisdiction has to be exercised with great caution and with enormous seriousness. The Supreme Court recognises that Constitutional Courts, including High Courts, can also act under their parens patriae jurisdiction to 'meet the ends of justice'. Mental incompetency is listed as an exceptional circumstance which would justify the exercise of this jurisdiction. If the Court is satisfied that the person concerned is in a vegetative state, then surely "parens patriae" jurisdiction can be exercised."*

In conclusion, in the same breath as the conceptual understanding of *parens patriae* goes, it is high time for the readers to ponder upon existence of such jurisdiction to be extended to the juvenile beyond the age prescribed under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 [*vide* Section 2(12)]. This discussion may take the readers to have food for thought whether focus on the children with disability at the growing age can in any manner be possible in better way than is existing now. I may sign off for the time being by saying that then only social justice to the persons (including children) "in need, care and protection" can be said to be achieved. Let's not stop, but to set a vision beyond the dark cloud to strengthen the children of the future to constitute better "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States" *vide* Article 1(1) of the Constitution of India.

WHERE CHILDHOOD IS A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE: Odisha's Model of Child Centric Governance



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There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."
— Nelson Mandela

In a country where structural inequities often obscure the needs of its youngest citizens, the State of Odisha has quietly emerged as a compelling case study in rights-based child governance. Its efforts are neither loud nor performative, but embedded in a deep moral commitment that children, particularly the most vulnerable, are not passive subjects of charity but active holders of rights, dignity, and voice. Odisha's child protection journey has been one of transformative reform. In the wide tapestry of Indian federalism, where the well-being of children often rests at the uncertain intersection of poverty, patriarchy, and institutional neglect, the State of Odisha has quietly yet determinedly etched out a transformative right based approach. With over 12 million children, almost one-third of its population, Odisha is a young state in demography. The government of Odisha is committed to ensuring, upholding and securing the rights of children and at the heart of this commitment lies a belief that children, especially those in need of care and protection or in conflict with the law, are not passive recipients of a welfare approach but holders of rights and dignity.

Turning the Tide: The Legal and Fiscal Foundations

Odisha was among the first to introduce child budgeting at the state level and State Policy for Children ensuring that resources are earmarked across departments for survival, education, health, nutrition, and protection. Against this backdrop of rights-based policy, Odisha's initiatives under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and international frameworks like the UNCRC and Sustainable Development Goals have converged to create a strengthened, compassionate model of child governance.

Mission Vatsalya: Transforming Institutional Care into Opportunity & Empowerment

Central to Odisha's child protection strategy is Mission Vatsalya, India's flagship child welfare scheme (formerly the Integrated Child Protection Scheme). In line with its guiding principle of "Leave No Child Behind", Mission Vatsalya in Odisha emphasizes that institutionalization is a last resort and promotes family-based, non-institutional care whenever possible. "Family-based care" under this umbrella includes adoption, foster care, sponsorship, and after-care programs across all 30 district.

Odisha today supports over 8,150 children across 220 registered Child Care Institutions which are not merely shelters but places of transformation, healing and hope, through trauma informed approach and care. **Every child in institutional care is now enrolled in school or age-appropriate education,** and older teens are guided into vocational training or higher studies as part of their rehabilitation. In 2024-2025 alone,

over 930 children in these institutions have enrolled in higher education or technical courses, over 200 secured jobs in the private sector and nearly 70 became successful entrepreneurs.

The state has been facilitating linkage of children living under institutional care with opportunities at the **World Skill Centre,** a cutting-edge vocational training institute in Bhubaneswar. Here, youth aging out of care (18+ years) can enroll in one-year advanced skill courses in trades like hospitality, IT and cosmetology; many have secured jobs after graduation in both local industries and abroad, turning their hard beginnings into success stories. Remarkably, in 2024-2025, around 70 children were trained at the World Skill Centre in Bhubaneswar, a state-of-the-art facility that exemplifies Odisha's insistence on future-readiness. Over 422 care leavers received support through higher education, vocational training, and life skills education. After-care Homes piloted in three districts provide structured mentorship, easing the transition to independent adulthood.

In a decisive move to ensure that no child remains invisible to the system, the Government of Odisha undertook a statewide campaign to establish identity and entitlement for every child in institutional care. The district collectors were directed to achieve 100% **Aadhaar enrollment for children in CCIs,** overcoming hurdles like lack of birth certificates and facilitating the linkages to child welfare schemes and safety nets. Today nearly all children in CCIs, over 99% are now Aadhar-linked, giving them access to entitlements once considered out of reach. These are not incidental outcomes but the fruits of sustained investment in children of the state.

Justice with Dignity: Odisha's Reformative Path for Children in Conflict with Law

The state's approach to children in conflict with law reflects a deeper understanding of the difference between criminality and circumstances. In 2024–25 alone, over 1,000 such children were admitted to Observation Homes across the state, and more than that number were released after judicial processes. Crucially, many of them were able to continue their education while in care, with six appearing for the Class X board exams, a feat unimaginable a decade ago. With vocational training in tailoring, carpentry, and computer literacy, these homes have become hubs of integrated rehabilitation. Psychosocial care and support, arts-based therapies, initiatives like engaging children in home based agricultural initiatives and sports has been instrumental in meaningful rehabilitation and reintegration of these children.

Strengthening Families: Adoption and Foster Care on the Rise

Odisha has placed renewed focus on family-based alternatives so that children grow up in families rather than institutions. One key success has been a sharp rise in **adoptions** in recent years. In 2024-25 alone, 287 orphaned, abandoned or surrendered children from Odisha found new families through adoption. Tellingly, more girls were adopted than boys (151 girls vs. 136 boys) during the year reflecting perhaps a gradual erosion of gender bias in adoption preferences. This placed Odisha fifth in the country for number of adoptions, behind only much larger states like Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The state has 33 Specialized Adoption Agencies spread across Odisha to care for adoptable infants and children and to counsel prospective parents through the process. While there is still a preference for infants (0-2 years) among adopters and a number of older children with special needs remain in the adoption pool, the State Adoption Resource Agency in Odisha is actively working to find homes for these harder-to-place children through awareness and mentorship programs.

A Safety Net Rooted in Care: State specific Initiatives

A notable initiative is the newly launched "Jasoda Yojana", named after Lord Krishna's foster-mother Yashoda, which provides financial support to caregivers who take on the responsibility of an orphaned child. With an allocation of ₹83 crore in the 2024-25 budget, the Jasoda Yojana, Odisha ensures holistic support for orphaned and vulnerable children, ranging from coaching for competitive exams, vocational and technical education, to awards for academic and artistic excellence. The scheme also provides financial security through Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana for girls, marriage assistance, periodic surveys to identify

orphans, and allotment of homestead land or housing, reaffirming the state's commitment to dignity and opportunity for every child. During 2024–25, 1,486 children benefited from this scheme. Of these, 766 received direct educational support, ensuring continuity in schooling despite personal hardships. Financial inclusion was also promoted, with 672 girls enrolled under the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana to help secure their future. Eight children were recognized for academic merit, while 40 beneficiaries were provided assistance for marriage. These interventions offer not just care and protection but also dignity and opportunity, particularly for some of the most vulnerable groups of children in the state.

The Mission Vatsalya sponsorship component itself provides ₹4,000 per month per child to support children who are orphaned or who have single parents in difficult circumstances. As of 2025, thousands of children whose mothers are widowed, destitute or single have been enrolled under this, receiving a lifeline that keeps the family together and the child out of institutional care. Together, adoption, foster care, and sponsorship form a triad of non-institutional care that Odisha is rigorously expanding –, driven by the recognition that a nurturing family environment is irreplaceable for a child's development. Launched at the peak of the pandemic, Odisha's yet another flagship scheme- the Ashirbad scheme extended unconditional monthly support to children orphaned by COVID-19—regardless of income or background, ensuring continuity in care, education, and dignity. As of March 2025, the scheme had reached 51,278 children, of whom 41,689 continued to receive regular assistance. The scheme has supported 3,854 children in higher education, 690 in ITI and vocational training, and 479 beneficiaries are undergoing skilled training, with ongoing mentorship by DCPUs.

Behind these schemes lies an army of unsung foot soldiers and first responders. At the district level, the **District Child Protection Units, the Child Welfare Committees along with the Juvenile Justice Boards** act as the fulcrums. Special Juvenile Police Units, comprising sensitized officers, have been set up in each district to interface between children and the law enforcement system. Odisha Police has even created child-friendly corners in some police stations – painted walls, toys, and trained counselors – so that a rescued child or a juvenile witness is not intimidated by the environment.

Recently Department of Women and Child Development launched the **"Aamari Sishu" web portal** to streamline coordination among DCPUs, CWCs, JJBs, CCIs and service provider. This portal shall enable real-time digital monitoring of every vulnerable child's welfare – from nutrition and health tracking to linking cases reported on the Child helpline.

Helpline, Awareness, and Community Engagement

Odisha's Child Helpline under the Women & Child Development Department has emerged as a robust, child-centered emergency response and referral system, ensuring timely protection and support to children in distress. The State has institutionalized several structured practices and innovations that make the helpline a model for child protection service delivery. Notably, recognizing the interconnected vulnerabilities of children and women, Odisha has co-located the Child Helpline and Women Helpline within a single, integrated control room at the state level. This enables a gender-sensitive, coordinated response. Over the last few months Odisha saw a spike in Child helpline reports, indicating that outreach efforts, have been effective in reaching vulnerable children. These data also feed into policy – for example, a surge in calls about child labor or child marriage from a particular district prompts targeted drives by the administration there. Functioning round-the-clock across all 30 districts, the helpline is manned by 290 trained staff and handles over 1,000 calls every month. It regularly responds to issues such as child marriage, child labour, abuse, trafficking, and missing children

Awareness generation and capacity-building have also been prioritized. In 2024–25, nine state-level training programs were conducted, covering themes such as psychosocial care, legal literacy, and emergency response. The state has launched extensive IEC campaigns using FM radio, cinema halls, LED screens, and bus shelters to disseminate information about child protection services, especially the 1098 helpline.

Innovation & Best Practices

What stands out in Odisha's child protection journey is that the state's approach transcends beyond formal entitlements, it recognizes the unique vulnerabilities, emotional trauma and social isolation that institutionalized children often face. In a pioneering move, the state rolled out **art-based as part of trauma informed care and support in child care institutes, transforming these homes into a place of healing. In CCIs, trauma-informed care through art-based therapies has helped children process neglect and abuse, while partnerships with the World Skill Centre have equipped 442 children with technical skills. Success stories like Raghu Ram, who scored 71.2% in Class X exams, and Umakanta Behera, training as a machine operator, highlight the transformative power of education and skilling. Promoting extra co-curricular skill in the field of dance and song by installing Dance and Music studios in all 30 Districts**

The flagship events like **"MAHAK" and "UTSAAH",** an annual two-tier festival for vulnerable children living in CCIs. The district-level competitions in music, dance, and athletics, culminates in a grand state-level children's festival held every year at the Kalinga Stadium. The MAHAK cultural festival and UTSAHA sports meet, held from November 26–30, 2024, at Kalinga Stadium, saw over 1,200 children from 30 districts showcase their talents in singing, dance, quiz, and sports like football and athletics. Felicitated by Odia film stars and former athletes, these events underscored Odisha's commitment to holistic development.

From Vision to Justice: Odisha's Child-Centric Governance at Work

Odisha's child protection efforts also explicitly anchor to global goals. Odisha's child welfare journey is not without its challenges, but it stands today as a beacon of what is possible when governance is undergirded by vision, law, and compassion. In weaving together legal protections, institutional systems, and human-centred policies, the state has moved beyond tokenism to transformative care and child centric governance. By putting its youngest citizens at the heart of governance, Odisha is not just shaping the future, it is redeeming the present.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF CHILD RIGHTS: Global to Indian Context

Dr. Pabitra Mohan Sama!,
LL.M, Ph.D (law) [1]

Children have undeniable weapon of boldness. And such boldness can result into benefits. for the good of the. family and the greater strength of a nation. All children can make a change, no matter where you come from.

— Abraham M.Keita[2]

The recognition of children as individuals with distinct rights has evolved over centuries. One of the earliest documented recognitions of children's rights is found in the Massachusetts Body of Liberties, (1641)3. This early legal code not only prohibited parents from imposing "unnatural severity" upon their children or compelling them to enter into unwanted matrimonial alliances but also granted children the right to seek redress by petitioning the authorities. Notably, however, the same legal document paradoxically imposed the death penalty upon children over the age of sixteen who were found to be persistently disobedient to their parents a stark reminder of the evolving and often contradictory nature of early child protection norms.

The formal global attention to child welfare began after the devastation of First World War, as societies in Europe and North America grew increasingly concerned about the vulnerability of children. This led the League of Nations to establish the Committee on Child Welfare in 1919. Five years later, in 1924, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, also known as the Geneva Declaration,
was adopted. It emphasized that "mankind owes to the child the best that it has to give, " highlighting the global responsibility toward a child's physical, emotional, and moral development. This declaration introduced essential principles: ensuring food, healthcare, education, shelter for orphans and the homeless, and protection from exploitation. It asserted that children should be prioritized in times of distress and encouraged to grow up conscious of their responsibilities to society.

The Declaration of Geneva further asserted that the responsibility for ensuring the well-being of children extended beyond the family, local communities, or even individual nation-states. Instead, it affirmed that the international community as a whole bore a collective obligation toward the welfare of all children. Among its key provisions, the Declaration proclaimed that the child must be afforded the means necessary for normal physical and spiritual development; that the hungry must be fed, the sick cared for, the errant reclaimed, and the orphaned or homeless sheltered and supported. It also affirmed that children must be prioritized in times of crisis or distress, safeguarded against all forms of exploitation, and educated with a sense of duty to contribute positively to society.

[1] District Judge, Balangir
[2] 2015 International children's peace prize winner and founder of Giving Hope to Children Foundation-Africa
[3] First Legal Code in New England

UN Initiatives and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

After World War II, the United Nations replaced the League of Nations and reaffirmed the Geneva Declaration in 1946. This led to the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)** and, more significantly, the **Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959),** which expanded the original five principles to ten, including rights to a name, nationality, special care for the differently-abled, access to health services, and protection against discrimination and exploitation. In 1989, the global movement for children reached a milestone with the adoption of the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**[4], the first legally binding international instrument covering the full spectrum of children's human rights. The CRC comprises 54 articles, grouped under three main categories:

- ✓ Survival and Development Rights: Access to food, clean water, shelter, healthcare, and education to ensure holistic growth.
- ✓ Protection Rights: Safeguards against abuse, neglect, exploitation, trafficking, and harmful traditional practices.
- ✓ Participation Rights: Ensuring that children have the right to express their views in matters affecting them, with freedom of expression, thought, and association.

Four guiding principles underpin the CRC: firstly, nondiscrimination, secondly, the best interests of the child, thirdly, the right to life, survival and development, and fourthly, respect for the views of the child. Additionally, other global instruments such as the Beijing Rules (1985), Riyadh Guidelines (1990), and UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles (1990) provide standards for juvenile justice and the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Child Rights in India: Legal and Constitutional Framework

The concept of child rights has evolved from a welfare-based approach to a comprehensive rights-based framework, reflecting the growing recognition of children as autonomous individuals entitled to dignity, protection, and participation. Internationally, the articulation of these rights has been significantly shaped by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC), which has set universal standards for the promotion and protection of children's rights. India, as a signatory to the UN CRC, has incorporated these principles into its constitutional, legislative, and policy frameworks, thereby affirming its commitment to safeguarding the rights of every child within its jurisdiction. This overview seeks to trace the development of child rights from a global perspective and examine their contextual application within the Indian legal and policy landscape.

[4] An international human rights treaty adopted by the United Nations in 1989

India has been a strong supporter of child rights, particularly after ratifying the CRC in **1992.** The **Constitution of India** guarantees various rights to children:

- ✓ Article 14-17: Right to equality and protection against discrimination.
- ✓ Article 21 & 21A: Right to life and free, compulsory education for children aged 6-14.
- ✓ Article 23-24: Protection from trafficking, forced labor, and hazardous employment.
- ✓ Article 39(e)(f): Protection from economic exploitation and promotion of health and dignity.
- ✓ Article 45 & 46: Provision of early childhood care and education and protection of weaker sections.
- ✓ Article 5l(c): Respect for international laws and treaties, including CRC commitments.

Major Child Protection Laws in India

India has enacted several child-centric laws to secure their rights:

- ✓ **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015:** Covers children in conflict with the law and those in need of care and protection.
- ✓ **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:** A comprehensive law to address sexual abuse and exploitation of children.
- ✓ **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009:** Ensures every child between 6-14 years gets free elementary education.
- ✓ **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006:** Prohibits marriage below 18 years for girls and 21 for boys.
- ✓ **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (Amended in 2016):** Prohibits employment of children below 14 and regulates adolescent labor.
- ✓ **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994:** Prohibits sex selection and female foeticide.

Other Significant Acts

- ✓ The Factories Act, 1948, Mines Act, 1952, and various sector-specific laws restrict child labor.
- ✓ The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971: Provides guidelines for safe and legal abortion, especially relevant to adolescent girls.
- ✓ The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016: Ensures educational and social inclusion of children with disabilities.

National Policies for Children

India has developed various policies over the years to promote and protect children's rights:

- ✓ National Policy for Children (1974): Declared children as national assets.
- ✓ National Health Policy (1983, revised in 2002) and National Education Policy (1986, revised in 2019): Ensured access to healthcare and education.
- ✓ National Nutrition Policy (1993): Targeted eradication of child malnutrition.
- ✓ National Plan of Action for Children (2005): Focused on girl child protection, child trafficking prevention, and child labor eradication.
- ✓ National Policy fir Childer, 2013, Ensured the well being and protection of children in India
- ✓ National Plan of Action for Children (2016): Addressed four key priority areas of child rights , i) survival, health and nutrition, ii) education and development iii)protection and iv)participation.[5]

Institutional Support for Child Rights

India has established a network of institutions and programs . to implement child protection mechanisms:

- ✓ National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR): Monitors implementation of laws and policies related to children.
- ✓ District Child Protection Society (DCPS) and Child Welfare Committees (CWC): Operational at district level to handle individual cases.
- ✓ Special Juvenile Police Units and Juvenile Justice Boards: Ensure childfriendly law enforcement and justice.
- ✓ CHILDLINE 1098: A 24x7 emergency helpline for children in distress.

Programs like the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) and state initiatives in Odisha for orphans and destitute children provide vocational training, education, and rehabilitation support.

Conclusion

The recognition and protection of children's rights have improved greatly over time, both globally and in India. In the past, children had only basic protections, but today they are seen as individuals with their own rights. This change is reflected in international agreements like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Indian laws. Children are no longer viewed just as dependents but as people who deserve legal rights and protection. Ensuring their rights to live, grow, be safe, and have a voice is essential for building a fair and inclusive society. Most importantly, the best gift we can give future generations is not wealth, but a strong example of good character and faith.

[5] https://pib.gov.in

THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON JUVENILE CRIME TRENDS

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Introduction

Social media has revolutionized the way juveniles interact, communicate, and perceive the world. While digital platforms offer many benefits, they also contribute to juvenile delinquency by facilitating cyber bullying, online fraud, and exposure to criminal influences. As **David Pyrooz** aptly points out, "*Gangs no longer need street corners to recruit; they have social media, where influence spreads faster than ever before.*" This article explores the relationship between social media and juvenile crime, analyzing causes, consequences, and preventive measures.

The Role of Social Media in Juvenile Delinquency

Cyber bullying and Online Harassment

Social media platforms have become breeding grounds for cyber bullying, where juveniles engage in online harassment, leading to psychological distress and criminal behavior. As **Nancy Willard** explains, "Cyber bullying is not just an extension of playground bullying; it is a different beast altogether, one that follows children home and infiltrates their private lives." Victims of online harassment often develop aggressive tendencies, sometimes retaliating through violent means. The **anonymity** provided by social media emboldens perpetrators, allowing them to harass victims without immediate consequences. This lack of accountability often leads to **more severe and prolonged abuse,** as bullies feel protected behind their screens. Additionally, the **viral nature** of social media amplifies the impact of cyber bullying—hurtful comments, manipulated images, and false rumors can spread rapidly, reaching a vast audience within minutes.

Recent Data on Cyberbullying

According to a **2024 study** published in the *International Journal of Law Management & Humanities*[9], cyber bullying cases among juveniles in India have increased by **35%** over the past five years. The study highlights that platforms such as Instagram and Facebook are the most common spaces where cyber bullying occurs.

Exposure to Criminal Behavior

Young individuals are increasingly exposed to criminal activities through various social media platforms which often glorify illegal acts, including drug use, theft, and violence amongst others. This exposure can normalize criminal behaviour, influencing juveniles to engage in unlawful acts. **Clay Shirky** aptly notes,

[9] https://scholarworks.calstate.edu/downloads/x633f7631

"*Social media has become a stage where crime is not only witnessed but often glorified, influencing impressionable minds.*" The **visual appeal and viral nature** of social media make criminal activities seem **exciting and rewarding,** particularly for impressionable youth. Additionally, algorithm-driven content recommendations play a significant role in reinforcing exposure to criminal activities. Social media platforms use **AI-based algorithms** to suggest contents, based on user engagement, meaning that juveniles who interact with videos related to crime or violence are likely to receive **more similar content,** further **deepening their exposure** to harmful influences. A **2024 study** published in the *International Journal of Law Management & Humanities* found that **juvenile crimes linked to social media exposure have increased by 40%** in the past five years.[10]

Recent Case: Social Media-Inspired Crime in India

A recent case in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, highlights the alarming influence of social media on juvenile crime. Two juveniles were detained for attempting to extort Rs 20 lakh from a bullion trader after being inspired by a social media video. The young offenders made a threatening call, which led to police intervention and their eventual capture. This incident underscores how digital platforms can encourage criminal behavior among impressionable youth. Juveniles are also involved in online fraud, including identity theft and financial scams. The anonymity provided by social media allows young offenders to engage in deceptive practices without immediate consequences.

Recent Data on Online Fraud

A **2025 report** from the *International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews* found that **juvenile involvement in online fraud has risen by 28%** in the past three years. The study attributes this increase to the ease of access to fraudulent schemes on social media platforms.

Gang Recruitment and Radicalization

Criminal organizations actively use digital platforms to lure juveniles into illegal activities, promising financial rewards and social status. Gang recruitment through social media creates a dangerous cycle of crime among young individuals.

Psychological and Social Factors

Peer Pressure and Social Validation

The desire for social validation plays a significant role in juvenile delinquency. Likes, shares, and comments on social media can reinforce risky behavior, encouraging juveniles to engage in criminal acts for attention. Excessive social media use has been linked to anxiety, depression, and impulsive behavior, which can contribute to criminal tendencies. As **Jean Twenge** states, "*Social media is both a mirror and a magnifier—it reflects insecurities and amplifies them, sometimes leading to destructive behavior.*"

Recent Data on Mental Health and Social Media

A 2023 study from ***Cal State University, Long Beach*** found that **60% of juveniles involved in delinquent activities reported experiencing anxiety and depression due to excessive social media use.** The study also highlighted parental supervision being crucial in preventing juvenile crime. However, many parents struggle to monitor their children's online activities, allowing them to be influenced by harmful content.

[10] Social Media Influence on Juvenile Crime Rates: An Indian Perspective by Sudesh Yadav and Abhiranjan Dixit

Legal Framework and Preventive Measures

Juvenile Justice Laws

Governments worldwide have implemented laws to address juvenile crime, including cyber-related offenses. The **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015** in India outlines measures to rehabilitate young offenders.

Observations by the Supreme Court of India

The **Supreme Court of India** has made several observations regarding the influence of social media on juvenile crime. One notable case involved a **Writ Petition** filed under Article 32 of the Constitution, seeking judicial intervention to regulate and restrict access of children below **13 years** to social media platforms. The petition highlighted an "*unprecedented mental health crisis*" among minors due to excessive digital exposure and urged the Court to enforce stringent regulatory measures. However, the **Supreme Court refused to entertain the plea,** stating that the issue falls within the realm of **policy-making** and should be addressed by the **government.** The Bench, led by **Hon'ble Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih,** directed the petitioners to approach the government with their concerns. The Court acknowledged the risks posed by unregulated digital exposure but emphasized that such matters require **legislative action** rather than judicial intervention.

Educational Programs

Educational initiatives promoting digital literacy and responsible social media use can help mitigate juvenile delinquency. Schools and community organizations play a vital role in educating young individuals about the consequences of online crime. A robust and mandatory education in the school in this regard will go a long way in helping mitigate the problem. **Howard Rheingold** emphasizes, "*Education is the best firewall against digital crime—teaching children how to navigate the online world responsibly is crucial.*"

Technological Interventions

Advanced AI-driven monitoring systems can detect and prevent cybercrimes committed by juveniles. Social media platforms must implement stricter regulations to curb illegal activities. **Tristan Harris** argues, "*Social media companies must take responsibility for the content they allow, ensuring that their platforms do not become breeding grounds for crime.*" There is an urgent need for **tech companies to prioritize ethical AI development,** ensuring that their platforms do not inadvertently facilitate juvenile delinquency. Social media platforms must implement stricter regulations to curb illegal activities by enforcing **content moderation policies,** enhancing **age verification mechanisms,** and deploying **automated detection systems** to identify harmful behavior. AI-driven tools can analyze vast amounts of data across platforms like **Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube,** ensuring that inappropriate content is swiftly removed.

Global Comparisons

In the **United States,** juvenile crime linked to social media has led to stricter regulations on digital platforms. The **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)** mandates that social media companies restrict access to minors and enforce parental controls. The **UK Online Safety Bill** aims to hold social media companies accountable for harmful content that influences juvenile crime. The bill enforces **age verification** and **content moderation** to prevent exposure to criminal activities.

[11]https://www.verdictum.in/court-updates/supreme-court/writ-petition-social-media-ban-children-below-13-years-zep-foundation-v-union-of-india-1573256

Conclusion

The influence of social media on juvenile crime trends is a complex issue requiring a multi-faceted approach. While digital platforms offer connectivity and opportunities, they also pose significant risks. Addressing juvenile delinquency demands collaboration between parents, educators, policymakers, and technology companies to create a safer online environment. By promoting awareness, implementing preventive measures, and enforcing legal frameworks, society can mitigate the negative impact of social media on young individuals.

"Social media is a powerful tool—it can either build bridges or create barriers. The way juveniles use it today will shape the society of tomorrow."

[12]The Impact of Social Media on Juvenile Delinquency Aarzoo Vishwakarma, Aditya Awasthi

DIFFERENT ISSUES OF CHILDREN IN IMPLEMENTATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE LEGISLATION

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Cuttack

Introduction

Right to protection is to create a protective environment to be safe guarded against all sorts of abuse, violence and dangers in any situation in the family, schools, establishments, community and public space. There are 10 fundamental rights of a child in India - the right to survival, education, protection, participation, development. health and well-being, identity. expression, non-discrimination, and a safe environment.

LEGAL DEFINATION OFA CHILD In the Indian Constitution, the term "child" is not defined. Article 1 of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child of the United Nations says that a child shall mean every person under the age of eighteen unless the majority is earlier, according to the law applicable to the child. The legal definition of the child is usually based on its purpose. In India there are a variety of laws defining the term "child" according to the intent. The Indian Majority Act of 1875 provides the age of a majority to be 18 years old and for a minor whose person / ownership is appointed a guardian or whose property, in the majority of 21 years, is under the supervision of the Court of Wards. Under the Child Labour Act of 1986, the child shall mean an individual who was not 14 years old. The Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1926 applies to a person who is not 21 years of age if a male, and not 18 years of age in case of a female. According to the JJ Act, 2000 that is juvenile Justice (Care and Protection), a juvenile or a child means a person not 18 years old. Even though India has today been on the path of economic growth, and there have been several initiatives by the government for eradication of poverty, a major portion of the population continues to live in poverty. Economic inequalities are widespread and children are most affected. In the context of children, eight types of key rights can be classified such as right to life, right to health, right to safe water, right to food, right to education, right to protection, right to freedom and the right to identity.

Objectives on (Protection of Child Rights):

- **To ensure that all children are protected by citizenship rights and delivery of services**
- **Special provisions to children in conflict with Law**
- **Care and protection - special care for children**
- **To ensure adherence of Laws and Acts promoting child protection**

The core of child protection for children is enshrined in some main laws:

- Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education Act, 2009
- Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act. 2015
- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
- The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act 1994
- Amendment Proposed in Immoral Traffic Prevention Act 1956

Different issues of children in implementation of J.J. Legislation.

- **Lack of Awareness and Sensitization:-** Among Children and Families: Many are unaware of their rights under juvenile justice laws, limiting access to legal support and protection.
- **Delays in Legal Proceedings:- Backlog of Cases:** Courts are often overburdened, leading to delays in adjudicating juvenile cases. Detention Beyond Legal Periods: Due to delays, children may be held in custody longer than permitted.
- **Inconsistent Classification of Juveniles:-** Age Verification Issues: Poor record-keeping and lack of birth certificates often lead to disputes over a child's age. Tried as Adults: In some cases, particularly heinous crimes, children are tried as adults, which goes against rehabilitative principles.
- **Reintegration and Rehabilitation Challenges :-** Lack of Follow-Up Mechanisms: Aftercare programs are poorly implemented, leaving children vulnerable to re-offending. Stigma and Discrimination: Children in conflict with the law face societal stigma, affecting reintegration.
- **Socio-Economic Barriers:-** Poverty and Lack of Education: These are major drivers of juvenile delinquency and also impede access to justice. Child Labor and Exploitation: In some cases, children are criminalized when they are actually victims of trafficking or labour exploitation.

Need of improvement:-

- Strengthen training for al l stakeholders (police, judiciary, social workers).
- Improve infrastructure and living conditions in child care institutions.
- Ensure timely legal proceedings and promote legal aid access.
- Encourage child-centric and restorative approaches.
- Enhance monitoring and create child-friendly grievance redressal systems.

Child rights form a critical part of any progressive society. In India, the Constitution and various laws provide a framework for the protection and upliftment of children. Today, we debate which constitutional article best protects child rights: Article 21A (Right to Education) or Article 15(3) (Positive Discrimination for Children).

Article 21A

is perhaps the most empowering article for children in India. It mandates free and compulsory education for all children aged 6 to 14 years. Education is the foundation of empowerment. When children are educated, they are less vulnerable to exploitation, child labour, and early marriage. This article has led to the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, which ensures that no child is denied schooling due to economic or social reasons. It also enforces infrastructure, teacher-student ratios, and the inclusion of disadvantaged groups. With education, children gain the tools to claim their rights, dream big, and participate meaningfully in society.

Furthermore, without Article 21A, other rights remain out of reach. A child who cannot read or write may never understand their right to be protected, cared for, or heard. Here's a powerful real-life story that beautifully illustrates Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) in action to protect child rights in India: The Rescue of Pooja -A Life Reclaimed.

In 2017, Pooja (name changed), a 13-year-old girl from Bihar was trafficked to Delhi under the false promise of a good job. She ended up working as a domestic helper in harsh, inhumane conditions - denied food, beaten, and never paid. Her basic rights as a child were stripped away.

The Turning Point: A neighbour" who noticed her injuries and silence, alerted Bachpan Bachao Ando/an (BBA), the child rights NGO founded by Nobel Laureate Kai/ash Satyarthi. With help from Delhi police, a rescue operation was launched. When Pooja was brought before the Child Welfare Committee, the team

invoked Article 21, arguing that her right to live with dignity and safety had been grossly violated. Her forced labour" abuse, and denial of education were not just crimes under the Juvenile Justice Act and POCSO Act, but also a constitutional failure to protect her fundamental right to life. Pooja was rescued and rehabilitated through a state shelter. She received education, counselling, and later rejoined her family, who had thought she was lost forever. A compensation of ={3 lakh was awarded to her under the Victim Compensation Scheme, and the trafficker was prosecuted.

Pooja's case is a reminder that Article 21 isn't just legal jargon - it's a lifeline. It ensures that even the most vulnerable child has the right to a life of safety, dignity, and opportunity. It also reinforces the state's duty to actively protect and fulfil these rights.

Article 15(3) is broader and more powerful. It allows the state to make special provisions for children. This article empowers the government to enact laws that give children extra protection, such as laws against child labour, child marriage, and abuse.

Unlike Article 21A, which covers only education between ages 6 and 14, Article 15(3) applies to all children and allows for holistic protection - health, nutrition, safety, and wellbeing. For example, schemes like Mid-Day Meals, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDSL and Juvenile Justice laws are rooted in the authority this article provides.

In essence, Article 15(3) creates a constitutional foundation for affirmative action for children, especially those who are poor, disabled, orphaned, or marginalized.

Here's a story focused on the Article 15(3t which allows the state to make special provisions for children, ensuring their rights are protected: **The School Under the Neem Tree**

In the tribal heartland of Madhya Pradesh, in a village where electricity flickered like fireflies and roads vanished into forest paths, lived a boy named Raju. At just 11, Raju worked in the nearby fields, helping his mother harvest tendu leaves. School was a distant dream - not due to a lack of desire, but because there simply was no school nearby. That changed when a young district officer, Ananya Singh, arrived on a government mission. She was part of a new initiative under Article 15(3), empowering the state to make special provisions for children. She had read the Constitution back to front, but now she had to bring it to life.

With her team, she started a mobile learning center under a large neem tree at the village square. It wasn't just about books - the state ensured free mid-day meals, learning kits, and health check-ups. Raju and 30 other children began learning their first alphabets, protected and uplifted by the constitutional spirit that promised them a fair chance. Some villagers argued children should work to support families. Ananya patiently explained that the Constitution wasn't taking away responsibility - it was giving children the right to build a better future, and the state had a duty to make that possible.

Six months later, the neem tree classroom became a permanent school building - with solar lights, toilets, and even a playground. Girls like Rupa, who had never held a pencil, were now learning to write their names. And Raju? He was now dreaming of becoming a teacher.

Through the shade of the neem tree, the spirit of Article 15(3) bloomed - proving that when the law walks hand in hand with empathy, rights become reality.

POLICIES AND SCHEMES FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA

The Indian government has taken a series of policies on the children of the country by taking into consideration of the physical, mental and social development. The government has also adopted several initiatives on children's welfare and education.

Conclusion

Both articles are significant in safeguarding child rights. Article 21A gives children a critical right that can transform their future, while Article 15(3) provides the legal framework for broader protection. However, if one must choose, Article 21A stands out as a game-changer - because education is the key that unlocks all other rights. A child educated is a child empowered.

The Psycho-Socio-Legal aspect of the Childhood journey installs foundation of a Productive Young world. A minor skip in any of these stages leads to Negligence which leads to conduct disorder finally framing to Anti-Social Behaviour at the Adolescent age, where it is just next to impossible to correct. Each time, judging a Child on the basis of conditions and environment of the family and Society ends in creating is like creating another disturbed youngster. Hence, as a welfare state the foundation of the society should not be left casually. A robust system should be strengthened to address, redress and energize the transition of a safe, secured, nurturing childhood to a productive, contributing and shinning adulthood.

The duty of the Family comes first. The family that connects positively to the child for guiding him/her towards a meaningful life, ends up in producing a robust citizen. When the child loses the link with a positive ecosystem, the Govt. needs to take care of those missing links so that his/her childhood should not suffer. It is easy to repair, rebuild while the child is in a tender age but it is impossible to repair and rebuild their personality when they attend Adulthood.

DIFFERENT ISSUES OF CHILDREN IN IMPLEMENTATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE LEGISLATION

Submitted by

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The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, is turning point in India's legal framework concerning juveniles which has been replaced the earlier Juvenile Justice Act of 2000 and this legislation aimed to align with international standards and address the emerging complexities of juvenile justice in the country. In order to overcome the challenges and prospects of proper implementation of this Act, it is required to look into the historical context as well as the Act's chronological development since the time of it's enactment. In India there existed no Act to govern children, and some states had their own enactments, like the Madras Children Act, 1920 ... etc. The Union had also enacted The Children Act of 1960 but this was only applicable to Union Territories and not the States. Therefore, in the landmark case of Sheela Barse(II) and others vs. Union of Indiaand others, Hon'ble Apex Comi observed as follows:

"4. We have by our order dated August 5, 1986 called upon the State Governments to bring into force and to implement intensely the provision of the Children's Acts enacted in the Various States. But we would suggest that instead of each State having its own Children's Act different in procedure and content from the Children's Act in other States, it would be desirable if v the Central Government initiates Parliamenta,y Legislation on the subject, so that there is complete uniformity in regard to the various provisions relating to children in the entire territory of the Country .... "

In the mean time The United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice on 29th November, 1985. These Rules are widely known as the Beijing Rules. Clause 4.1 of the Rules reads as follows:

"4.1 In those legal systems recognizing the concept of the age of criminal responsibility for juveniles, the beginning of that age shall not be fixed as too low an age level, bearing in mind the facts of emotional, mental and intellectual maturity. "But the above rules did not fix any specified age and left it to each country to frame their domestic laws, keeping in view the various relevant doctrines.

After the adoption of the Beijing Rules, union of India enacted the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986. The historical evolution of the Act began immediately after adoption of Beijing Rules, viz The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, which undergone changes followed by enactment of The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 which repealed the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986. Then after Nirbhaya Incident, the Act of 2020 was amended and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

The Juvenile Justice Act of 2015 is an amalgamation of certain crucial factors aiming to balance the rights of children with the need for accountability. But the implementation of the act involves certain bottlenecks

including resource constraints, socio-cultural factors, and the need for capacity-building. Besides the same the following factors are also important which are as follows:

Inadequate Infrastructure and Resources - Lack of adequate rehabilitation centers, observation homes, and special homes:

Shortage of trained staff and counsellors: The availability of trained professionals, including psychologists, social workers, and counselors, is also one of the most common difficulty which is being faced.

Lengthy trial proceedings and delays in disposal of cases: Delays in the trial leading to slow disposal rate also have effects on the juveniles/CICL involved. It hampers their chances of timely rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Issues of Age Determination : Paucity of standardized methods for age assessment is also one of the challenging aspect. There is a significant challenge in accurate determination of the age of juveniles/CICL, which is pivotal for taking appropriate recourse of law.

Challenges in verifying the age where Juveniles are not having proper documents: For children without proper documentation, determination of their age becomes more complicated which can lead to misclassification and improper handling of cases.

Stigma and Discrimination: Social stigma attached to juveniles/CICL often face societal prejudice, which can hamper their reintegration into mainstream of society.

The new laws relating to juveniles/CICLS have extended it's definition of heinous offences beyond rape and murder. Heinous offences include all offences that are punishable with 7 years or more of imprisonment. After a fruitful exercise and deliberate discussion in the above aspect, various provisions have been repealed/ amended for which children can be tried as adults. These include offences related to drugs, waging war, trafficking, abetment of crimes, allowing one's premises to be used, and many others. One of the most facted practical problem is being faced at the time of deciding of bail petition U/s- 12 of The Act. The phenomenon upon which sec 12 is based is Bail is rule and jail is an exception. For deciding a bail petition, SIR (Social Investigation Report) submitted by D.P.O is taken into consideration. As seen in most cases, the reports submitted by D.P.O are mechanical in nature which means it is prepared in a mechanically without actual ascertainment of the details about the juveniles/CICL. In this regard, necessary direction is highly solicited and the concerned authorities should remain vigilant. Likewise, no specific beneficial provisions is available in the act for children which are suffering from disabilities which is also the need of the hour. Along with addressing the procedural lacunae and ensuring faster delivery of justice, there is a need to ease reporting capacity of victims through parents or independent civil society organisations that will provide the necessary support to the victim and ensure that the child returns to a normal life. So also Specific training in child protection rules should be imparted and to ensure safety of the Children, District Administration should work in close coordination with all five arms CWC, JJ Board, CCI, District Child Protection Units and Special Juvenile Police Units.

IMPACT OF SIR & SBR IN JUVENILE CASES

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The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (in short JJ Act) mandates the Probation Officers (PO), social workers or Child Welfare Officers (CWOs) to prepare a Social Investigation Report (in short SIR) not only for children alleged to be in conflict with the law (in short CICL) through Form 5 and Form 6 of the Juvenile Justice Model Rules of 2016 (in short JJ Model Rules, 2016) but also for a Child in Need of Care and Protection (in short CNCP) through Form 21 and Form 22. The need of having these SIRs not only informs the Child Welfare Committees (in short CWC) about the circumstances and socio-economic realities like education, caste, poverty, etc., that force children to come into contact/conflict with the law but also assists the Juvenile Justice Boards (in short JJBs) to understand the adverse childhood experiences undergone by the CICL.

Rule 64(2) of JJ Model Rules, 2016 emphasizes on providing detailed SIR containing information on the socio-economic situation of the child and family risk assessment, including aggravating and mitigating factors highlighting the circumstances which induced vulnerabilities, such as traffickers or abusers being in the neighborhood, adult gangs, drug users, accessibility to weapons and drugs, and exposure to age inappropriate behaviors, information and material. The category of officers i.e, The Probation Officer appointed by the State Government under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 or the Legal-cum-Probation Officer (LPO) appointed by the State Government under District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) **[Section 2 (48) of the JJ Act]** are vested with the responsibility of conducting the SIR within 15 days of the first production of the CICL before the JJB. Similarly, Child Welfare Officers, Social Workers and Counsellors designated from NGOs can also be authorized to conduct SIRs for CICL s as per **Sec. 8 (e) of JJ Act, 2015.**

The NCRB (National Crime Record Bureau) report shows a decreasing trend in crimes committed by the juveniles from 2013 to 2022 with a reduction of approximately 30%. In the year 2013 there were cases 43, 506 but in the year 2022 the cases were 30,555. There was a notable decrease in crimes against the juveniles.

How SIR is different from Social Background Report (SBR)

I. The SIR is submitted for a CCL in form 6 whereas SBR has to be made in Form 1 of the JJ Model Rules, 2016.
II. The SBR is about collection of information and should not take much time to prepare but the SIR requires deeper study into the circumstances of the child and various factors that brought the child in conflict with law. SIR focuses on the juvenile specific circumstances and rehabilitation needs, while SBR provides a broader understanding of their background.

III. The type of investigation carried out while preparing SIR and SBR are different. While investigation in SIR is done by the investigating police officer who on the basis of evidence collected, prosecute the offender but the investigation carried out by the probation officer is limited to the social circumstances of the child in conflict with law. SIR is often used in the context of rehabilitation and treatment while SBR used for a more comprehensive assessment.

Whether a Juvenile is entitled to get copies of SIR?

Yes. The Hon'ble Apex court while interpreting Sections 15, 99, 110 of the JJ Act, 2015 and Rule 10 (5) of the JJ Rules 2016, held that while making preliminary assessment by the JJ Board, juvenile is entitled to get list of documents, copies of documents, copies of statements, **SIR (Social Investigation Report)** and report of expert psychologist. Non-supply of such documents to juvenile amounts to providing inadequate opportunity of defence to juvenile. **[Ref:Barun Chandra Thakur Vs Master Bholu,** reported in **[2022] 10 SCR 595]**

Purpose of SIR and SBR

Social Investigation Report (SIR)

1. **Purpose:** To assess the juveniles' circumstance behavior and rehabilitation needs.
2. **Content:** Include details about the juvenile's family social, environment education employment and any factor contributing to their situation.
3. **Prepared by:** Probation Officer (LPO) or Social Workers.

Social Background Report (SBR)

1. **Purpose:** To provide a comprehensive understanding of the juvenile's backgrounds including their economic social and family circumstance.The reports ultimately help in guiding the JJB in determining the most appropriate course of action for the child's welfare
2. **Content:** Include information about the Juveniles family social relationship, economic condition educational background and other relevant factors.
3. **Prepared by:** Child Welfare Police Officer (CWPO).

Relevancy of the SIRs and SBRs

Both the **SIRs** and **SBRs** are instruments in the Juvenile Justice Board's (JJB) decision making process with following components:

1. Understanding the Child's Background:

1 The SIR aims to gather comprehensive information about the child's life, upbringing, including their family situation, economic status, social connections, and any psychological or emotional issues.
2 This information helps the JJB understand the factors that might have contributed to the child's involvement in the legal system.

Circumstances of the offences:

It helps the JJB understand the context in which the alleged offences occurred including any potential contributing factors.

Reunification assessment: -

The report informs the JJB about the family's ability to provide a safe and supportive environment which is essential for deciding whether reunification is a viable option.

2. Guiding Decision-Making:

- The SIR provides a framework for the JJB to assess the best interests of the child.
- It helps determine whether reunification with the child's family is possible or if alternate family placements are needed.

- The SIR and SBR can also inform decisions about supervision, rehabilitation, and support services.

- The SBR helps the JJB determine the most appropriate course of action such as rehabilitation programme, probation or other forms of care and protection.

3. Supporting Rehabilitation and Reintegration:

1. By understanding the child's background and needs, the JJB can develop tailored programs to support the child's rehabilitation and reintegration into society.
2. This may include counseling, education, vocational training, and other support services.

4. Preventing Future Delinquency:

- The SIR can identify risk factors that may contribute to future delinquency.
- By addressing these risk factors, the JJB can work towards preventing future problems and helping the child become a healthy and contributing member of society.

5. Ensuring the Child's Rights and Welfare:

1. The report helps the JJB understand the child's perspective and feelings about the situation, which is important for their well-being. The SIR emphasizes the importance of protecting the child's rights and ensuring their welfare throughout the legal process.
2. It promotes a child-centered approach, prioritizing the child's well-being and development.
3. The report helps ensure that the child's rights are protected, including their right to a fair hearing and the right to be treated in a manner that respects their dignity.

Conclusion

In essence, the SIR and SBR are vital tools that help the Juvenile Justice System understand the child, guide decision-making, support rehabilitation, and ensure the child's best interests are considered throughout the process. The aim of the inquiry by the JJB is not to punish the guilty. The purpose of the Act is fulfilled only when a child in conflict with law receives due development care and protection as stipulated in the Act and is released from the observation home or any other place of stay with some skills not only for his own livelihood but for others whom he may like to support.

References:

1-Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 & Juvenile Justice Model Rules of 2016
2-Barun Chandra Thakur Vs Master Bholu, [2022] 10 SCR 595

SISHU SURAKHYA 2025: SECURING THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN

Dibyasachi Behera,
PMJJB, Sambalpur

Understanding Child Protection

Child protection refers to the strategies, policies, and practices designed to safeguard children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. While "child rights" ensure the fundamental human entitlements of every child, child protection ensures those rights are upheld, even in the face of threats. Children are not only the most vulnerable members of our society but also the most valuable assets of our future. "Sishu Surakhya," or child protection, is not just a legal or institutional responsibility — it is a moral duty for every individual. In 2025, as we strive toward a more equitable and compassionate society, ensuring a safe, nurturing, and empowering environment for every child is paramount.

The Government of India has enacted several pivotal laws for this purpose:

- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**
- **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006**
- **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**
- **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986**

These laws serve as the foundation of a legal framework that aims to protect children from various forms of harm — physical, emotional, and sexual.

Emerging Challenges to Child Safety

Despite legislative advancements, several new and persistent challenges endanger the safety and wellbeing of children:

1. Abuse in Various Forms

Children face physical abuse (beatings, physical harm), emotional abuse (verbal assault, threats, neglect), and sexual abuse — which leaves deep psychological scars. Often, these acts are committed by people known to the child.

2. Juvenile Delinquency

Increasingly, minors are involved in illegal activities ranging from vandalism and truancy to assault and theft. These behaviours stem from complex causes, including dysfunctional family environments, peer pressure, poverty, addiction, and mental health issues.

3. Online Exploitation

With growing digital access, children face threats like cyberbullying, online grooming, exposure to violent content, and gaming-related addiction. These dangers demand urgent digital literacy and cyber safety measures.

4. Child Labour and Trafficking

In economically disadvantaged regions, children are often forced into labour, early marriage, or trafficked for domestic servitude and begging. These practices rob them of their childhood, education, and freedom.

5. Consequences of Child Neglect and Delinquency

The impact of neglecting child protection is severe:

- **Legal Consequences:** Children in conflict with the law face juvenile justice procedures, affecting their future education and job prospects.
- **Social Consequences:** They may suffer from isolation, broken family bonds, and social stigma.
- **Psychological Consequences:** The trauma of abuse or criminal involvement can damage self-esteem and lead to long-term mental health issues.

6. Strategic Interventions and the Way Forward

To build a safe world for children, a multi-pronged and participatory approach is essential:

7. Strengthening Legal and Welfare Frameworks

Implementation of laws must be efficient, transparent, and child-sensitive. Institutions like **Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards,** and helplines such as **ChildLine 1098** must be supported and expanded.

8. The 5Rs Approach

- **Recognize** signs of abuse or neglect
- **Respond** appropriately and promptly
- **Report** cases to authorities
- **Record** incidents carefully
- **Refer** children to relevant support services

9. Community Engagement and Awareness

Public awareness campaigns and community vigilance play a crucial role in identifying and preventing child abuse. Schools, NGOs, and local governments must work together for outreach and sensitization.

10. Empowering Children and Families

- **Early intervention programs** can help detect at-risk youth.
- **Family counselling and therapy** strengthen familial bonds.
- **Educational and vocational support** equips children with tools for a brighter future.
- **Mentorship programs** connect youth with positive role models.

Conclusion

"Sishu Surakhya" is not a one-time initiative; it is an ongoing commitment that society must uphold. A child nurtured with love, protection, and dignity grows into a responsible and empowered citizen. As we march into 2025 and beyond, let us build a society where every child — regardless of background — enjoys a childhood filled with safety, joy, learning, and opportunity.

TRANSFER SYSTEM, PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT, AND TREATING CHILDREN AS ADULTS UNDER JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT, 2015 OF INDIA CONTRAVENES HUMAN RIGHT PROTECTION UNDER UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHT OF THE CHILD-1989, INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, AND INDIAN CONSTITUTION.

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Abstract

Delhi's December 16, 2012 Nirbhaya Gang Rape Case changed India's criminal laws. Because the main perpetrator was a child who could not be punished, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 had to be modified and replaced with the JJ Act, 2015. This article examines whether the "preliminary assessment" & "Transfer System" introduced in JJ Act, 2015 conflicts with International Human Rights law, the Indian Constitution, and the UNCRC, 1989, which India signed & how far it is justified.

Key words: *Preliminary Assessment, Adult treatment, Heinous Offence, Juveniles Justice, UNCRC, Best Interest.*

Introduction

The Nirbhaya Gang Rape Case, which happened in Delhi on December 16, 2012, led to major changes in India's criminal laws. For example, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 had to be rewritten and replaced with the current JJ Act, 2015 because the main perpetrator was a child who could not be punished properly. According to the new Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015[13], a 16- to 18-year-old who commits a heinous crime may be tried as an adult in the Children's Court after a preliminary review by the Juvenile Justice Board. In this article, the researchers try to figure out if there are any conflicts or contradictions between the goals of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and International Human Rights law, the Indian Constitution, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989[14], which India signed. They also try to figure out if those conflicts and contradictions are fair. The main argument is that treating juveniles like adults when trying and punishing them for any crime violates their rights to equality and non-discrimination, reintegration and the best interest principle, the goal of juvenile justice, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), and other international instruments.

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[13] India Code: Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. (2015, December 31). India Code: Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

[14] *Convention on the Rights of the Child text.* (n.d.). Convention on the Rights of the Child Text | UNICEF. https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text

In India, older Juveniles between the ages of 16 and 18 years have been accused of violating the law a lot more in the past ten years. Some of the worst crimes, like murder and gang rape, have been linked to these young people in recent years. To combat it, the new Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015 provides that adolescents between the ages of 16 and 18 who commit a heinous offence may be punished as adults depending on the circumstances.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India upheld the constitutional validity of the JJ Act 2000 insofar as it allows all children in conflict with the law to be dealt with equally under the beneficial juvenile justice system regardless of the seriousness of the offence, and differential treatment of children under the age of 18 was not accepted in Salil Bali v. Union of India[15] and Dr. Subramanian Swamy v. Raju[16].

In 1992, India ratified the UNCRC, 1989, which mandates, in Article 40(3), the establishment of a specific justice system for juvenile offenders under the age of 18. The Indian Parliament passed a law that discriminates against children in conflict with the law (CICL) based on their age and the nature of the crime they are accused of committing, despite the requirement to treat all children under the age of 18 equally regardless of the severity of the crime.

Any discrepancies and contradictions between the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989:

In 1992, India ratified the UNCRC, 1989, which mandates, in Article 40(3), the establishment of a specific justice system for juvenile offenders under the age of 18. The Indian Parliament passed a law that discriminates against children in conflict with the law (CICL) based on their age and the nature of the crime they are accused of committing, despite the requirement to treat all children under the age of 18 equally regardless of the severity of the crime.

Is the inclusion of the "Transfer System" and "preliminary assessment" in the JJ(CPC) Act, 2015 in violation of the letter and spirit of the UNCRC, 1989?

According to Gauri Pillai and ShrikrishnaUpadhyay (2017)[17], the transfer system envisioned by the 2015 Act is also in contradiction with the CRC's anti-discrimination principle. According to the CRC, state parties shall treat all children involved in legal disputes with respect and without engaging in any form of discrimination.

According to RajyaSabha Parliamentary Standing Committee Report No. 264[18], the provisions of the JJ Act 2015's preliminary inquiry and transfer process contradict the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.It also held that the proposed "transfer mechanism" is in breach of India's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

[15] Salil Bali v Union of India, (2013) 7 SCC 705

[16] Dr. Subramanian Swamy& ORS. vs. Raju.THR, member juvenile justice BRD & ANR ,(2014) 8 SCC 390

[17] Gauri Pillai &ShrikrishnaUpadhyay,Juvenile Maturity and Heinous Crime,NUJS LAW REVIEW 10 NUJS L.Rev. 49 (2017).

[18] RajyaSabha Secretariat, New Delhi. (2015, February). RajyaSabha. 264th Report on Juvenile Justice(Care and Protection of Children) Bill,2014. https://prsindia.org/files/bills_acts/bills_parliament/2014/SC_report-_Juvenile_justice_1.pdf. Retrieved April 2, 2023, from https://prsindia.org/files/bills_acts/bills_parliament/2014/SC_report-_Juvenile_justice_1.pdf

Is it permissible under international human rights law to try and punish children as adults, as authorized under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015?

According to the body of IHRL treaties, rules, and guidelines, all persons under the age of 18 who violate the law must be treated within a distinct system, with the ultimate goal of guaranteeing their well-being and reintegration into society. Therefore, it can be argued that the specific provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 do not authorise the trial and punishment of juveniles as adults under international human rights law.

Definition of Juvenile,Child, Child in Conflict with Law under the United Nations Convention on the Right of Child, 1989, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act,2015

Article-1 of the United Nations Conventions on the Right of the Child,1989 provides that "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" Article 1 of the UNCRC is not a "escape clause" that States can use to deny some CICL the protections against loss of liberty provided by the UNCRC, according to Schabas and Sax (2006)[19]. The Committee on the Rights of the Child also firmly declared that all persons under the age of 18 must be dealt with in General Comment No.24, paragraph 29[20]

Section 2 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 defines in **Sub Section (12) "child"** means a person who has not completed eighteen years of age; and also defined in **Sub Section (13) "child in conflict with law"** means a child who is alleged or found to have committed an offence and who has not completed eighteen years of age on the date of commission of such offence and defined in **Sub Section (35) "juvenile"** means a child below the age of eighteen years;

The goal of reintegration takes precedence above the goal of punishment.

Article 14(4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states that processes for juveniles must "take into account their age and the need to promote their rehabilitation," demonstrating that juvenile justice is essentially rehabilitative rather than punitive.

The Beijing Rules changed the purpose of juvenile justice to include supporting the "well-being of the juvenile," providing a fair response based on the "circumstances of the offender and the crime," and avoiding a "punitive-only" approach[21].

According to Bueren (1998)[22], the UNCRC shifted the emphasis from rehabilitation to thorough reintegration of the child offender into society. A system that respects children's dignity, nurtures in them a respect for human rights, and is motivated by the primary purpose of "supporting the child's reintegration and child's adoption of a positive role in society" is required, according to Article 40 of the UNCRC.

States must adopt "specifically applicable" laws, institutions, and processes for minors who allegedly or really violate the law, according to UNCRC Article 40(3). According to UNCRC Article 40(4), states must create a variety of non-detention dispositional options.

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[19] Schabas, W. and Sax, H., A Commentary on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article 37 Prohibition on Torture, Death Penalty, Life Imprisonment and Deprivation of Liberty (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2006).

[20] UN. Committee on the Rights of the Child. (2019, September 18). [General comment No. 24 (2019) on children's rights in the child justice system]. https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3899429?ln=en#record-files-collapse-header. Retrieved April 10, 2023, from https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3899429?ln=en#record-files-collapse-headerCRC/C/GC/24.

[21] Beijing Rules (n.12), r.5(1) and r.17(1)(d).

[22] Bueren, G.V., The International Law on the Rights of the Child (Martinus Nijhoff, 1998).

According to CRC General Comment No. 24[23], which relates the concept of best interests to juvenile justice, a solely punitive approach is incompatible with the aims of child justice outlined in article 40(1) of the Convention. (General Comment 24: Paragraph 76 of the CRC). "Primary consideration should be given to the child's best interests and the need to promote the child's reintegration into society," according to the law. (CRC, General Comment 24, paragraph 76)[24].

Separation from adult detainees increases the effectiveness of special treatment.

When a child is sentenced as an adult, he or she is likely to be detained in a prison with adults. This will thwarted the explicit policy of keeping children and adult inmates apart under the Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners, 1955[25], the ICCPR[26], the Beijing Rules, the Havana Rules, and the UNCRC.The Beijing Rules and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child emphasized the necessity to separate children and adults, and the Commentary to the Rules warned that administrative convenience could not be used as a defense for such detention owing to the dangers posed by "criminal contamination."[27]

The JJ (CPC) Act, 2015 of India specifies that a juvenile offender can be sent to adult prison after 21 years if the children's Court determines that the child has not made reformative adjustments to become a contributing member of society[28].

The prohibition of the death penalty and life imprisonment

International Human Rights Law strongly condemns small executions. Article 6(5) of the ICCPR prohibits the death sentence for under-18s. Article 37(a) of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child outlaws the death penalty and life in prison without parole (Schabas and Sax, 2006)[29], but it does not outlaw all incarceration.

Section -21 of India's Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, forbids the death sentence for Juveniles but allows life imprisonment with release. International customary law now prohibits the death penalty under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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[23] Supra Note 16

[24] Ibid

[25] Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners, Adopted 30 August, 1955 by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders U.N. Doc. A/CONF/611, annex i, E.S.C. res. 663C, 24 U.N. escor Supp. (No. 1) at 11, U.N. Doc. E/3048 (1957), amended E.S.C. res. 2076, 62 U.N. escor Supp. (No. 1) at 35, U.N. Doc. E/5988 (1977) Rules 8(d) and 85(2).
iccpr, arts. 10(b-c) and 14(1).

[26] iccpr, arts. 10(b-c) and 14(1).
[27] Beijing Rules, r. 13(4) and 26(3) and uncrc, Article 37(c).

[28] India Code: Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. (2015, December 31). India Code: Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, section-20.

[29] Schabas, W. and Sax, H., A Commentary on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article 37 Prohibition on Torture, Death Penalty, Life Imprisonment and Deprivation of Liberty (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2006)

Deprivation of liberty of the Child is always a last resort.

According to the IHRL, the gravity of the offense does not always justify depriving a child in dispute with the law of his or her liberty. Due to the disproportionately negative impacts of institutionalization on children, they should only be arrested, detained, or imprisoned "as a last resort and for the shortest acceptable period of time." Even if the alleged offense is terrible, diversion from the criminal process is a possibility.
The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015 of India clearly violates international human rights law, the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Indian constitutional law by implementing the transfer system, conducting preliminary assessments, and treating children as adults under certain circumstances with respect to children in conflict with the law aged 16 to 18 years involved in heinous offenses.

Child Right to Presumption of Innocence and Right to remain Silent.

When a juvenile is transferred to the adult system, two important components may be jeopardized: the right to a fair trial and the assumption of innocence. "Everyone accused of a criminal offence shall have the right to be presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of competent jurisdiction," states Article 14(2) of the ICCPR. According to Article 14(3)(g) of the ICCPR, the accused has the right not to testify against himself or confess guilt. These standards also apply to minors who have been charged with a crime. (HRC, General Comment, Paragraph 32)

Conclusions:

According to International Human Rights Law and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, children under the age of 18 who are suspected of committing a crime cannot be prosecuted as adults. This would be a violation of the equality principle, which gives all individuals under the age of 18 to juvenile justice rights. Furthermore, it would contradict the basic objective of the juvenile justice system, which is to ensure reintegration. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015 undercuts the CRC-emphasized assumption that best interests in this context mean that reintegration always takes precedence over retribution. India demonstrated its willingness to comply with the UNCRC by enacting important legislative revisions on juvenile justice between 2000 and 2006. Its flagrant disregard for the UNCRC and General Comment No. 10 in 2015 appears to have been more of a political decision to please an outraged majority that was in favour of swift action.

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[1] Beijing Rules (n.12), r.5(1) and r.17(1)(d).

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[1] Supra Note 16

[1] Ibid

[1] Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners, Adopted 30 August, 1955 by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders U.N. Doc. A/CONF/611, annex i, E.S.C. res. 663C, 24 U.N. escor Supp. (No. 1) at 11, U.N. Doc. E/3048 (1957), amended E.S.C. res. 2076, 62 U.N. escor Supp. (No. 1) at 35, U.N. Doc. E/5988 (1977) Rules 8(d) and 85(2).
iccpr, arts. 10(b-c) and 14(1).

[1] iccpr, arts. 10(b-c) and 14(1).
[1] Beijing Rules, r. 13(4) and 26(3) and uncrc, Article 37(c).

[1] India Code: Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. (2015, December 31). India Code: Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, section-20.

[1] Schabas, W. and Sax, H., A Commentary on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article 37 Prohibition on Torture, Death Penalty, Life Imprisonment and Deprivation of Liberty (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2006)

PROBLEM WITH JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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INTRODUCTION:

The Juvenile Justice System in India is a complex and evolving system aimed at addressing the needs of children who come into conflict with the law. It is governed by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which emphasizes the principles of care, protection, development, and rehabilitation of such children.

Many juvenile offenders come from marginalized backgrounds, facing poverty, lack of education, and social exclusion. These factors can contribute to their involvement in crime and make it difficult for them to reintegrate into society. Family problems, such as parental neglect, abuse, or substance abuse, can significantly impact a child's behavior and increase their risk of delinquency. The juvenile justice system often struggles to address these underlying issues.

The focus of the juvenile justice system often shifts towards punishment rather than rehabilitation. There is a lack of effective rehabilitation programs that address the root causes of juvenile delinquency and provide opportunities for skill development and education. Once released from juvenile detention centers, many young offenders lack adequate aftercare support. This can increase their risk of recidivism and re-entry into the criminal justice system.

The Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) plays a crucial role in adjudicating cases involving juveniles. It determines the appropriate course of action, which may include counseling, probation, or institutionalization. The JJB's decisions are pivotal in shaping the future of young offenders.

Once labeled as a juvenile delinquent, individuals often face lifelong stigma and discrimination. This social ostracism can severely limit their opportunities for education, employment, and social integration. Families may disown or neglect children involved in criminal activities, further exacerbating their isolation and vulnerability. Poverty can restrict access to legal aid and quality representation, hindering the ability of juvenile offenders to defend their rights. Economic deprivation, unemployment, and lack of educational opportunities often drive young people towards crime as a means of survival.

Juvenile detention centers are frequently overcrowded, leading to poor living conditions and limited access to rehabilitation programs. Staff members may lack the necessary training to work with young offenders, affecting the quality of rehabilitation efforts.

KEY CHALLENGES:

1. **Implementation Gaps**
   - **Lack of infrastructure:** Many states lack proper infrastructure such as Observation Homes, Special Homes, and Child Welfare Committees.
   - **Poor staffing:** There is often a shortage of trained professionals including probation officers, counselors, and child psychologists.
   - **Inconsistent application of the** law: There are disparities in how the law is interpreted and implemented across states and districts.

2. **Treatment of Children in Conflict with the Law**
   - **Overuse of institutionalization:** Children are often placed in detention even for petty offenses, contrary to the principle of last resort.
   - **Inadequate rehabilitation programs:** There is a lack of focus on skill development, education, and reintegration of juveniles into society.
   - **Stigmatization:** Juveniles, especially those accused of heinous crimes, face long-term social stigma.
3. **Amendments Allowing Trial of Juveniles as Adults**
   - **JJ Act 2015 provision:** Children aged 16–18 can be tried as adults for heinous crimes after a preliminary assessment.
   - **Concerns:** This provision contradicts the rehabilitative spirit of juvenile justice and raises questions about psychological maturity, bias, and fair treatment.
4. **Delays in Juvenile Justice Board Proceedings**
   - **Backlogs and procedural delays** prevent timely adjudication, often leading to prolonged detention or lack of justice.
5. **Inadequate Legal Aid and Awareness**
   - **Lack of access to legal representation and limited awareness** among juveniles and their families regarding their rights under the law.
6. **Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP)**
   - **Conflation with children in conflict with law:** Often, children who need protection (orphans, runaways) are treated similarly to offenders.
   - **Poor support mechanisms:** Institutional care facilities for CNCP are underfunded and poorly managed.
7. **Data and Monitoring Issues**
   - **Inaccurate data collection and reporting** hinder the planning and evaluation of juvenile justice programs.
   - **Lack of periodic audits and evaluations** weakens accountability.
8. **Societal and Systemic Bias**
   - **Discrimination based on caste, class, gender, and region** often leads to differential treatment of juveniles.
   - **Media sensationalism** in high-profile juvenile cases also influences public opinion and judicial outcomes.
9. **Challenges in Post-Care Support**
   - **No strong after-care program:** Youths exiting the juvenile system lack support for education, employment, or housing.
   - **Vulnerability to reoffending:** Without proper reintegration, many juveniles fall back into conflict with the law.

SOLUTIONS:

Strengthening the juvenile justice system requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses legal, social, psychological, and rehabilitative needs. Here are key steps that can be taken:

1. **Legal and Policy Reforms**
   - **Review and update juvenile laws** to ensure they are in line with international standards (e.g., UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).
   - **Raise the age of criminal responsibility** where necessary to ensure that very young children are not criminalized.
   - **Ensure proportionality in sentencing,** avoiding excessively harsh punishments for juveniles.
2. **Diversion Programs**
   - **Promote alternatives to formal judicial proceedings** such as counseling, community service, and mediation.

- **Establish diversion mechanisms** to handle minor offenses outside the court system, reducing the burden on the judicial system.

3. **Rehabilitation and Reintegration**
   - **Develop educational and vocational training programs** within juvenile facilities.
   - **Ensure mental health and psychological support** for offenders.
   - **Support post-release reintegration,** including follow-up services, family counseling, and community-based support.
4. **Capacity Building**
   - **Train law enforcement, judiciary, and social workers** on child rights, trauma-informed care, and age-appropriate handling.
   - **Establish specialized juvenile courts** with trained judges and staff.
5. **Strengthen Institutional Infrastructure**
   - **Create child-friendly facilities** that are separate from adult jails and designed for rehabilitation.
   - **Ensure adequate staffing** and resources for juvenile homes and correctional institutions.
6. **Community Involvement and Awareness**
   - **Conduct public awareness campaigns** to reduce stigma and encourage community support.
   - **Engage families and community leaders** in prevention and rehabilitation efforts.
7. **Data and Monitoring**
   - **Develop reliable data systems** to track juvenile offenses, outcomes, and recidivism.
   - **Monitor and evaluate juvenile justice programs** to inform policy and improve effectiveness.
8. **Focus on Prevention**
   - **Address root causes** of juvenile delinquency, such as poverty, abuse, and lack of education.
   - **Implement early intervention programs** in schools and at-risk communities.

CONCLUSION:

The juvenile justice system in India is a work in progress. While significant strides have been made, challenges remain. A comprehensive approach, involving the judiciary, law enforcement, social welfare agencies, and the community, is essential to ensure that the system effectively addresses the needs of juvenile offenders and promotes their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

REFORMATION OF CICL AND PARENTAL COUNSELLING NEED TO BE IN TIME BEING

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A Child is considered as an important national asset of a nation as the future of the country depends on development of its child. Child rights are fundamental to ensuring a child's development wellbeing and protection from harm. International conventions such as the United Nations convention on the right of the child 1989 ratified by India in 1992 mandate that child should be protected from exploitation, violence and neglect. It also aims to ensure children's access to quality education, health care and a safe environment for growth. In India, despite significant progress, challenges persist. Child protection and rehabilitation of CICL is regarded as one of the main responsibility of the government as well as the society considering the challenges and problems faced by the children.

Though all children have equal rights but their situations are not uniform. For the wellbeing of children the juvenile justice care protection of children's Act 2015 make it mandatory to establish one juvenile justice board in each district as the authority to dispose of matter related to children in conflict with law. The Juvenile Justice System assumes that child offender is a product of unfavourable environment and it is entitled to a fresh chance to beginning his life. It is accepted that a child offender should not be given punishment based on the kind of offence he/she has committed but should be given an individual treatment which is reformative in nature and which is based his/her psychological and social background. In most of cases children with economically weaker section coming to Board and they are more porn to show delinquent behaviour. At adolescence children do not have legal means to fulfil their demands such as getting enough to eat or drink for their survival so they may rely on criminal activity to full fill their desire.

Now-a-days it has been seen most of the CNCP being CICL in course of time due to negligence of society, parental care, broken family and bad peer group influence. The slum children do not want to go to school avoiding their education though their name are rolling in school and they are engaged in various antisocial works. Elder persons for their mere gain utilise children in unlawful activities. Due to less punishment in juvenile cases antisocial use children to commit offence by allured them giving money and narcotics.
The conduct of adolescent is largely influenced by domestic environment of his/her parents. Dysfunctional family relations, poor communication, disrespect, drug addiction among parents, domestic abuse largely predicts delinquency. One of the key influence on children is the environment with family that playing particularly significant role. The issue of CICL mind is deeply influenced by family dynamics including structural parental involvement and socio economic condition. Family environment lack of parental supervises exposure to domestic violence and substance abuse significantly increases the likely hood of offensive behaviour among CICL.

Despite various legal and social interventions addressing CICL remains a critical challenge that requires an in-depth understanding of family related risk and protective factors. So families good influence impact their psychology and lead them towards change of their mind.

The role of counselling to parents and guardian support CICL for changing their behaviour towards positivism. Good parenting therapy involve working together with teen to improve communication, problem solving and conflict resolution skills. Before giving bail to CICL proper counselling should be given to their parents or guardian. Most of the guardian unaware about legal process and they do not know how to keep the CICL when the process of enquiry is continuing. In keeping CICL at home, parental care is needed in holistic approach. Family members or community should show good behaviour to CICL. Where there is no family he/she may be guided by fit person may be NGO, mentor or any rehabilitation centre whom he/she connected by stakeholder. The CICL should get proper counselling time to time. When CICL stay at Observation Home, psychological need based counselling should be given to them in order to maintain discipline in their life. Counselling also seeks to propose effective family based intervention, legal reforms and community support mechanism to prevent and address CICL.

More eloping cases coming to JJB covered under POCSO Act. Both the CICL and victim should need counselling. Unaware about law they fled away from curiosity in tender age. According to the Section 18(a) of the Act it allow the child to go home after advice or admonition by following appropriate inquiry and counselling to such child and to his parents or the guardians. According to the Section 18(g) of the Act-direct the child to be sent to a special home, for such period, not exceeding three years, as it thinks fit, for providing reformative services including education, skill development, counselling, behaviour modification therapy, ad psychiatric support during the period of stay in the special home. By following these aspects Counsellors, Psychologists, LPOs, Community Workers, CWPOs contribute to the development of more effective sustainable strategies for reducing youth offence through family centred approach.

Restorative justice program focus on the harm caused by offending behaviour, allowing offenders to take responsibility and seek restore. In Observation Home, community centre restorative practices provide by councillor to CICL by problem solving (question answer manner) for harm repair of victim. This helps CICL understand how their behaviour impacts others and encourages accountability and empathy. These systems shown to reduce suspension promote better relationship and prevent future violence.

Law in recent time have been focus on rehabilitation to restore mental and physical abilities loss to injury in order to function in a normal way rather than punishment for young offenders. Restorative justice, Legal reforms as well as the new policies could be the sorely needed critical steps in the positive directions.

Community based counselling programs are important factors in the changing attitude of CICL. It encourages and supports CICL through links with adult mentor and provides them with experiences in positive role modelling, such as big brother, big sister by assisting CICL in raising their self-esteems and boosting academic performance or abstaining from risky behaviour. These long term connections with mentor contribute significantly in offering teen agers the safety and motivate them in making sound decisions in life. Adolescent may find different way to use their time, when involved in community based activities in sports league, arts classes, vocational activities, job training programs. All learn new skills that may increases their employability in the future.

Counselling with children involves not just listening to their narrative accounts but also actively responding to their concerns and their feelings. This involves recognising the child's emotion. It changes behaviour and attitude of CICLs which enable them to be more reformative and part of the social integration.

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ଶିଶୁଯତ୍ନ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନରେ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଓ ନୈତିକ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା

ଗୌତମ ପଣ୍ଡା
କିଶୋର ନ୍ୟାୟ ସଚିବାଳୟ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଉଚ୍ଚ ନ୍ୟାୟାଳୟ

ପରିଚୟ: ଆଶ୍ରୟ ବାହାରେ ଏକ ସଙ୍କଟ

ଭାରତରେ ବିକଶିତ ହୋଇଥିବା କିଶୋର ନ୍ୟାୟ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାରେ, ଶିଶୁ ଯତ୍ନ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନଗୁଡ଼ିକ (Child Care Institutions), ଯତ୍ନ ଓ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ କରୁଥିବା ପିଲା (Children In Need of Care & Protection) ଏବଂ ଆଇନ୍ ସହିତ ବିବାଦରେ ଥିବା ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ (Children In Conflict With Law)ପାଇଁ ଆଶ୍ରୟସ୍ଥଳୀ ଭାବରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରେ। ଯଦିଓ ଶିକ୍ଷା, ପରାମର୍ଶ ଏବଂ କାନୁନୀ ସୁରକ୍ଷା, ପୁନର୍ବାସ (Rehabilitation) ଓ ସାମାଜିକ ପୁନଃସମନ୍ୱୟ (Social Reintegration) ପାଇଁ ଜରୁରୀ ଆଧାର ପ୍ରଦାନ କରେ, ସେ ରହିଯାଏ ସମୟର ସ୍ରୋତରେ ଶୁଷ୍କ ତୃଣ ପରି ଭାସିଯାଉଥିବା ଏକ ଭ୍ରମିତ ଆତ୍ମା, ଏକ କୂପମଣ୍ଡୁକ ଯେ ଜାଣେନା ତାର ସେହି ଛୋଟ ଦୁନିଆ ବାହାରେ ଜୀବନ କେଉଁଠୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିବ, କିପରି ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିବ; ମନରେ ରହିଯାଏ ପ୍ରାୟତଃ ଏକ ଗଭୀର ଶୂନ୍ୟତା ଓ ସମାଜରୁ ବିଚ୍ଛିନ୍ନ ହେବାର ଭାବନା- ଯାହାକୁ କେବଳ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଏବଂ ନୈତିକ ପୋଷଣ ବ୍ୟତୀତ ଅନ୍ୟ କୌଣସି ପଦ୍ଧତିରେ ପୂରଣ କରିହେବ ନାହିଁ।

ସାମ୍ପ୍ରଦାୟିକ ସୀମା ଅତିକ୍ରମ କରି ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତା, ପରିତ୍ୟକ୍ତତା, କିମ୍ବା ପ୍ରତିକୂଳତାର କ୍ଷତ ବହନ କରିଥିବା ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଆଶା, ସ୍ଥିରତା ଏବଂ ବିଶ୍ୱ ସହିତ ମାନବୀୟ ସମ୍ପର୍କ ପାଇଁ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ନୈତିକ ଦିଗ୍‌ଦର୍ଶନ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରେ। ଏହି ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଦିଗଗୁଡ଼ିକର ଅନୁପସ୍ଥିତିରେ, ସଂସ୍ଥାଗତ ଯତ୍ନ ଏକ ମୂଲ୍ୟହୀନ ଓ ଆତ୍ମାହୀନ ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ହୋଇଯାଏ, ଯାହା ଶିଶୁର ଭାବନାତ୍ମକ ଓ ଅସ୍ତିତ୍ୱଗତ ଆବଶ୍ୟକତାକୁ ଅଣଦେଖା କରେ। ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଏବଂ ନୈତିକ ସମ୍ବେଦନଶୀଳତାରେ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଏକ ପରିବେଶରେ ବିବର୍ଦ୍ଧିତ ହେଲେ, ସବୁଠାରୁ ଭଗ୍ନ ଆତ୍ମା ମଧ୍ୟ ନୂତନ ମର୍ଯ୍ୟାଦା ଏବଂ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ସହିତ ପୁନଃ ଉଜ୍ଜୀବିତ ହୁଏ; କୋମଳ, ନମନୀୟ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ କଥା ବା କଣ କହିବା ? ତେଣୁ, ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତା ଏବଂ ନୈତିକତାର ଅନ୍ତର୍ଭୁକ୍ତି ଏକ ଆଲଙ୍କାରିକ ଆଦର୍ଶ ନୁହେଁ, ବରଂ ସାମଗ୍ରିକ ଶିଶୁ ବିକାଶର ଏକ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସ୍ତମ୍ଭ।

ଅତୀତରେ ମାନ୍ୟବର ସୁପ୍ରିମକୋର୍ଟ ଏବଂ ନିକଟ ଅତୀତରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ହାଇକୋର୍ଟ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ରାୟରେ ଅସ୍କାର ୱାଇଲ୍ଡଙ୍କୁ ଉଦ୍ଧୃତ କରିଛନ୍ତି, "ସନ୍ଥ ଏବଂ ପାପୀ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଏକମାତ୍ର ପାର୍ଥକ୍ୟ ହେଉଛି ଯେ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ସନ୍ଥଙ୍କର ଏକ ଅତୀତ ଥାଏ ଏବଂ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ପାପୀର ଏକ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ଥାଏ।" ଏହି ଅର୍ଥପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ବାକ୍ୟ ଅନ୍ୟ ଯେକୌଣସି ଅପରାଧୀ ଅପେକ୍ଷା ଆଇନ ସହିତ ଦ୍ୱନ୍ଦରେ ଥିବା ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଅଧିକ ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ। କିନ୍ତୁ ଯଦି ପରିତ୍ୟକ୍ତ, ଅତ୍ୟାଚାରିତ କିମ୍ବା ଆଇନ ସହିତ ବିବାଦରେ ଥିବା ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ଅତୀତକୁ ବିଶ୍ଳେଷଣ ଓ ଅନୁଧ୍ୟାନ କରି ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନକୁ ସଠିକ୍ ଭାବେ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥିତ ଓ ସୁବିନ୍ୟସ୍ତ କରାନଯାଏ, ତେବେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ମଧ୍ୟ ଅନ୍ଧକାରରେ ବିଲିନ ହେବା ଅବଶ୍ୟମ୍ଭାବୀ।

ନୈତିକ ଏବଂ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଏକ ପ୍ରାମାଣିକ ଉପଚାର ଯାହା ଅତୀତର ମାନସିକ ବେଦନା ଓ କଳୁଷତାକୁ ଦୂର କରି ଅଶାନ୍ତ ଓ ଦିଗ୍‌ଭ୍ରାନ୍ତ କୋମଳମତି ମନକୁ ଶାନ୍ତି, ଭକ୍ତି, ଏବଂ ସହାନୁଭୂତିରେ ପୁନଃସଂଯୋଜିତ କରିପାରେ ତଥା ଅପରାଧିକ କିମ୍ବା ବେଆଇନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକଳାପ ପ୍ରତି ସେମାନଙ୍କର ପ୍ରବୃତ୍ତିକୁ ହ୍ରାସ କରିପାରେ।

ପ୍ରଗତିଶୀଳ ସଂସ୍କାର ଓ ସୁଧାର ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ, କିଶୋର ଅପରାଧ ବୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇବାରେ ଲାଗିଛି । ଏହି ବିରୋଧାଭାସ ଏକ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକୋଣକୁ ଦର୍ଶାଏ । କେବଳ ଗତାନୁଗତିକ ପଦ୍ଧତିରେ ଆଚରଣଗତ ସଂଶୋଧନର ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟା ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ନୁହେଁ । ପ୍ରକୃତ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ଆତ୍ମାକୁ ସ୍ପର୍ଶ କରିବା ଜରୁରୀ । ଶିଶୁ ଯତ୍ନ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନଗୁଡ଼ିକ କେବଳ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଆଶ୍ରୟସ୍ଥଳ ଭାବରେ ନୁହେଁ, ବରଂ ଆଭ୍ୟନ୍ତରୀଣ ଜାଗରଣ ଏବଂ ନୈତିକ ଗଠନର ପବିତ୍ର ସ୍ଥାନ ଭାବରେ କଳ୍ପନା କରାଯିବା ଉଚିତ, ଯେଉଁଠାରେ ଭଗ୍ନ ଜୀବନଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ମୂଲ୍ୟଭିତ୍ତିକ ଯତ୍ନ ଏବଂ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଚେତନା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ କୋମଳ ଭାବରେ ପୁନର୍ଗଠିତ କରାଯାଇପାରିବ ।

ନୈତିକତା ଏବଂ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତା କାହିଁକି ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ

ମାନସିକ ଆଘାତର ଚିକିତ୍ସା, ଅନ୍ତର୍ନିହିତ ଶକ୍ତି ବିକାଶ ଏବଂ ଆତ୍ମସଚେତନତା ବୃଦ୍ଧିରେ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଓ ନୈତିକ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ଭୂମିକାକୁ ଆଧୁନିକ ମନୋବିଜ୍ଞାନ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱର ସହିତ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରୁଛି । ଶିଶୁ ଯତ୍ନ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନମାନଙ୍କରେ ଥିବା ପିଲାମାନେ ପ୍ରାୟତଃ ଆଘାତ, ହିଂସା ଏବଂ ଅବହେଳାର ମାନସିକ ଦାଗ ବହନ କରନ୍ତି । ଏଭଳି ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରେ, କେବଳ ଦଣ୍ଡମୂଳକ ଓ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶାତ୍ମକ ପଦ୍ଧତି ଅଧିକାଂଶ ସମୟରେ ବିଫଳ ହୁଏ । ଧାର୍ମିକ ରୀତିନୀତିର ସ୍ଥୂଳ ସୀମା ବାହାରେ, ଆତ୍ମସମୀକ୍ଷା, ମନନ, ନୈତିକ ସଚେତନତା ଏବଂ ଏକ ପବିତ୍ର ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ ଭାବନାକୁ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତା ଅନ୍ତର୍ଭୁକ୍ତ କରେ । ଏହା ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରେ:

ମାନସିକ ଆଘାତ ଭଲ କରିବାରେ:

ମାନସିକ ଆଘାତ ପ୍ରାୟଶଃ ଚିନ୍ତା, ଆକ୍ରୋଶ ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ତର୍ମୁଖତାକୁ ନେଇଥାଏ । ଧ୍ୟାନ ଓ ଚିନ୍ତନ ଭଳି ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଅଭ୍ୟାସ ମନକୁ ଶାନ୍ତି କରେ, ନିଜକୁ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବାରେ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରେ ଏବଂ ଭାବପ୍ରବଣ ପ୍ରତିକ୍ରିୟାଶୀଳତା ହ୍ରାସ କରେ ।

ସହନଶୀଳତା ବିକାଶ କରିବାରେ:

ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ କାହାଣୀ ଓ ନୈତିକ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧ ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କୁ ଦୁଃଖ ଓ ବିପଦର ଅନୁଭୂତିକୁ ଭିନ୍ନ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକୋଣରେ ଦେଖିବାକୁ ସୁଯୋଗ ଦେଇଥାଏ । ଏହି ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକୋଣ ତାଙ୍କୁ ଜୀବନର କଷ୍ଟମୟ ଅନୁଭବଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ଅର୍ଥପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଭାବରେ ବୁଝିବା ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ତର୍ନିହିତ ମାନସିକ ଶକ୍ତି ବିକଶିତ କରିବାରେ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରେ ।

ଠିକ୍ ଏବଂ ଭୁଲ୍ ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟ କରିବାରେ:

କେବଳ ନିୟମ ଏବଂ ଦଣ୍ଡର ଭୟ ମାନି ନୁହେଁ ଶିଶୁମାନେ ଯେତେବେଳେ ପ୍ରେରଣାଦାୟକ ଉଦାହରଣ ଏବଂ ମୂଲ୍ୟଭିତ୍ତିକ ଯୁକ୍ତି ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଶିଯା ଲାଭ କରନ୍ତି, ସେତେବେଳେ ସେମାନେ ନୈତିକତାକୁ ଅଙ୍ଗୀଭୂତ କରିଥାନ୍ତି । ନୈତିକ ମାନଦଣ୍ଡରେ ଠିକ୍ ଓ ଭୁଲ ସେତେବେଳେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟ ହୋଇଉଠେ ।

ଜୀବନର ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ଅନୁସନ୍ଧାନରେ:

ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଏବଂ ଅନୁଭୂତି ତଥା ନୈତିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଏମିତି ଏକ ଆଧାର ଦିଏ ଯାହା ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କୁ ତାଙ୍କ ପୂର୍ବ ନକରାତ୍ମକ ଅନୁଭବର ସୀମିତତା ଅତିକ୍ରମ କରି ଏକ ନୂତନ ବିକଶିତ ଜୀବନର ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ଦେଖିବା ପାଇଁ ଶକ୍ତି ଦିଏ । ଏହା ତାଙ୍କ ଦୟା, ସେବା ଓ ସତ୍ୟନିଷ୍ଠାରେ ଆଧାରିତ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ଉପରେ କଳ୍ପନା କରିବାକୁ ଉତ୍ସାହିତ କରେ ।

ମାନସ ମନ୍ଥନ:

ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଓ ନୈତିକ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ଗଭୀର ପ୍ରଭାବ କେବଳ ସୁଧାର ନୁହେଁ, ବରଂ ପୁନର୍ଜନ୍ମକୁ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହିତ କରେ, ଅସହାୟତାର ଅନୁଭୂତିରୁ ଆତ୍ମନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ଆଡକୁ ନେଇଯାଏ ।

ପୌରାଣିକ ଆଦର୍ଶ: ପିଲାମାନେ ସଦ୍‌ଗୁଣର ମଶାଲ ବାହକ

ଭାରତର ପବିତ୍ର ସାହିତ୍ୟ ଶିଶୁ ଆଦର୍ଶ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କଦ୍ୱାରା ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଯେଉଁମାନେ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଅର୍ନ୍ତଦୃଷ୍ଟି ଏବଂ ନୈତିକ ଦୃଢ଼ତା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପ୍ରତିକୂଳତାକୁ ପରାସ୍ତ କରିଥିଲେ । ସେମାନଙ୍କର କାହାଣୀଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଉଭୟ ମାନସିକ ଉପଚାର ଏବଂ ପ୍ରେରଣା ଯୋଗାଇଥାଏ ।

ପୌରାଣିକ ଆଦର୍ଶ	ବାଲ୍ୟ ଜୀବନ	ଶିକ୍ଷା
ରାମ	ପ୍ରଭୁ ରାମ ଅଯୋଧ୍ୟାର ଜ୍ୟେଷ୍ଠ ରାଜକୁମାର ଭାବେ ରାଜା ଦଶରଥ ଏବଂ ରାଣୀ କୌଶଲ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଔରସରୁ ଜନ୍ମଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଥିଲେ । ବାଲ୍ୟକାଳରେ ସେ ସୁଶୀଳ ଓ ଆଜ୍ଞାକାରୀ ଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ସର୍ବଦା ତାଙ୍କ ପିତାମାତା, ଶିକ୍ଷକ, ବୃଦ୍ଧ ଏବଂ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନ ଓ ସ୍ନେହ କରୁଥିଲେ । ସେ ଶାସ୍ତ୍ର, ଧନୁର୍ବିଦ୍ୟା ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଯୁଦ୍ଧ କଳାରେ ଉତ୍କର୍ଷତା ହାସଲ କରିଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ଏକ ଛୋଟ ବାଳକ ଭାବରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ମହାନ ସାହସ ଓ ବୁଦ୍ଧିମତ୍ତା ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରିଥିଲେ । ଋଷି ବିଶ୍ୱାମିତ୍ରଙ୍କ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶନରେ ତାଡକା ପରି ବହୁ ରାକ୍ଷସମାନଙ୍କୁ ପରାସ୍ତ କରି ସେ ଋଷିମୁନିମାନଙ୍କୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କ ବାଲ୍ୟକାଳ ସତ୍ୟ, ଶୃଙ୍ଖଳା ଏବଂ ଦୟା ଭଳି ଗୁଣରେ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଥିଲା, ଯାହା ତାଙ୍କୁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଆଦର୍ଶ ରୂପେ ଗଢ଼ି ତୋଳିଥିଲା ।	ରାମଙ୍କର ଶୈଶବ ଶିଷ୍ଟାଚାର, ନମ୍ରତା ଓ ଗୁରୁଜନମାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ଆଜ୍ଞାକାରିତା ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦିଏ । ଧର୍ମରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ଦୃଢ଼ତା, ନିରୀହଙ୍କ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ଦୁଷ୍ଟ ଶକ୍ତି ବିରୁଦ୍ଧରେ ସାହସିକତାର ଗାଥା ଦର୍ଶାଏ ଯେ, ତାଙ୍କର ବୀରତା ଆକ୍ରମଣାତ୍ମକ ନୁହେଁ ବରଂ ଧାର୍ମିକତା ଏବଂ ଆତ୍ମନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣରେ ଆଧାରିତ ଥିଲା । ପ୍ରକୃତ ଶକ୍ତି ସଦ୍‌ଗୁଣ, ସଂଯମ, ଧର୍ମରକ୍ଷା ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କ ସେବାରେ ନିହିତ, ତାଙ୍କର ବାଲ୍ୟ ଜୀବନରୁ ଏହା ଶିକ୍ଷା ମିଳେ ।
କୃଷ୍ଣ	ଭଗବାନ କୃଷ୍ଣ ମଥୁରାରେ ଜନ୍ମ ନେଇ, ନନ୍ଦ ଓ ଯଶୋଦାଙ୍କ ସ୍ନେହରେ ଗୋକୁଳରେ ଲାଳିତପାଳିତ ହୋଇଥିଲେ । ମିଷ୍ଟଭାଷୀ କୃଷ୍ଣ ବାଲ୍ୟକାଳରେ ତାଙ୍କ ସ୍ମିତ ହାସ୍ୟ, ବଂଶୀ ବାଦନ ଓ ମେଳାପି ସ୍ୱଭାବରେ ଗୋକୁଳବାସୀଙ୍କ ହୃଦୟ ଜୟ କରିଥିଲେ । ପୁତନା, ଶକଟାସୁର ପରି ରାକ୍ଷସ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ବଧ କରି ଓ କାଳିୟ ଦଳନ କରି ସେ ଗୋକୁଳବାସୀ ଓ ଗୋଧନ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ କରିଥିଲେ । ଇନ୍ଦ୍ର ପୂଜା ବନ୍ଦ କରି ଗୋବର୍ଦ୍ଧନ ପର୍ବ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପ୍ରକୃତି ପ୍ରତି ସମ୍ମାନ ଓ ନମ୍ରତାର ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ପ୍ରେମ, ବୁଦ୍ଧି, ସାହସ ଓ ଦୈବୀ ଲୀଳାରେ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ତାଙ୍କ ବାଲ୍ୟଜୀବନ ତାଙ୍କର ଈଶ୍ୱରତ୍ୱର ସାକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ଦେଇଥିଲା ।	ଭଗବାନକୃଷ୍ଣଙ୍କ ଶୈଶବଲୀଳା ପ୍ରେମ, ନୈତିକତା, ନିରୀହଙ୍କ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ବୁଦ୍ଧିମତ୍ତା ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦିଏ । ଶୈଶବାବସ୍ଥାରୁ ତାଙ୍କ ଜୀବନରେ ବାରମ୍ବାର ବିପଦ ଆସିଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ, ସେ ନିର୍ଭୀକ ଭାବେ ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହୋଇ, ଖେଳକୁଦ, ନୃତ୍ୟ, ସଂଙ୍ଗୀତ ଏବଂ ଦିବ୍ୟ ଆନନ୍ଦରେ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ରହିଥିଲେ, ଯାହା ପ୍ରତିକୂଳ ଏବଂ ବିପଦପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରେ ମାନସିକ ଦୃଢ଼ତା ଏବଂ ସାହସ ଶିକ୍ଷାଦିଏ । ଗୋମାତା, ମୟୂର, କୁଞ୍ଜବନ, ଯମୁନା ଏବଂ ପ୍ରକୃତି ପ୍ରତି କୃଷ୍ଣଙ୍କ ଗଭୀର ପ୍ରେମ , ଦୟା ଓ ନିବିଡ଼ତା, ଚତୁଃପାର୍ଶ୍ୱର ପରିବେଶ ସହିତ ସମନ୍ୱୟର ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱକୁ ପ୍ରତିଫଳିତ କରେ ।

ପୌରାଣିକ ଆଦର୍ଶ	ବାଲ୍ୟ ଜୀବନ	ଶିକ୍ଷା
ଧ୍ରୁବ	ତାଙ୍କ ସାବତ ମା ଦ୍ୱାରା ଅପମାନିତ ହୋଇ, ପାଞ୍ଚ ବର୍ଷ ବୟସ୍କ ଧ୍ରୁବ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଅଭ୍ୟାସରେ ସାନ୍ତ୍ୱନା ଖୋଜିଥିଲେ । ନାରଦ ମୁନିଙ୍କ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶନରେ, ସେ ଏତେ ତୀବ୍ରତାର ସହିତ ଧ୍ୟାନ କରିଥିଲେ ଯେ ଭଗବାନ ବିଷ୍ଣୁ ତାଙ୍କ ସମ୍ମୁଖରେ ପ୍ରକଟିତ ହୋଇଥିଲେ । ସେ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଗତ ଆଘାତକୁ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଅନୁଭୂତିରେ ପରିଣତ କରିଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ଜଣେ ଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଏବଂ ଧାର୍ମିକ ରାଜା ହୋଇପାରିଥିଲେ ।	ଯଥୋଚିତ ପଥପଦର୍ଶନ, ଦୃଢ଼ ଇଚ୍ଛାଶକ୍ତି, ଏକାଗ୍ରତା ଓ ଆସ୍ଥା ସହିତ ଶିଶୁମାନେ ଭାବନାତ୍ମକ ବା ମାନସିକ ବ୍ୟଥାକୁ ଉପଚାର ତଥା ଦିବ୍ୟ ଓ ମହାନ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତିତ କରିପାରନ୍ତି ।
ପ୍ରଲ୍ଲାଦ	ତାଙ୍କ ପିତା ହିରଣ୍ୟକଶିପୁଙ୍କର ନିରନ୍ତର ନିର୍ଯ୍ୟାତନା ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ, ପ୍ରହ୍ଲାଦ ଭଗବାନ ବିଷ୍ଣୁଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ତାଙ୍କର ଅତୁଟ ଭକ୍ତିରେ ଅବିଚଳିତ ରହିଥିଲେ । ସେ କେବଳ ନିର୍ଯ୍ୟାତନାକୁ ସହ୍ୟ କରି ନଥିଲେ, ନିଜ ସହପାଠୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଭକ୍ତି ଓ ଈଶ୍ୱର ବିଶ୍ୱାସରେ ଉଦ୍‌ବୁଦ୍ଧ କରିଥିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ଭଗବାନ ବିଷ୍ଣୁ ନରସିଂହ ଅବତାର ଧାରଣ କରିଥିଲେ ।	ଗଭୀର ଈଶ୍ୱର ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ମାନସିକ ଶକ୍ତି ଦିଏ । ବିପରୀତ ପରିବେଶରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ସତ୍ୟରେ ଦୃଢ଼ ଥିବା ଜଣେ ଶିଶୁ ଶାନ୍ତ ଓ ସଫଳତାର ଏକ ପ୍ରଦୀପ ହୋଇପାରେ ।
ନଚିକେତା	କଥୋପନିଷଦର ଜଣେ ବାଳକ ଯିଏ ତାଙ୍କ ପିତାଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟର ନୈତିକତା ଉପରେ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ଉଠାଇଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ମୃତ୍ୟୁର ଦେବତା ଯମଙ୍କ ପାଖରୁ ପରମ ସତ୍ୟ ଅନ୍ୱେଷଣ କରିଥିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କର ସତ୍-ସଙ୍କଳ୍ପ ତାଙ୍କୁ ଆତ୍ମାର ସ୍ୱରୂପ ଉପରେ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଜ୍ଞାନ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିଥିଲେ ।	ଆନ୍ତରିକତାର ସହିତ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ କରିବାକୁ ଉତ୍ସାହିତ କଲେ ଏବଂ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଜିଜ୍ଞାସାକୁ ପୋଷଣ ଦେଲେ, ପିଲାମାନେ ଗଭୀର ଅନୁସନ୍ଧାନ ଏବଂ ଜ୍ଞାନାନ୍ୱେଷଣରେ ଅଗ୍ରସର ହୋଇପାରନ୍ତି ।
ମାର୍କଣ୍ଡେୟ	ଜଣେ କୁମାର ଋଷି, ଯାହାଙ୍କର ମୃତ୍ୟୁ କମ ବୟସରେ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଧାରିତ ଥିଲା, ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଧାରିତ ସମୟରେ ସେ ଭଗବାନ ଶିବଙ୍କୁ ପୂଜା କରୁଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ଗଭୀର ଭକ୍ତିରେ ଲୀନ ଥିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କର ପବିତ୍ରତା ଓ ନିର୍ଭୟତା ଭଗବାନ ଶିବଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ କଲା ଓ ସେ ଆବିର୍ଭୂତ ହୋଇ ଯମଙ୍କୁ ପଦାଘାତ କରି ତାଙ୍କୁ ଅମରତ୍ୱ ପ୍ରଦାନ କଲେ ।	ଦୃଢ଼ ଭକ୍ତି ଏବଂ ପବିତ୍ରତାର ଭାଗ୍ୟକୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ଅତିକ୍ରମ କରିବାର ଶକ୍ତି ଅଛି ।

ପୌରାଣିକ ଆଦର୍ଶ	ବାଲ୍ୟ ଜୀବନ	ଶିକ୍ଷା
ଅଭିମନ୍ୟୁ	ମହାଭାରତର ବୀର ଯୋଦ୍ଧା, ଯେ ତାଙ୍କ କିଶୋରାବସ୍ଥା ଓ ଅନଭିଜ୍ଞତା ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ, ଧର୍ମଯୁଦ୍ଧରେ ଅବତୀର୍ଣ୍ଣ ହୋଇ ମାରାତ୍ମକ ଚକ୍ରବ୍ୟୁହ ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ବିନ୍ୟାସରେ ପ୍ରବେଶ କରିଥିଲେ। ତାଙ୍କୁ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ପ୍ରବେଶନିସ୍କ୍ରମଣ-ଜ୍ଞାନ ନଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ, ତାଙ୍କର ସାହାସ ଏବଂ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟବୋଧ ଉଜ୍ଜ୍ୱଳ ଥିଲା।	ଧାର୍ମିକ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପରିଚାଳିତ ହେଲେ କିଶୋର ମହାନ ତ୍ୟାଗ ଏବଂ ବୀରତ୍ୱରେ ସକ୍ଷମ ହୋଇପାରିବେ।
ଏକଲବ୍ୟ	ମହାଭାରତର ଆଦିବାସୀ ବାଳକ ଏକଲବ୍ୟ, ଗୁରୁ ଦ୍ରୋଣାଚାର୍ଯ୍ୟଙ୍କଠାରୁ ଧନୁର୍ବିଦ୍ୟା ଶିକ୍ଷା କରିବାକୁ ଇଚ୍ଛା କରିଥିଲେ, କିନ୍ତୁ ଜାତି ଯୋଗୁଁ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟାଖ୍ୟାତ ହୋଇଥିଲେ। ଶିଖିବାକୁ ଦୃଢ଼ ସଂଙ୍କଳ୍ପବଦ୍ଧ ହୋଇ ସେ ଦ୍ରୋଣଙ୍କ ଏକ ମୃଣ୍ମୟ ମୂର୍ତ୍ତି ସମ୍ମୁଖରେ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ନିଷ୍ଠାର ସହିତ ଧନୁର୍ବିଦ୍ୟା ଅଭ୍ୟାସ କରି ଦକ୍ଷତା ହାସଲ କରିଥିଲେ। ଦିନେ ତାଙ୍କର ଧନୁର୍ବିଦ୍ୟାରେ ଅର୍ଜୁନଙ୍କଠାରୁ ଅଧିକ ଦକ୍ଷତା ଦେଖି, ଦ୍ରୋଣ ଚିନ୍ତିତ ହେଲେ, କାରଣ ସେ ଅର୍ଜୁନଙ୍କୁ ସବୁଠାରୁ ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠ ଧନୁର୍ଦ୍ଧାରୀ କରିବାକୁ ପ୍ରତିଜ୍ଞା କରିଥିଲେ। ଗୁରୁଙ୍କ ଇଚ୍ଛାକୁ ସମ୍ମାନ ଦେବା ପାଇଁ, ଏକଲବ୍ୟ ନିଜ ଡ଼ାହାଣ ବୃଦ୍ଧାଙ୍ଗୁଷ୍ଠି କାଟି ଗୁରୁ-ଦକ୍ଷିଣା ଭାବେ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିଥିଲେ। ଅତୁଟ ନିଷ୍ଠା, ଗୁରୁ ଭକ୍ତି ଓ ଅନନ୍ୟ ପ୍ରତିବଦ୍ଧତାପାଇଁ ଏକଲବ୍ୟଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ମରଣ କରାଯାଏ।	ପ୍ରତିବନ୍ଧକ କିମ୍ବା ପ୍ରତ୍ୟାଖାନରେ ନିରାଶ ନହୋଇ ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ, ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟା ଓ ସାହସରେ ଅଗ୍ରସର କଲେ ସଫଳତା ସୁନିଶ୍ଚିତ। ଏକଲବ୍ୟଙ୍କର ଦୃଢ଼ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ଉତ୍କର୍ଷତା ଉପରେ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରିତ ଥିଲା, ପ୍ରତିଶୋଧ କିମ୍ବା ଭୁଲ ଉପରେ ନୁହେଁ, ଯାହା ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସକରାତ୍ମକ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ପଥରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଶକ୍ତି ବ୍ୟବହାର କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଏକ ମୂଲ୍ୟବାନ ଶିକ୍ଷା। ସେ ଗୁରୁ ଦ୍ରୋଣଙ୍କ ଅବାଞ୍ଛନିୟ ଦାବିକୁ ନମ୍ରତାର ସହିତ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରି, ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦେଇଥିଲେ ଯେ, ନୈତିକ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ଓ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧକୁ ସମ୍ମାନ କରିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଗତ ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥ ଅପେକ୍ଷା ଅଧିକ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ।
ସତ୍ୟକାମ ଜାବାଳ	ସତ୍ୟକାମ ଜଣେ ଛୋଟ ବାଳକ ଥିଲେ ଯେ ଗୌତମ ଋଷିଙ୍କ ଛାତ୍ର ହେବାକୁ ଏବଂ ପବିତ୍ର ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଜ୍ଞାନ ଶିକ୍ଷା କରିବାକୁ ଚାହୁଁଥିଲେ। ଗୌତମ ଋଷି ଯେତେବେଳେ ତାଙ୍କ ବଂଶ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧରେ ପଚାରିଲେ, ସତ୍ୟକାମ ସଚ୍ଚୋଟ ଭାବରେ ଉତ୍ତର ଦେଲେ ଯେ ସେ ତାଙ୍କ ପିତାଙ୍କ ନାମ ଜାଣି ନାହାଁନ୍ତି, କାରଣ ତାଙ୍କ ମାତା ଜାବାଲା ତାଙ୍କୁ ଏକାକୀ ପାଳନ କରୁଥିଲେ। ସଚ୍ଚୋଟତା ହେଉଛି ଜଣେ ଉଚ୍ଚ ବଂଶଜର ପ୍ରକୃତ ପରିଚୟ – ଗୌତମ ଋଷି ତାଙ୍କର ଏହି ସଚ୍ଚୋଟତା ଓ ସତ୍ୟବାଦିତାରେ ଗଭୀର ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହୋଇ ତାଙ୍କୁ ଶିଷ୍ୟ ଭାବରେ ଗ୍ରହଣ କଲେ। ତାଙ୍କୁ ପରୀକ୍ଷା କରିବା ଏବଂ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦେବା	ସତ୍ୟବାଦୀ ଆଦର, ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ଓ ସମ୍ମାନର ଅଧିକାରୀ ହୁଏ ଏବଂ ଜୀବନରେ ଉତ୍ତରୋତ୍ତର ଉନ୍ନତି ଲାଭ କରେ। ଜ୍ଞାନଲାଭ ପଥରେ ବଂଶ କିମ୍ବା ପୃଷ୍ଠଭୂମି ଅପେକ୍ଷା ସତ୍ୟବାଦିତା ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ଏବଂ ନିଷ୍ଠା ଅଧିକ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ।

ପୌରାଣିକ ଆଦର୍ଶ	ବାଲ୍ୟ ଜୀବନ	ଶିକ୍ଷା
	ପାଇଁ, ଋଷି ଗୌତମ ସତ୍ୟକାମଙ୍କୁ ଗୋଧନ ପାଳନର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ଦେଇଥିଲେ। ଜଙ୍ଗଲରେ ଗୋଚାରଣ ସମୟରେ ସେ ଷଣ୍ଢ, ଅଗ୍ନି, ହଂସ ଏବଂ ଜଳପକ୍ଷି ସମେତ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଦିବ୍ୟ ଜୀବଙ୍କଠାରୁ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶନ ପାଇଥିଲେ।	
ଆରୁଣୀ	ମହାଭାରତର ଆଦି ପର୍ବରେ ଋଷି ଧୌମ୍ୟ ଶିଷ୍ୟ ଆରୁଣୀଙ୍କୁ ଏକ କ୍ଷେତର ବନ୍ଧରେ ଥିବା ଏକ ଫାଟକୁ ମରାମତି କରିବାର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ଦେଇଥିଲେ। ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ପଦ୍ଧତିରେ ତାଙ୍କର ପ୍ରୟାସ ବିଫଳ ହେବା ପରେ, ସେ ନିଜେ ଫାଟରେ ଶୋଇ ପଡ଼ିଲେ ଏବଂ ନିଜ ଶରୀର ବ୍ୟବହାର କରି ଜଳ ପ୍ରବାହକୁ ବନ୍ଦ କଲେ। ତାଙ୍କ ଗୁରୁ, ତାଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ପାଇ, ତାଙ୍କ ଭକ୍ତିରେ ଗଭୀର ଭାବରେ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହୋଇ ତାଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ମାନ ସ୍ୱରୂପ "ଉଦ୍ଦାଳକ" ଉପାଧି ପ୍ରଦାନ କଲେ ଏବଂ ତାଙ୍କୁ ଗଭୀର ବୈଦିକ ଜ୍ଞାନ ପ୍ରଦାନ କଲେ।	ଶିକ୍ଷକଙ୍କ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକୁ ସମ୍ମାନ କରିବା ଦ୍ୱାରା ସଫଳତା ମିଳିଥାଏ। ଆରୁଣୀ ତାଙ୍କର କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟକୁ ସାଧୁତାର ସହ ପାଳନ କରିଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ଅସୁବିଧାର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହେଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ହାର ମାନି ନଥିଲେ; ସେହିପରି, ପିଲାମାନେ କଷ୍ଟକର ସମୟରେ ସହଜ ପଥ କିମ୍ବା ନିୟମ ଭଙ୍ଗ କରିବା ପରି ଭୁଲ ଉପାୟ ଖୋଜିବା ଉଚିତ୍ ନୁହେଁ।

ମାନସ ମନ୍ଥନ:

ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଧାର୍ମିକ ଶାସ୍ତ୍ରଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ଏହି ସାର୍ବଜନୀନ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଏକ କାଳଜୟୀ ସତ୍ୟକୁ ପ୍ରମାଣିତ କରେ: ବାଲ୍ୟାବସ୍ଥାରେ ଜ୍ଞାନୀ, ଗୁଣୀ, ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶନ ଏବଂ ନୈତିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା, ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ନ୍ୟାୟପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟମୂଳକ ତଥା ସଫଳ ଜୀବନଯାପନ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରେ। ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ସମୟରେ ସେମାନେ ସମାଜ ଓ ଦେଶର ଉନ୍ନତିର କର୍ଣ୍ଣଧାର ହୋଇ ପାରନ୍ତି।

ଭଗବଦ୍ ଗୀତା: ଚାରିତ୍ରିକ ସୁଧାର ଓ ମାନସିକ ଉତ୍ତରଣର ବ୍ୟବହାରିକ ପୁସ୍ତିକା

୨୦୨୩ ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ କିଶୋର ନ୍ୟାୟ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀରେ ଆଲୋଚନା ସମୟରେ, ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କ ଯତ୍ନ ଓ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ସମର୍ପିତ ବେସରକାରୀ ସଂଗଠନର କିଛି ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଅଭିଜ୍ଞତା ବାଣ୍ଟିଥିଲେ ଯେ ଶିଶୁ ଯତ୍ନ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାନରୁ ମୁକ୍ତ ହେବା ପରେ, କିପରି କିଶୋରମାନେ ସମାଜରେ ପୁନଃସମ୍ମିଳିତ ହେବା ପାଇଁ ସଂଘର୍ଷ କରନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ହିଂସା କିମ୍ବା ଅତ୍ୟହତ୍ୟାର ପଥକୁ ବାଛିନିଅନ୍ତି - ଯାହା ଗଭୀର ଭାବରେ ଦୁଃଖଦାୟକ ଏବଂ ସମାଜ ପାଇଁ କ୍ଷତିକାରକ ।

ଏହି ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷୀରେ ଭଗବଦ୍ ଗୀତାର ଜ୍ଞାନ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପ୍ରାସଙ୍ଗିକ ଏବଂ ପ୍ରଭାବଶାଳୀ । ଯେପରି ଭଗବାନ ଶ୍ରୀକୃଷ୍ଣ ବିଷାଦଗ୍ରସ୍ତ ଏବଂ ଭାବପ୍ରବଣ ଅର୍ଜୁନଙ୍କୁ, ଯେ ଆତ୍ମୀୟ ସ୍ୱଜନମାନଙ୍କ ହତ୍ୟାର ଦୁଃଖ ଏବଂ ଦ୍ୱନ୍ଦରେ ଭାରାକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ହୋଇ, ନିଜର କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ପରିତ୍ୟାଗ କରି, ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ ବିନା ଶତ୍ରୁ ନିକଟରେ ନିଜକୁ ସମର୍ପଣ କରିବାକୁ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ଥିଲେ, ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶନ କରିଥିଲେ, ସେହିପରି ଆମକୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ମାନସିକ ଅସହାୟ ଓ ଦୁର୍ବଳ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ଜୀବନରେ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶନ ଏବଂ ନୈତିକ ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟତାର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତାକୁ ଚିହ୍ନିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବ ଏବଂ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଠିକ୍ ବାଟରେ ନେବା ପାଇଁ ଯତ୍ପରୋନାସ୍ତି ଚେଷ୍ଟା କରିବାକୁ ପଡିବ ।

ଭଗବତ୍ ଗୀତା କେବଳ ଏକ ଧାର୍ମିକ ଗ୍ରନ୍ଥ ନୁହେଁ, ବରଂ ଆତ୍ମନେତୃତ୍ୱ, ଜୀବନର ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ଏବଂ ମାନସିକ ସନ୍ତୁଳନ ଉପରେ ଏକ ବ୍ୟବହାରିକ ପୁସ୍ତିକା । ଏହାର ଶ୍ଲୋକଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଯୁବ ମାନସିକତାକୁ ଗଢ଼ିବା ପାଇଁ ମୂଳ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଦୃଷ୍ଟି ଦିଏ । ଯଦିଓ ଗୀତାର ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଶ୍ଲୋକ ମହତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ, ତନ୍ମଧ୍ୟରୁ କିଛି ଶ୍ଲୋକ ନିମ୍ନରେ ଉପସ୍ଥାପିତ ହୋଇଛି, ଯାହା ଆଇନ ସହିତ ଦ୍ୱନ୍ଦରେ ଥିବା ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏବଂ ଯତ୍ନ ଓ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ କରୁଥିବା ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ତଥା ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଅଭିଭାବକମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ମଧ୍ୟ ବହୁଳାଂଶରେ ପ୍ରାସଙ୍ଗିକ ।

ମାନସ ମନ୍ଥନ:

ଶ୍ରୀକୃଷ୍ଣଙ୍କ କରୁଣାପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ କିନ୍ତୁ ଦୃଢ଼ ପରାମର୍ଶ ଅର୍ଜୁନଙ୍କୁ ହତାଶ ଏବଂ ଅବସାଦରେ ଶୃଙ୍ଖଳ ଛିନ୍ନ କରି, ତାଙ୍କର ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ପୁନର୍ବାର ହାସଲ କରିବା ଏବଂ ଧର୍ମ ଅନୁସାରେ କର୍ମ କରିବାର ପଥ ଚୟନ କରିବାରେ ସହାୟକ ହୋଇଥିଲା ।ସେହିପରି, ଶିଶୁ ସେବା ସଂସ୍ଥାନରୁ ବାହାରୁଥିବା ଶିଶୁମାନେ, ଯେଉଁମାନେ ଆଘାତ, ଅଲଗା ହେବାର ଅନୁଭୂତି ଓ ନିରାଶାର ମାନସିକ ଭାର ବହନ କରିଥାନ୍ତି, ସେମାନେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଏକ ଭାବନାତ୍ମକ, ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଓ ନୀତିମୟ ଭିତ୍ତି ଆଧାରିତ ସାହାରା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ କରନ୍ତି ଯାହା ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ସମାଜରେ ଗରିମା ଓ ଶକ୍ତି ସହିତ ପୁନଃଅନ୍ତର୍ଭୁକ୍ତ କରିପାରିବ । ଏହି ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷୀରେ ଗୀତା ଅପେକ୍ଷା ଉତ୍କୃଷ୍ଟ ଭିତ୍ତି ଆଉ କଣ ହୋଇପାରେ ?

ନିଜସ୍ୱ ପ୍ରୟାସ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଆତ୍ମୋନ୍ନତି

ଉଦ୍ଧରେଦାତ୍ମନାତ୍ମାନଂ ନାତ୍ମାନମବସାଦୟେତ୍ । ଆତ୍ମୈବ ହ୍ୟାତ୍ମନୋ ବନ୍ଧୁରାତ୍ମୈବ ରିପୁରାତ୍ମନଃ ।।	"ମନୁଷ୍ୟ ନିଜକୁ ନିଜେ ଉନ୍ନତ କରେ, ଏବଂ ନିଜକୁ ନିଜେ ଅବନତ କରିବା ଉଚିତ୍ ନୁହେଁ। ନିଜେ ନିଜର ବନ୍ଧୁ ଏବଂ ନିଜେ ମଧ୍ୟ ନିଜର ଶତ୍ରୁ ହୋଇପାରେ ।"
	ଶିକ୍ଷା: ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦେବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ଯେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଉନ୍ନତି ସ୍ୱହସ୍ତରେ ନିହିତ । ପ୍ରୟାସ, ଶୃଙ୍ଖଳା ଏବଂ ସଠିକ୍ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ଦ୍ୱାରା ସେମାନେ ନିଜକୁ ଉନ୍ନତ, ସଫଳ ଓ ସ୍ୱାବଲମ୍ବୀ କରିପାରିବେ । କିନ୍ତୁ ଯଦି ସେମାନେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟକୁ ଅବହେଳା କରନ୍ତି କିମ୍ବା କ୍ଷତିକାରକ ଅଭ୍ୟାସରେ ଲିପ୍ତ ହୁଅନ୍ତି, ତେବେ ସେମାନେ ନିଜର ପ୍ରତିବନ୍ଧକ ହୋଇପାରନ୍ତି । ଆତ୍ମସହାୟତା ହେଉଛି ପ୍ରକୃତ ପ୍ରଗତି ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରଥମ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ।

ଆଦର୍ଶ ଦ୍ୱାରା ନେତୃତ୍ୱ

ଯଦ୍ୟଦାଚରତି ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠସ୍ତତ୍ତଦେବେତରୋ ଜନଃ । ସ ଯତ୍ ପ୍ରମାଣଂ କୁରୁତେ ଲୋକସ୍ତଦନୁବର୍ତ୍ତତେ ।।	"ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠ ଲୋକ ଯାହା ଜରନ୍ତି, ସାଧାରଣ ଲୋକ ସେହି ଆଚରଣକୁ ଅନୁସରଣ କରନ୍ତି । ସେମାନେ ଯେଉଁ ମାନଦଣ୍ଡ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଧାରଣ କରନ୍ତି, ସମାଜ ତାହାକୁ ଅନୁଗମନ କରେ ।"
	ଶିକ୍ଷା: ପିଲାମାନେ ଚରିତ୍ରବାନ ଏବଂ ନୀତିନିଷ୍ଠ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପରିଚାଳିତ ହେବା ଉଚିତ, ଯାହା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ସେମାନେ ନିଜ ଭିତରେ ତାଙ୍କର ଭଲ ଗୁଣସବୁ ବିକଶିତ କରିପାରିବେ । ଶିଶୁ ଯତ୍ନ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାନର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱରେ ଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନଙ୍କ ଚରିତ୍ରରେ ଆଦର୍ଶର ପ୍ରତିଫଳନ ହେବା ଉଚିତ୍, ଯଦ୍ୱାରା ସେଠାରେ ରହୁଥିବା ପିଲାମାନେ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁସରଣ କରିପାରିବେ ଏବଂ ନିଜ ଭିତରେ ସେହି ଗୁଣଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିପାରିବେ ।

ସମତା ହେଉଛି ଶକ୍ତି

ଦୁଃଖେଷ୍ୱନୁଦ୍‌ବିଗ୍ନମନାଃ ସୁଖେଷୁ ବିଗତସ୍ପୃହଃ । ବୀତରାଭୟକ୍ରୋଧଃ ସ୍ଥିତଧୀର୍ମୁନିରୁଚ୍ୟତେ ।।	"ଯିଏ ଦୁଃଖରେ ବିଚଳିତ ହୁଅନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ, ଖୁସିରେ ଉଲ୍ଲସିତ ହୁଅନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ, ଏବଂ ଯିଏ ଆସକ୍ତି, ଭୟ ଏବଂ କ୍ରୋଧରୁ ମୁକ୍ତ, ତାଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ଥିରମନା ମୁନି କୁହାଯାଏ ।"
	ଶିକ୍ଷା: ଭାବନାତ୍ମକ ସନ୍ତୁଳନ ତଥା ଭାବପ୍ରବଣତା ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣର ଶିକ୍ଷା ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ସଫଳତା ଏବଂ ବିଫଳତାକୁ ସମଭାବରେ ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହେବାକୁ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରେ । ଆସକ୍ତି, ଭୟ ଓ କ୍ରୋଧକୁ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରିବା ଦ୍ୱାରା ପିଲାମାନେ ସ୍ଥିର ମନା ହୋଇପାରିବେ । ସ୍ଥିର ଓ ସନ୍ତୁଳିତ ମନ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ସଠିକ୍ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ନେବାକୁ ଓ କୁସଙ୍ଗରୁ ଦୂରେଇବାକୁ ସହାୟତା କରିପାରିବ ।

କ୍ରୋଧ ବିନାଶକାରୀ

କ୍ରୋଧାଦ୍ଭବତି ସମ୍ମୋହଃ ସମ୍ମୋହାତ୍ ସ୍ମୃତିବିଭ୍ରମଃ । ସ୍ମୃତିଭ୍ରଂଶାଦ୍ ବୁଦ୍ଧିନାଶୋ ବୁଦ୍ଧିନାଶାତ୍ପ୍ରଣଶ୍ୟତି ।।	"କ୍ରୋଧରୁ ବିଭ୍ରାନ୍ତି, ବିଭ୍ରାନ୍ତିରୁ ସ୍ମୃତି ଭ୍ରମ ହୁଏ । ସ୍ମୃତି ଭ୍ରମରୁ ବୁଦ୍ଧି ନଷ୍ଟ ହୁଏ; ଓ ବୁଦ୍ଧି ନଷ୍ଟ ହେଲେ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିର ବିନାଶ ହୁଏ ।"
	ଶିକ୍ଷା: ଏହି ଶ୍ଲୋକ କ୍ରୋଧ ଦ୍ୱାରା ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହେଉଥିବା ଭାବପ୍ରବଣ ପ୍ରତିକ୍ରିୟାର ଶୃଙ୍ଖଳ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧରେ ସଚେତନ କରାଏ । ଯେତେବେଳେ ପିଲାମାନେ କ୍ରୋଧର ସହିତ ସତ୍ୱର ପତିକ୍ରିୟା କରିବା ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତେ ବିରାମ ଏବଂ ଚିନ୍ତନ ଶିକ୍ଷା କରନ୍ତି, ସେମାନେ ଉତ୍ତମ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ନେବା ସହ ଜୀବନକୁ ଉତ୍ତରୋତ୍ତର ବିକାଶ ଦିଗରେ ନିଅନ୍ତି ।

ସ୍ୱଧର୍ମ ସର୍ବୋତ୍ତମ

ଶ୍ରେୟାନ୍ ସ୍ୱଧର୍ମୋ ବିଗୁଣଃ ପରଧର୍ମାତ୍ ସ୍ୱନୁଷ୍ଠାତାତ୍ ସ୍ୱଧର୍ମେ ନିଧନଂ ଶ୍ରେୟଃ ପରଧର୍ମୋ ଭୟାବହଃ ।।	"ଅନ୍ୟ କାହା ପାଇଁ ଉଦ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟ ଧର୍ମ ଆଚରଣ କରିବା ଅପେକ୍ଷା ଦୋଷଯୁକ୍ତ ହୋଇଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ, ନିଜ ପାଇଁ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଧାରିତ ଧର୍ମ ପାଳନ କରିବା ବିଧେୟ । ବାସ୍ତବରେ ନିଜର ଧର୍ମ ପାଳନ କରି ମୃତ୍ୟୁବରଣ କରିବା ଶ୍ରେୟସ୍କର, କିନ୍ତୁ ଅନ୍ୟ ପାଇଁ ଉଦ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟ ଧର୍ମ ଆଚରଣ କରିବା ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଭୟାବହ ।"
	ଶିକ୍ଷା: ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ଶ୍ଲୋକ ଶିଖାଏ ଯେ ସେମାନେ ନିଜର ବୈଶିଷ୍ଟ୍ୟ ଓ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ଷମତା ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ଜୀବନର ଦିଗ ଚୟନ କରନ୍ତୁ । ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କ ସହ ତୁଳନା ବା ଅନୁକରଣ କିମ୍ବା ବୈଶିଷ୍ଟ୍ୟ ପରିପନ୍ଥୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବାଦ୍ୱାରା ସେମାନଙ୍କ ସ୍ୱାଭାବିକ ଉନ୍ନତିରେ ବାଧା ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇପାରେ ।

କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ପାଳନରେ ଦୃଢ଼ତା ଓ ଫଳରେ ଅନାସକ୍ତ ହିଁ ଯୋଗ

ଯୋଗସ୍ଥଃ କୁରୁ କର୍ମାଣି ସଙ୍ଗଂତ୍ୟକ୍ତ୍ୱା ଧନଞ୍ଜୟ । ସିଦ୍ଧ୍ୟସିଦ୍ଧ୍ୟୋଃ ସମୋ ଭୂତ୍ୱା ସମତ୍ୱଂ ଯୋଗ ଉଚ୍ୟତେ ।।	"ହେ ଅର୍ଜୁନ, ସଫଳତା ଏବଂ ବିଫଳତା ପ୍ରତି ଆସକ୍ତି ତ୍ୟାଗ କରି ତୁମର କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ପାଳନରେ ସ୍ଥିର ରୁହ । ଏପରି ସମତାକୁ ଯୋଗ କୁହାଯାଏ ।"
	ଶିକ୍ଷା: ଫଳାଫଳ ଠାରୁ ନିରପେକ୍ଷ ରହି ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଭାବରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବାର ଆଭ୍ୟନ୍ତରୀଣ କ୍ଷମତା ହେଉଛି ପ୍ରକୃତ ଯୋଗ । ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ପୁରସ୍କାର ଅପେକ୍ଷା ପ୍ରୟାସକୁ ମୂଲ୍ୟ ଦେବାକୁ ତଥା ସଫଳତା କିମ୍ବା ବିଫଳତାରେ ସନ୍ତୁଳନ ବଜାୟ ରଖିବାକୁ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦେଲେ, ସେମାନେ ଦୃଢ଼ ଚରିତ୍ର, ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟବାନ ଏବଂ ସ୍ଥିରବୁଦ୍ଧି ହୁଅନ୍ତି ।

ଅଭ୍ୟାସ ଓ ବୈରାଗ୍ୟ ଦ୍ୱାରା ମନ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ

ଅସଂଶୟଂ ମହାବାହୋ ମନୋଦୁର୍ନିଗ୍ରହଂ ଚଳମ୍ । ଅଭ୍ୟାସେନ ତୁ କୌନ୍ତେୟ ବୈରାଗ୍ୟେଣ ଚ ଗୃହ୍ୟତେ ।।	"ହେ ମହାବାହୁ କୁନ୍ତିପୁତ୍ର, ତୁମେ ଯାହା କହୁଛ ତାହା ଠିକ୍; ମନକୁ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରିବା ପ୍ରକୃତରେ ବହୁତ କଷ୍ଟକର, ଅଭ୍ୟାସ ଓ ବୈରାଗ୍ୟ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଅଶାନ୍ତ ମନକୁ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରିହେବ ।"
	ଶିକ୍ଷା: ଏହି ଶ୍ଲୋକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦିଏ ଯେ ମନ ସ୍ୱାଭାବିକ ଭାବରେ ଅସ୍ଥିର ଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଏହାକୁ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷିତ କରାଯାଇପାରିବ । ବାରମ୍ବାର ଅଭ୍ୟାସ ଓ ଅନାବଶ୍ୟକ ଆକର୍ଷଣରୁ ମନକୁ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟାହାର କରିବା ଦ୍ୱାରା ବିଭ୍ରାନ୍ତକାରୀ ଚିନ୍ତନର କୁପ୍ରଭାବରୁ ମୁକ୍ତି ମିଳେ, ଯାହା ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କ ଜୀବନରେ ମାନସିକ ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ଶୃଙ୍ଖଳା ଆଣେ ।

ଚଞ୍ଚଳ ମନକୁ ବାରମ୍ବାର ଅନ୍ତର୍ମୁଖୀ କରିବା

ଯତୋ ଯତୋ ନିଶ୍ଚରତି ମନଶ୍ଚଞ୍ଚଳମସ୍ଥିରମ୍ । ତତସ୍ତତୋ ନିୟମ୍ୟୈତଦାତ୍ମନ୍ୟେବ ବଶଂ ନୟେତ୍ ।।	"ଯେତେବେଳେ ଏବଂ ଯେଉଁଆଡେ ଅସ୍ଥିର ଏବଂ ଅଶାନ୍ତ ମନ ଘୁରିବୁଲେ, ତାହାକୁ ବାରମ୍ବାର ଫେରାଇ ଆଣିବା ଉଚିତ ଏବଂ ନିରନ୍ତର ଭାବରେ ଈଶ୍ୱରଙ୍କ ଉପରେ ଧ୍ୟାନ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରିତ କରିବା ଉଚିତ୍ ।"
	ଶିକ୍ଷା: ଏହି ଶ୍ଲୋକ ମାନସିକ ଶୃଙ୍ଖଳା ଉପରେ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱାରୋପ କରେ । ମନ ପ୍ରାୟତଃ ବିଚଳିତ ହୋଇପାରେ ବିଶେଷକରି-ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କଠାରେ, କିନ୍ତୁ ଚଞ୍ଚଳ ଓ ବିକ୍ଷିପ୍ତ ମନକୁ ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଭାବେ ବାରମ୍ବାର ଅନ୍ତର୍ମୁଖୀ କରିବାର ପ୍ରୟାସ ଧୀରେ ଧୀରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଧ୍ୟାନକୁ ସୁକେନ୍ଦ୍ରିତ କରି ପ୍ରକୃତରେ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ବିଷୟ ଆଡ଼କୁ ଫେରାଇ ଆଣିବାରେ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରେ ।

ଫଳର ଆଶା ନକରି କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ପାଳନ

କର୍ମଣ୍ୟେବାଧିକାରସ୍ତେ ମା ଫାଲେଷୁ କଦାଚନ । ମା କର୍ମଫଳହେତୁର୍ଭୂର୍ମା ତେ ସଙ୍ଗୋଽସ୍ତ୍ୱକର୍ମଣି ।।	"ତୁମର ବିହିତ କର୍ମ କରିବାର ଅଧିକାର ଅଛି, କିନ୍ତୁ ତାହାର ଫଳ ଉପରେ ନୁହେଁ । ନିଜକୁ କଦାପି କର୍ମଫଳର କାରଣ ବିବେଚନା କର ନାହିଁ ବା କର୍ମଶୂନ୍ୟତା ପ୍ରତି ଆକୃଷ୍ଟ ହୁଅ ନାହିଁ ।"
	ଶିକ୍ଷା: କିଶୋରମାନଙ୍କୁ ଫଳାଫଳ, ପୁରସ୍କାର କିମ୍ବା ନିରାଶା ଏବଂ ପ୍ରତିଶୋଧ ଦିଗରେ ବିକ୍ଷିପ୍ତ ନହୋଇ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଭାବରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ବା କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ କରିବାକୁ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦିଏ । ଏତଦ୍ୱାରା ମାନସିକ ଚାପ ହ୍ରାସ ପାଏ ଏବଂ ସନ୍ତୋଷ ବୃଦ୍ଧି ହୁଏ ।

ଅଳ୍ପ ସତ୍କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ମଧ୍ୟ ବଡ଼ ବିପଦରୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରେ

ନେହାଭିକ୍ରମନାଶୋଽସ୍ତି ପ୍ରତ୍ୟବାୟୋ ନ ବିଦ୍ୟତେ । ସ୍ୱଳ୍ପମପ୍ୟସ୍ୟ ଧର୍ମସ୍ୟ ତ୍ରାୟତେ ମହତୋ ଭୟାତ୍ ।।	"ଧାର୍ମିକତାର ପଥରେ, ପ୍ରୟାସର କୌଣସି କ୍ଷତି ନାହିଁ କିମ୍ବା କୌଣସି ପ୍ରତିକୂଳ ଫଳାଫଳ ନାହିଁ । ଧର୍ମପଥରେ କୌଣସି ପ୍ରୟାସ ବ୍ୟର୍ଥ ଯାଏନାହିଁ-ଏଥିରେ ଅଳ୍ପ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ମଧ୍ୟ ବଡ଼ ବିପତ୍ତି ବା ଭୟରୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରେ ।"
	ଶିକ୍ଷା: ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଛୋଟ ଛୋଟ ଭଲ ଅଭ୍ୟାସ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଯଥା ଶିଷ୍ଟାଚାର, ଶୃଙ୍ଖଳା, ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା, ସ୍ୱାଧ୍ୟାୟ ଆଦି, ଭବିଷ୍ୟତରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ବଡ଼ ଅସୁବିଧାରୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରିପାରେ । ଏହା ଆତ୍ମବିଶ୍ୱାସ, ନୈତିକ ଶକ୍ତି ଏବଂ ଦିବ୍ୟ ଅନୁଗ୍ରହ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଜୀବନର ଘଡ଼ିସନ୍ଧି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତରେ ବାଧାବିଘ୍ନକୁ ଅତିକ୍ରମ କରିବାରେ ଓ ସମସ୍ୟାକୁ ଜୟ କରିବାରେ ସାହାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରେ ।

ଲାଭ ଏବଂ କ୍ଷତିରେ ସମଭାବ ରକ୍ଷା

ସୁଖଦୁଃଖେ ସମେ କୃତ୍ୱା ଲାଭାଲାଭୌ ଜୟାଜୟୌ । ତତୋ ଯୁଦ୍ଧୟ ଯୁଜ୍ୟସ୍ୱ ନୈବଂ ପାପମବାପ୍ସ୍ୟସି ।।	"ସୁଖ ଓ ଦୁଃଖ, ଲାଭ ଓ କ୍ଷତି , ଜୟ ଓ ପରାଜୟକୁ ସମାନ ରୂପେ ବିଚାର କରି କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରୁ ଯୁଦ୍ଧ କର । ଏହିପରି କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ପାଳନ କରି ତୁମେ କେବେ ବି ପାପ ଅର୍ଜନ କରିବ ନାହିଁ ।"
	ଶିକ୍ଷା: ସଫଳତା କିମ୍ବା ବିଫଳତା, ଲାଭ ଓ କ୍ଷତି ଏବଂ ଆନନ୍ଦ କିମ୍ବା ଦୁଃଖରେ ସମତା ଜ୍ଞାନର ଚିହ୍ନ । ପିଲାମାନେ ଜିତନ୍ତୁ କିମ୍ବା ହାରନ୍ତୁ, ଫଳାଫଳ ଦ୍ୱାରା ବିଚଳିତ ନ ହୋଇ ସେମାନଙ୍କର କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ପାଳନ ଶିକ୍ଷା କରିବା ଉଚିତ । ଏହିପରି ସନ୍ତୁଳଣ ସହିତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବା, ମନକୁ ସ୍ଥିର ଓ ଅବିଚଳିତ ରଖେ ।

ଜ୍ଞାନ ସମ ପବିତ୍ର କିଛି ନାହିଁ

ନ ହି ଜ୍ଞାନେନ ସଦୃଶଂ ପବିତ୍ରମିହ ବିଦ୍ୟତେ । ତତ୍ସ୍ୱୟଂ ଯୋଗସଂସିଦ୍ଧଃ କାଳେନାତ୍ମନି ବିନ୍ଦତି ।।	"ଏହି ସଂସାରରେ ଜ୍ଞାନ ସମ ପବିତ୍ର କିଛି ନାହିଁ । ଯେ, ଦୀର୍ଘ ଯୋଗ ସାଧନା ଦ୍ୱାରା ସିଦ୍ଧି ଲାଭ କରିଥାନ୍ତି, ସେ କାଳକ୍ରମେ ଏହି ଜ୍ଞାନକୁ ନିଜ ଅନ୍ତଃକରଣରେ ସ୍ୱତଃ ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ କରନ୍ତି ।"
	ଶିକ୍ଷା: ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ସର୍ବଦା ଜ୍ଞାନ ଆହରଣ କରିବାକୁ ଉତ୍ସାହିତ କରିବା ବିଧେୟ । ବିଷ୍ଣୁ ପୁରାଣ କହେ "ସା ବିଦ୍ୟା ଯା ବିମୁକ୍ତୟେ", ଅର୍ଥାତ ସେହି ବିଦ୍ୟା ଯାହା କେବଳ ସାକ୍ଷରତା କିମ୍ବା ଶିକ୍ଷାଗତ ଦକ୍ଷତା ଉପରେ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରିତ ନହୋଇ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ କ୍ରୋଧ, ଭୟ, ପଶ୍ଚାତ୍ତାପ ଏବଂ ହତାଶା ତଥା ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଅତୀତର ମାନସିକ, ଭାବପ୍ରବଣ ଏବଂ ସାମାଜିକ ପ୍ରତିବନ୍ଧକରୁ ମୁକ୍ତ କରେ । ଜ୍ଞାନ ଲାଭ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଓ ସାଧନା ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ।

କାମନାବାସନାର ବିଷବତ୍ କ୍ଷଣିକ ସୁଖ ଓ ସାତ୍ତ୍ୱିକତାର ଶାଶ୍ୱତ ଅମୃତତୁଲ୍ୟ ଆନନ୍ଦ	
ବିଷୟେନ୍ଦ୍ରିୟସଂଯୋଗାଦ୍ୟତ୍ତଗ୍ରେମୃତୋପମମ୍ । ପରିଣାମେ ବିଷମିବ ତତ୍ସୁଖଂ ରାଜସଂ ସ୍ମୃତମ୍ ।। ଯତ୍ତଦଗ୍ରେ ବିଷମିବ ପରିଣାମେମୃତୋପମମ୍ । ତତ୍ସୁଖଂ ସାତ୍ତ୍ୱିକଂ ପ୍ରୋକ୍ତମାତ୍ମବୁଦ୍ଧିପ୍ରସାଦଜମ୍ ।।	"କାମନାବାସନାରୁ ଉତ୍ପନ୍ନ ରାଜସିକ ସୁଖ ପ୍ରଥମେ ଅମୃତ ତୁଲ୍ୟ ପ୍ରତୀତ ହେଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଏହାର ପରିଣାମ ବିଷତୁଲ୍ୟ ହୋଇଥାଏ । ସେହିପରି ପ୍ରାରମ୍ଭରେ ଯାହା ବିଷତୁଲ୍ୟ ପ୍ରତୀତ ହୁଏ, କିନ୍ତୁ ଶେଷରେ ଏହାର ସ୍ୱାଦ ଅମୃତ ତୁଲ୍ୟ ହୋଇଥାଏ, ସେହି ଆନନ୍ଦକୁ ଆତ୍ମଜ୍ଞାନରେ ଦୀପ୍ତ, ମନର ପବିତ୍ରତାରୁ ଜନ୍ମିତ ଓ ସାତ୍ତ୍ୱିକ ଗୁଣଯୁକ୍ତ କୁହାଯାଏ ।"
	ଶିକ୍ଷା: ବେଆଇନ୍ କିମ୍ବା କ୍ଷତିକାରକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକଳାପ ତୁରନ୍ତ ଉତ୍ତେଜନା କିମ୍ବା ସନ୍ତୋଷ ଦେଇପାରେ କିନ୍ତୁ ଶେଷରେ ଦୁଃଖ, ଦଣ୍ଡ ଏବଂ ଅନୁତାପ ଆଣେ । ଶୃଙ୍ଖଳା, ନୈତିକତା ଏବଂ ଆତ୍ମସଂଯମ ପାଳନ କରିବା ଆରମ୍ଭରେ କଷ୍ଟକର ଲାଗିପାରେ, କିନ୍ତୁ ଏହା ଜୀବନରେ ସ୍ଥାୟୀ ଶାନ୍ତି,ସଫଳତା ଏବଂ ସମ୍ମାନ ଆଣିଥାଏ । ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆବେଗପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଇଚ୍ଛାକୁ ଗଠନ ମୂଳକ ଅଭ୍ୟାସ, ଶିକ୍ଷା ଏବଂ ସେବା ଦିଗରେ ପୁନଃ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶିତ କରାଯିବା ଉଚିତ୍, ଯାହା ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶାନ୍ତି ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିବା ସହିତ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱବାନ୍ ନାଗରିକ ହେବାରେ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରିବ ।

ବାଲ୍ୟକାଳରେ ନୈତିକ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧ ଓ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତାର ଅଙ୍କୁରୋଦ୍‌ଗମ

ମହାନ୍ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିତ୍ୱମାନଙ୍କ ବାଲ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାର ଅନୁଭବ ଦୃଢ଼ ନୈତିକ ଆଦର୍ଶ ଓ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧକୁ ପ୍ରତିବିମ୍ବିତ କରେ । ମହାତ୍ମା ଗାନ୍ଧୀ, ସ୍ୱାମୀ ବିବେକାନନ୍ଦ ଓ କଲାମ୍‌ଙ୍କ ପରି ମହାନ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନଙ୍କ ବାଲ୍ୟ ଅନୁଭୂତି କିପରି ନୈତିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଓ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ସ୍ପନ୍ଦନ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଗଢ଼ିଉଠିଥିଲା, ତତ୍ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧରେ ସମ୍ୟକ୍ ଆଲୋକପାତ ଅପରିହାର୍ଯ୍ୟ:

୧. ସ୍ୱାମୀ ବିବେକାନନ୍ଦ

ବିବେକାନନ୍ଦଙ୍କ ଶୈଶବ, ମାତା ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରୀଙ୍କ ସ୍ନିଗ୍ଧ ମମତା ତଥା ନୀତି ଏବଂ ପୌରାଣିକ କଥା ଭିତ୍ତିକ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତାର ମୃଦୁ ସ୍ପର୍ଶରେ ଗଢ଼ିଉଠିଥିଲା । ବାଲ୍ୟାବସ୍ଥାରେ, ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ରନାଥ (ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ସ୍ୱାମୀ ବିବେକାନନ୍ଦ) ଘଣ୍ଟାଧିକ ସମୟ ଧ୍ୟାନରେ ବ୍ୟତୀତ କରୁଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ଭଗବାନ ଶିବ, ବିବେକାନନ୍ଦ ଓ ହନୁମାନଙ୍କ ଭଳି ପୌରାଣିକ କାହାଣୀ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଗଭୀର ଭାବରେ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହୋଇଥିଲେ । ସେ ତାଙ୍କ ପ୍ରାରମ୍ଭିକ କିଶୋର ବୟସରେ ଧ୍ୟାନ ସମୟରେ ଦିବ୍ୟ ଆଲୋକର ଦର୍ଶନ ପାଉଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ଭଗବାନଙ୍କ ଅସ୍ତିତ୍ୱ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧରେ ଗଭୀର ଅନୁସନ୍ଧିତ୍ସୁ ଥିଲେ ।

ଶିକ୍ଷା:

ପିତାମାତା କିମ୍ବା ଅଭିଭାବକମାନଙ୍କ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଏବଂ ନୈତିକ ଛାପ, ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ମନରେ ଅବିନାଶୀ ପ୍ରଭାବ ପକାଏ । କିଶୋର ବୟସରେ ଧ୍ୟାନ, ଆତ୍ମ ଚିନ୍ତନ ଓ ପୌରାଣିକ-କଥାମାଳା ଜୀବନର ଅନ୍ତର୍ନିହିତ ଶକ୍ତିକୁ ଜାଗ୍ରତ କରିପାରେ ।

୨. ମହାତ୍ମା ଗାନ୍ଧୀ

ବାଲ୍ୟାବସ୍ଥାରେ ମହାତ୍ମା ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ଦେଖିଥିବା ରାମଲୀଳା ନାଟକ ତାଙ୍କର ନୈତିକ କଳ୍ପନାକୁ ପୁଷ୍ଟ ଓ ଜାଗ୍ରତ କରିଥିଲା । ସେ ପିତୃମାତୃଭକ୍ତ ଶ୍ରବଣ କୁମାର ଏବଂ ସତ୍ୟବାଦୀ ହରିଶ୍ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଙ୍କ କାହାଣୀ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଗଭୀର ଭାବେ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହୋଇଥିଲେ, ଯାହା ତାଙ୍କୁ ସତ୍ୟର ଶକ୍ତି ଶିଖାଇଥିଲା ଏବଂ ସେ ସାରା ଜୀବନ ସତ୍ୟ ଅହଂସାର ଆଚରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପ୍ରତିଜ୍ଞାବଦ୍ଧ ହୋଇଥିଲେ ।

"ଏହା ମୋତେ ଏମିତି ଭାବେ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳିତ କରିଥିଲା ଯେ, ମୁଁ ନିଶ୍ଚୟ ଅନେକଥର ନିଜକୁ ହରିଶ୍ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଭାବେ ଅଭିନୟ କରିଥିବି । ସମସ୍ତେ ହରିଶ୍ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଙ୍କ ପରି ସତ୍ୟବାନ୍ କାହିଁକି ହେବେ ନାହିଁ ?- ଏହି ପ୍ରଶ୍ନଟି ମୁଁ ଦିନରାତି ନିଜକୁ ପଚାରୁଥିଲି । ସତ୍ୟକୁ ଅନୁସରଣ କରିବା ଏବଂ ହରିଶ୍ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଯେଉଁ ସମସ୍ତ ଅଗ୍ନିପରୀକ୍ଷା ଦେଇ ଯାଇଥିଲେ, ତାହା ଦେଇ ଯିବା ହିଁ ମୋ ଭିତରେ ପ୍ରେରଣା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିଥିଲା । ମୁଁ ଆକ୍ଷରିକ ଭାବରେ ହରିଶ୍ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଙ୍କ କାହାଣୀରେ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ କରୁଥିଲି । ଏସବୁର ଚିନ୍ତା ମୋତେ ଅନେକ ସମୟରେ କନ୍ଦାଉଥିଲା । ମୋର ସାମାନ୍ୟ ବୋଧ ଆଜି ମୋତେ କହୁଛ ଯେ, ହରିଶ୍ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଏକ ଐତିହାସିକ ଚରିତ୍ର ହୋଇନଥିବେ । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ମଧ୍ୟ ହରିଶ୍ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଏବଂ ଶ୍ରବଣ ଉଭୟ ମୋ ପାଇଁ ଜୀବନ୍ତ ବାସ୍ତବତା, ଏବଂ ମୁଁ ନିଶ୍ଚିତ ଯେ, ଯଦି ମୁଁ ଆଜି ସେହି ନାଟକଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ପୁଣି ପଢ଼ିବି ତେବେ ମୁଁ ପୂର୍ବ ପରି ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହେବି ।"

--- ଗାନ୍ଧୀ, ମୋର ସତ୍ୟ ସହିତ ପରୀକ୍ଷାରେ

ଶିକ୍ଷା:

ଶିଶୁବେଳେ ଯଦି ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧ ଭିତ୍ତିକ କାହାଣୀ, ଧାର୍ମିକ ନାଟକ କିମ୍ବା ପୁରାଣ କଥା ବ୍ୟାଖ୍ୟାତ୍ମକ ଭାବେ ଉପସ୍ଥାପିତ କରାଯାଏ, ତେବେ ସେ ଜୀବନ ପାଇଁ ଏକ ନୀତିମୟ ଦିଗ୍‌ଦର୍ଶନ୍ ଦେଇପାରେ । ଯଦି ଭାରତୀୟ କାଳଜୟୀ ପୌରାଣିକ କାହାଣୀ ଉପରେ ଆଧାରିତ କିଛି ନାଟକ ମହାତ୍ମା ଗାନ୍ଧୀଙ୍କ ଜୀବନର ଦିଗ ଓ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧକୁ ଗଢ଼ିଦେଇପାରିଥିଲା, ତେବେ ଆଇନ ସହିତ ସଂଘର୍ଷରେ ଥିବା ଓ ନିଜ ପାଇଁ ଏକ ମାର୍ଗ ଖୋଜୁଥିବା ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ କୁଇଂଟିକାମୟ ମନରେ ସେହି ପ୍ରଭାବୀ, ଉତ୍କୃଷ୍ଟ କାହାଣୀମାନ ଏକ ଆଲୋକ ବର୍ତ୍ତିକା ସଦୃଶ ପଥପ୍ରଦର୍ଶକ ହେବ ନାହିଁ କି ଏବଂ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ମନରେ ଏକ ଅଲିଭା ଛାପ ଛାଡ଼ିବ ନାହିଁ କି ?

୩. ରବିନ୍ଦ୍ରନାଥ ଟାଗୋର

ଟାଗୋରଙ୍କୁ ବାଲ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାରୁ ଉପନିଷଦିୟ ଦର୍ଶନ ଏବଂ ଭକ୍ତି ଗୀତ (ବାଉଲ୍ ସଙ୍ଗୀତ) ସହିତ ପରିଚିତ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ତାଙ୍କ ପିତା ଦେବେନ୍ଦ୍ରନାଥ ଠାକୁର ତାଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ଶାନ୍ତ ପରିବେଶ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ନେଇଯାଉଥିଲେ, ଯେଉଁଠାରେ ଅଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମ ଚିନ୍ତନ ଏବଂ ପ୍ରକୃତି ତାଙ୍କର ପ୍ରାରମ୍ଭିକ ସାଥୀ ହୋଇଯାଇଥିଲେ । ଏହା ତାଙ୍କ ସୃଜନଶୀଳତାକୁ ଗଭୀର ଭାବେ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ କରିଥିଲା ।

ଶିକ୍ଷା:

କିଶୋରାବସ୍ଥାରେ ଶାନ୍ତ, ଚିନ୍ତନଶୀଳ ସ୍ଥାନ ଏବଂ ପ୍ରକୃତି ଆଧାରିତ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତାର ପରିଚୟ ତଥା ମହାନ୍ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିବିଶେଷଙ୍କ ସଙ୍ଗ, ଅନନ୍ୟ ସୃଜନଶୀଳତା ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ତର୍ନିହିତ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଚେତନାର ବିବର୍ତ୍ତନକୁ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହିତ କରିପାରେ ।

୪. ଡ଼କ୍ଟର ଏ.ପି.ଜେ. ଅବଦୁଲ୍ କଲାମ୍

ରାମେଶ୍ୱରମ୍‌ରେ ଏକ ସାଧାରଣ ମୁସଲିମ୍ ପରିବାରରେ ଜନ୍ମିତ କାଲାମ୍ ଏକ ମନ୍ଦିର ମାଳିନୀ ସହରର ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ବାତାବରଣରେ ବଢ଼ିଥିଲେ, ତାଙ୍କ ପିତାଙ୍କ ଦୈନିକ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ଏବଂ ନିଃସ୍ୱାର୍ଥ ସେବାକୁ ଗଭୀର ଭାବରେ ଅନୁଧ୍ୟାନ କରୁଥିଲେ । ସେ ତାଙ୍କ ହିନ୍ଦୁ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ଶିବସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟ ଆୟାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ସମାନ ଭାବରେ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହୋଇଥିଲେ, ଯିଏ ତାଙ୍କୁ ସହିଷ୍ଣୁତା, ବିଶ୍ୱାସ, ଧର୍ମନିରପେକ୍ଷତା ଏବଂ ଏକତା ଶିଖାଇଥିଲେ ।

"ମୁଁ ମୋ ବାପାଙ୍କଠାରୁ ସଚ୍ଚୋଟତା ଏବଂ ଅମ୍ଳସଂଯମ ଉତ୍ତରାଧିକାରୀ ସୂତ୍ରରେ ପାଇଥିଲି; ମୋ ମାଆଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ , ମୁଁ- ସତପଥରେ ଅଦମ୍ୟ ଆସ୍ଥା ଓ ଗଭୀର କରୁଣା ଉତ୍ତରାଧିକାରୀ ସୂତ୍ରରେ ପାଇଥିଲି ।

ରାମାୟଣ ଏବଂ ପୟଗମ୍ବରଙ୍କ ଜୀବନର ଘଟଣାଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଥିଲା ଶୋଇବା ସମୟରେ କାହାଣୀ ମୋ- ମାଆ ଏବଂ ଜେଜେମା ଆମ ପରିବାରର ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଶୁଣାଉଥିଲେ ।

ମୋର ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ଶିବସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟ ଆୟାର, ଯଦିଓ ଜଣେ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ନିଷ୍ଠାପର ବ୍ରାହ୍ମଣ, ଯାହାଙ୍କର ପତ୍ନୀ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ରକ୍ଷଣଶୀଳ ଥିଲେ, ସେ ଜଣେ ଏକ ପ୍ରକାର ବିଦ୍ରୋହୀ ଥିଲେ । ସାମାଜିକ ପ୍ରତିବନ୍ଧକ ଭାଙ୍ଗିବା ପାଇଁ ସେ ତାଙ୍କର ସର୍ବୋତ୍ତମ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କରିଥିଲେ ଯାହା ଦ୍ୱାରା ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପୃଷ୍ଠଭୂମିର ଲୋକମାନେ ସହଜରେ ମିଶିପାରିବେ ।" ୱିଙ୍ଗସ୍ ଅଫ୍ ଫାୟାରରୁ ଉଦ୍ଧୃତ

ଶିକ୍ଷା:

ଅନ୍ତଃଧର୍ମୀୟ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ପରିବେଶ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ସମନ୍ୱୟ, ଅନୁସନ୍ଧାନ ଏବଂ ନମ୍ରତାକୁ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହିତ କରେ । ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ମନରେ ସମ୍ପ୍ରଦାୟିକ ସଦ୍ଭାବ ଏବଂ ସର୍ବଧର୍ମ ସମନ୍ୱୟ ତଥା ବସୁଧୈବ କୁଟୁମ୍ବକମ୍‌ର ଭାବନା ଦୃଢ଼ କରିବାରେ ଅଭିଭାବକ ଏବଂ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ମାନଙ୍କର ଭୂମିକା ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ । ଧାର୍ମିକ ଆଧାରରେ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୌଳବାଦୀ କରାଯାଉଥିବା ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷୀରେ କଲାମଙ୍କ କାହାଣୀ ଏକ ପ୍ରାସଙ୍ଗିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ।

୫. ଛତ୍ରପତି ଶିବାଜୀ ମହାରାଜ

ତାଙ୍କ ମାତା ଜୀଜାବାଇଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଶିବାଜୀ ଶିଶୁବେଳରୁ ଦୃଢ଼ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧ ସହିତ ପାଳିତ ହୋଇଥିଲେ । ରାମାୟଣ, ମହାଭାରତ ଓ ଭକ୍ତି ପରମ୍ପରାର କଥା ତାଙ୍କ ମନରେ ଧାର୍ମିକ ଭାବନା, ଦେଶପ୍ରେମ, ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ସମ୍ମାନ ଓ ସମସ୍ତ ଜନସମୁଦାୟ ପାଇଁ ଗଭୀର ସ୍ନେହ ଉଦ୍ରେକ କରିଥିଲା ।

ଶିକ୍ଷା:

ମାତା ଏବଂ ଯତ୍ନ ନେଉଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନେ ଶିଶୁ ମନରେ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଭାବନା ଉଦ୍ରେକ କରିବା ସହିତ ଦେଶପ୍ରେମ ଏବଂ ଦୃଢ଼ ନୈତିକ ଭିତ୍ତି ଗଠନ କରିବାରେ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଭୂମିକା ଗ୍ରହଣ କରନ୍ତି ।

୬. ରାମକୃଷ୍ଣ ପରମହଂସ

ଶୈଶବକାଳରେ, ଗଦାଧର ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ରାମକୃଷ୍ଣ ଔପଚାରିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଓ ସଂସାରିକ ବ୍ୟାପାର ପ୍ରତି ଅନାଗ୍ରହୀ ଥିଲେ, କିନ୍ତୁ ସେ ଜଣେ ପ୍ରତିଭାଶାଳୀ ବାଳକ ଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ସଂଗୀତ ପରିବେଷଣ ଓ ଚିତ୍ରାଙ୍କନରେ ପାରଦର୍ଶୀ ଥିଲେ । ପିତା କ୍ଷୁଦିରାମ ଚଟ୍ଟୋପାଧ୍ୟାୟ ଓ ମାତା ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରମଣି ଦେବୀ ଦରିଦ୍ର ହୋଇଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଧାର୍ମିକ ଓ ସଦ୍‌ଗୁଣୀ ଥିଲେ । ସେ ସନ୍ଥମାନଙ୍କର ସେବା କରିବା ଓ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ପ୍ରବଚନ ଶୁଣିବାକୁ ଭଲପାଉଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ପ୍ରାୟତଃ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଭାବନାରେ ଚଳ୍ଚାନ ରହୁଥିଲେ । ଛଅ ବର୍ଷ ବୟସରେ, କଳା ମେଘମାଳାର ପୃଷ୍ଠଭୂମିରେ ଉଡୁଥିବା ଧଳା ବଗମାନଙ୍କ ଦୃଶ୍ୟ ଦେଖି ପ୍ରଥମ ଦିବ୍ୟ ପରମାନନ୍ଦ (Divine Ecstasy) ଅନୁଭବ କରିଥିଲେ । ବୟସାଧିକ୍ୟ ସହିତ ଏହି ଅନୁଭୂତି ତୀବ୍ରତର ହୋଇଥିଲା । ସାତ ବର୍ଷ ବୟସରେ ପିତାଙ୍କ ଦେହାନ୍ତ ସେହି ଆତ୍ମଚିନ୍ତନକୁ ଆହୁରି ଗଭୀର କଲା ଓ ସାଂସାରିକତାରୁ ତାଙ୍କୁ ଆହୁରି ବିମୁଖ କରିଦେଲା ।

ଶିକ୍ଷା:

ସାଧୁସାଙ୍ଗ ଓ ସେବା, ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଚେତନାରେ ଜୀବନକୁ ପ୍ରାଣବନ୍ତ କରେ ଏବଂ ଜୀବନକୁ ସତ୍ ପଥରେ ନେଇଯାଏ । ଅସୀମ ଦୁଃଖ ଏବଂ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣାରେ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ଶୈଶବରେ ମଧ୍ୟ, ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତାର ସ୍ପର୍ଶ, ବିପଥଗାମୀ ହେବାର ସମ୍ଭାବନାକୁ ଦୂର କରି, ପିଲାକୁ ଧାର୍ମିକତା ଏବଂ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତାର ପଥରେ ଅଟଳ ରଖେ ।

୭. ଲାଲ ବାହାଦୁର ଶାସ୍ତ୍ରୀ

ଲାଲ୍ ବାହାଦୁର୍ ଶାସ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ପିଲାଦିନର ଏକ ବହୁତ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ଘଟଣା ଅଛି ଯାହା ଛଅ ବର୍ଷ ବୟସରେ ଘଟିଥିଲା । ଦିନେ, ସ୍କୁଲରୁ ଫେରିବା ସମୟରେ, ଲାଲ୍ ବାହାଦୁର୍ ଏବଂ ତାଙ୍କ ବନ୍ଧୁମାନେ ଘରକୁ ଯାଉଥିବା ରାସ୍ତାରେ ଥିବା ଗୋଟିଏ ଆମ୍ବବଗିଚାକୁ ପ୍ରବେଶ କଲେ । ତାଙ୍କ ବନ୍ଧୁମାନେ ଆମ୍ବ ତୋଳିବା ପାଇଁ ଗଛ ଚଢ଼ିଲେ ଏବଂ ଶାସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ତଳେ ଛିଡା ହେଲେ । ଏହି ସମୟରେ, ମାଳି ଆସି ଶାସ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କୁ ଧରି ପକାଇଲେ ଓ କ୍ରୋଧାନ୍ୱିତ ହେଲେ । କ୍ରନ୍ଦନରତ ଲାଲ୍ ବାହାଦୁର୍, ନିଜକୁ ବାପା ଛେଉଣ୍ଡ ଅନାଥ ପରିଚୟ ଦେଇ ତାଙ୍କୁ ଛାଡି ଦେବାକୁ ମାଳିଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କଲେ । ଲାଲ୍ ବାହାଦୁର୍‌ଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ଦୟା ପ୍ରକାଶ କରି ମାଳି କହିଲେ, "ଯେହେତୁ ତୁମେ ଅନାଥ, ତେଣୁ ତୁମକୁ ଭଲ ଆଚରଣ ଶିଖିବାକୁ ପଡିବ ।" ଏହି ଶବ୍ଦଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଶାସ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଉପରେ ଗଭୀର ଛାପ ପକାଇଲା ଏବଂ ସେ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତରେ ଭଲ ଆଚରଣ କରିବାକୁ ଶପଥ କଲେ ।

ମାଳି ସହାନୁଭୂତିଶୀଳ ଦେବା ସହିତ, ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱାରୋପ କରିଥିଲେ ଯେ ଅନାଥ ହେବା ଅର୍ଥ ହେଉଛି ସେ ଆହୁରି ଅଧିକ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱବାନ ହେବା ଏବଂ ଚୋରି କରିବା ଉଚିତ୍ ନୁହେଁ । ଏହି ଘଟଣା ଲାଲ୍ ବାହାଦୁର୍‌ଙ୍କୁ ଗଭୀର ଭାବରେ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ କରିଥିଲା, ତାଙ୍କର କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ଏବଂ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱବୋଧକୁ ଗଢି ତୋଳିଥିଲା, ଏବଂ ପ୍ରାୟତଃ ତାଙ୍କ ଜୀବନର ଏକ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ମୋଡ଼ ଭାବରେ ଉଲ୍ଲିଖିତ ହୁଏ ।

ଶିକ୍ଷା:

ପିଲାଦିନେ ଗୁଣୀ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କ ଉତ୍ତମ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶନ କିମ୍ବଦନ୍ତୀ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିତ୍ୱ ଗଢ଼ି ତୋଳିପାରେ । ଆମକୁ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁଭବ କରାଇବାକୁ ପଡିବ ଯେ ଅନାଥ ହେବା କିମ୍ବା କଷ୍ଟକର ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରେ ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହେବା, ଅସତ୍ ପଥରେ ଯିବା କିମ୍ବା ଅନୁଚିତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ଲିପ୍ତ ହେବାପାଇଁ ଏକ ବାହାନା ନୁହେଁ; ବରଂ ଅଧିକ ଶୃଙ୍ଖଳିତ ଏବଂ ସଦ୍‌ଗୁଣର ଅଧିକାରୀ ହେବାର ସୁଯୋଗ । ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶନରେ ଏକ ଭୁଲ୍ ମଧ୍ୟ ଜୀବନୀୟ ଶିକ୍ଷାଲାଭ ଓ ଆତ୍ମୋନ୍ନତିର ଏକ ମାଧ୍ୟମ ହୋଇପାରେ ।

ମାନସ ମନ୍ଥନ:

ଏହି ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମାନଙ୍କ ବାଲ୍ୟାବସ୍ଥାର କାହାଣୀ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରେ: ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତା ଏବଂ ନୈତିକତାକୁ ଯଥାଶୀଘ୍ର ବାଲ୍ୟାବସ୍ଥାରୁ କର୍ଷଣ କଲେ, ତଥା ଏହାର ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରକୃଷ୍ଟ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଓ ପରିବେଶ ଯୋଗାଇଦେଲେ, ମହାନତା ସ୍ୱାଭାବିକ ଭାବରେ ବିକଶିତ ହୁଏ ।

ନୈତିକତା ଓ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତାର ଶିଶୁ ଆଦର୍ଶ: ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଅମର ପ୍ରତିଛବି

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ମାଟିରୁ ଜନ୍ମ ନେଇଥିବା ଅନେକ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିତ୍ୱ ଅଛନ୍ତି, ଯେଉଁମାନେ ଶିଶୁବେଳରୁ ନୀତି, ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଶକ୍ତି ଓ ସେବାଭାବ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରି, ସମାଜରେ ଗଭୀର ଛାପ ପକାଇଥିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କ ବାଲ୍ୟ ଜୀବନ ଗଳ୍ପ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କର ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଓ ନୀତିମୟ ଉନ୍ନତି ପାଇଁ ଆଲୋକ ଶିଖା ଭାବେ କାମ କରେ ।

୧. ସନ୍ତକବି ଭୀମ ଭୋଇ

କିମ୍ବଦନ୍ତୀ କହେ ଯେ, ଜନ୍ମରୁ ପିତାମାତାଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପରିତ୍ୟକ୍ତ ଭୀମ ଭୋଇ ଏକ କନ୍ଧ ଦମ୍ପତିଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଲାଳିତ ପାଳିତ ହୋଇଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ବାଲ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାରେ ବସନ୍ତ ରୋଗରେ ଆକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ହୋଇ ତାଙ୍କର ଦୃଷ୍ଟିଶକ୍ତି ହରାଇଥିଲେ । ସେ ଶୈଶବାବସ୍ଥାରୁ ଗଭୀର ଦୟା ଓ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଉନ୍ମୁଖତା ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରିଥିଲେ । ବାଲ୍ୟକାଳରେ ଅନେକ ଦୁଃଖ ଓ ପୋଷ୍ୟ ପିତାମାତାଙ୍କର ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ଭଳି ଗଭୀର ମାନସିକ ଆଘାତ ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ, ସେ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତାକୁ ଅଟୁଟ ଭାବେ ଧରି ରହିଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ନିକଟବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ଭଗବତ ଟୁଙ୍ଗୀରୁ ଭାଗବତ ଏବଂ ପୁରାଣ ପାଠ ଶୁଣୁଥିଲେ । ସ୍ତୁତିଚିନ୍ତାମଣିର ବୋଲିରେ ଭୀମ ଭୋଇ ତାଙ୍କର ତାଙ୍କ ପିଲାଦିନର ସ୍ମୃତି ଏବଂ ଏକାକୀ ଅନାଥ ଶିଶୁଜୀବନର ଅନୁଭୂତିକୁ ଏଭଳି ଅଭିବ୍ୟକ୍ତ କରନ୍ତି-

"ହେ ପ୍ରଭୁ ଶିଶୁଅବସ୍ଥାରୁ ମୁଁ ମୋ ଦୁଃଖର ତୀବ୍ରତାକୁ ଅନୁଭବ କରିଛି ! ମୋ ହୃଦୟକମଳରେ ଏହାକୁ ଚିନ୍ତା କରି ମୁଁ କେବେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସୁଖ ପାଇପାରିନାହିଁ । ମୁଁ ଜନ୍ମରୁ ଅଭାଗା । ମୋ ପିତାମାତା ମୋତେ ଏହି ସଂସାରରେ ଏକାକି ଛାଡ଼ି ଚାଲିଗଲେ । ଯଦି ମୁଁ ସୁସ୍ୱାଦୁ ଭୋଜନ କିମ୍ବା କିଛି ସୁଖ ପାଇବାକୁ ଚାହେଁ, ତାହା କେଉଁଠାରୁ ବା ପାଇପାରିବି ? ମୋ ଆଖିରୁ ଲୁହ ନୁହେଁ ଲହୁର ଧାରା ବହିଯାଉଥିଲା ଯାହାକୁ ମୁଁ ପୋଛି ଦେଉଥିଲି । ଶ୍ରୀଗୁରୁଙ୍କ ମହିମା ବ୍ୟତିତ ଅନ୍ୟ କେହି ଜାଣନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ ଯେ ମୁଁ କେଉଁ ଦୁଃଖ ଦେଇ ଗତି କରିଛି ।"

ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ସମୟରେ ମହିମା ବା ଆଲେଖା ସଂପ୍ରଦାୟର ଜଣେ ମହାନ୍ ପ୍ରବକ୍ତା ଏବଂ ଜଣେ କିମ୍ବଦନ୍ତୀ ଅଦିବାସୀ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ କବି ଭାବରେ ଦୁଃଖୀ, ଦଳିତ ଓ ଅବହେଳିତମାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ଅସୀମ ସହାନୁଭୂତି ଓ ମାନବୀୟ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣା ପ୍ରତି ଗଭୀର ସମବେଦନା ତାଙ୍କ ଲେଖନୀରେ ପ୍ରତିଫଳିତ ହୋଇଛି ।
ତାଙ୍କ କବିତା-

"ପ୍ରାଣୀଙ୍କ ଆରତ ଦୁଃଖ ଅପ୍ରମିତ ଦେଖୁ ଦେଖୁ କେବା ସହୁ,
ମୋ ଜୀବନ ପଛେ ନରକେ ପଡ଼ିଥାଉ, ଜଗତ ଉଦ୍ଧାର ହେଉ"

ମାନବ ଦୁଃଖ ପାଇଁ ଆତ୍ମ ବଳିଦାନ ଓ ଗଭିର ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଅନୁକମ୍ପା ଦର୍ଶାଏ ।

ଶିକ୍ଷା:

ପିଲାଦିନେ ଏତେ ପ୍ରତିକୂଳ ପରିସ୍ଥିତିର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହୋଇ ମଧ୍ୟ, ଭୀମଭୋଇ ପଥଭ୍ରଷ୍ଟ ହୋଇନଥିଲେ । କାରଣ ସେ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତାକୁ ଜାବୁଡି ଧରିଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ତଦ୍ୱାରା ପରିଚାଳିତ ହୋଇଥିଲେ । ଏହା ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ, ଯେଉଁମାନେ ଦୁଃଖଦ, ସଂଘର୍ଷମୟ ଓ ଅପରାଧିକ ପୃଷ୍ଠଭୂମିରୁ ଅସିଛନ୍ତି ତଥା ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପରିଚାଳକ ଓ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶକ ଅଭିଭାବକ ଏବଂ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିବିଶେଷ ମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏକ ବଡ଼ ଶିକ୍ଷା । ନୀତି, ଆଦର୍ଶ ଓ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତାର ସଂସ୍କାର ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ମନରେ ସିଞ୍ଚନ କରନ୍ତୁ- ତାପରେ ଦେଖିବେ କିପରି ଅନନ୍ତ ସମ୍ଭାବନାର ଯାଦୁକରୀ ଆଲୋକ ଅନାବୃତ ହୋଇ ଦେଶ ଜାତିକୁ ଆଲୋକିତ କରୁଛି ।

୨. ବାଜି ରାଉତ:

ମାତ୍ର ବାର ବର୍ଷ ବୟସରେ ଏହି ଜାତୀୟ ନାୟକ ଦେଶ ଓ ଜାତି ପାଇଁ ତାଙ୍କ ଜୀବନ ବଳିଦାନ ଦେଇ ଚିର ଅମର ହୋଇଯାଇଛନ୍ତି । ବ୍ରିଟିଶ୍ ସେନାକୁ ତାଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ଥିବା ନୌକାରେ ନଦୀ ପାର କରାଇବାକୁ ଅସ୍ୱୀକାର କରି, ବାଜି ଶିଶୁ ବେଳରୁ ଅଦମ୍ୟ ସାହସ, ନୈତିକ ଦୃଢ଼ତା ଓ ଦେଶପ୍ରେମର ଉଦ୍ଦୀପକ ଉଦାହରଣ ସାଜିଛନ୍ତି । ଜନକବି ସଚି ରାଉତରାୟ ଶିଶୁ ଶହୀଦ ବାଜି ରାଉତଙ୍କ ଚିତାକୁ ଉଦାତ୍ତ ଓ ଗମ୍ଭୀର ଶବ୍ଦରେ ଚିତ୍ରଣ କରିଛନ୍ତି, ଯାହା ଶୋକକୁଳ ଦୃଶ୍ୟକୁ ବଳିଦାନ ଓ ମୁକ୍ତିର ଅମର ପ୍ରତୀକରେ ପରିଣତ କରେ ।

"ନୁହେଁ ବନ୍ଧୁ, ନୁହେଁ ଏହା ଚିତା,
ଏ ଦେଶ ତିମିର ତଳେ ଏ ଅଲିଭା ମୁକତି ସଳିତା ।
ନୁହେଁ ଏହା ଜଳି ଯିବା ପାଇଁ,
ଏହାର ଜନମ ଏଥି ଜାଳିପୋଡ଼ି ଦବାକୁ ଧସାଇ ।"

୩. ଧର୍ମପଦ:

ଧର୍ମପଦଙ୍କୁ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଲୋକକଥାରେ ନିଃସ୍ୱାର୍ଥପର ବଳିଦାନ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ମରଣ କରାଯାଏ । ରାଜା ନରସିଂହଦେବଙ୍କ ଅଧୀନରେ କାମ କରୁଥିବା ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଶିଳ୍ପୀ ବିଶୁ ମହାରଣାଙ୍କ ଛୋଟ ପୁଅ ଭାବରେ, ଧରମା ଯେତେବେଳେ ଜାଣିଲେ ଯେ ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟୋଦୟ ପୂର୍ବରୁ କୋଣାର୍କ ମନ୍ଦିରର ମୁଣ୍ଡି ମାରିବା ଅପରିହାର୍ଯ୍ୟ, ନଚେତ୍ ତାଙ୍କ ପିତାଙ୍କ ସହିତ ବାରଶହ ବଢ଼େଇଙ୍କର ମୁଣ୍ଡ କାଟ ହେବ, ସେ ନୀରବରେ ମନ୍ଦିର ଉପରକୁ ଉଠିଗଲେ ଏବଂ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ସମାପ୍ତ କରି ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଭାଗା ନଦୀର କଳା ଘୁମର ପାଣିକୁ ଡେଇଁ ପଡିଲେ । ପିତା ତଥା ବାରଶହ ବଢ଼େଇଙ୍କ ସମ୍ମାନ ଏବଂ ଜୀବନ ରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ଏତେ ଅଳ୍ପ ବୟସରେ ଆତ୍ମବଳିଦାନର ପରାକାଷ୍ଠା ତାଙ୍କର ତ୍ୟାଗ ଓ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ପାଳନରେ ନିର୍ଭିକତାର ବିରଳ ଦୃଷ୍ଟାନ୍ତ ବହନ କରେ । ଉତ୍କଳମଣି ଗୋପବନ୍ଧୁଙ୍କ ଭାଷାରେ,

"ବାଳୁତ ହୃଦୟ ମିଶିଗଲା ସେହି ମହାନ ଅନନ୍ତ ବିତାନେ,
ଅଜ ଭାବ ଭୁଲି ମଣେ ଆପଣକୁ ଏକୀଭୂତ ବିଶ୍ୱପ୍ରାଣେ ।
ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତକେ ପୁଣି ସେ କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ର ହୃଦୟେ ସଂକୁଚିତ ବିଶ୍ୱସାରା,
ଭିତର ଭାହାର କଲା ଏକକାର ଅମୃତ ସଂଗୀତ ଧାରା ।
ହୋଇ ଏକଧାନ ମିଳାଇନ ତାନ ବିଶ୍ୱ ସଂଗୀତ ଲହରେ,
ଗାଏ ଧର୍ମପଦ ପରମ ଆନନ୍ଦେ ଜୟ ଜଗଦୀଶ ହରେ ।"

୪. ଉତ୍କଳ ଗୌରବ ମଧୁସୂଦନ ଦାସ:

ବାଳକ ମଧୁସୂଦନ ଏକ ବର୍ଷଣ ମୁଖର ପୂର୍ବାହ୍ନରେ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟକୁ ଯାଉଥିବା ବେଳେ ଅବିରତ ବର୍ଷା ଦ୍ୱାରା କ୍ଷତିଗ୍ରସ୍ତ କର୍ଦ୍ଦମାକ୍ତ ଗ୍ରାମପଥରେ ଗୋଡ଼ ଖଶି ଯିବାରୁ ପଡ଼ିଗଲେ ଏବଂ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଓଦା ଓ କାଦୁଅରେ ମଇଳା ହୋଇଗଲେ । ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ଗ୍ରୀଷ୍ମାବକାଶ ସମୟରେ ସେ ସହପାଠୀ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏକତ୍ରିତ କରି କ୍ଷତିଗ୍ରସ୍ତ ଗ୍ରାମପଥଟିକୁ ମରାମତି କଲେ, ଯାହା ବାଲ୍ୟାବସ୍ଥାରୁ ତାଙ୍କ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ବୋଧ ଓ ସମାଜସେବା ମନୋଭାବକୁ ପ୍ରକାଶିତ କରେ । ତାଙ୍କର ଏହି ଦୃଢ଼ସଙ୍କଳ୍ପ, ପରୋପକାର ଓ ନେତୃତ୍ୱଗୁଣ ଦେଖି ଶିକ୍ଷକ ପ୍ରସନ୍ନ ହୋଇ ଭବିଷ୍ୟବାଣୀ କରିଥିଲେ ଯେ ସେ ଜଣେ ମହାନ୍ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ହେବେ ଏବଂ ତାଙ୍କର ଭବିଷ୍ୟବାଣୀ ସତ୍ୟ ହେଲା । କବି ଡ଼ଃ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ମହାନ୍ତିଙ୍କ ଭାଷାରେ:

"ହେଲା ଦଶହରା ଛୁଟି ବେଳ, ପିଲାଟି ସଭିଙ୍କି କଲା ମେଳ ।
ମାଟି ଗୋଡ଼ି ବାଲି ପକାଇ ସଭିଏଁ, ଗାଁ ମାଟି କଲେ ସମତୁଲ ।
ଏହା ଦେଖି ଲୋକେ ହେଲେ କାବା, ଡ଼କାଇଲେ ଗୁରୁ ଚାଟସଭା ।
କହିଲେ, "ଏଭଳି ଭଲ କାମ କଲେ, ଦୁନିଆରେ ଦିନେ ବଡ଼ ହେବା ।"
ବଡ଼ ହେଲା ଦିନେ ସେହି ପିଲା, ମଧୁ ବାରିଷ୍ଟର ବୋଲାଇଲା ।
ଦେଶ ପାଇଁ କେତେ କାମ କରି ସିଏ, କାଳ କାଳ ଯଶ ରଖିଗଲା ।"

ମାନସ ମନ୍ଥନ:

ଏହି ସମସ୍ତ ଶିଶୁବେଳର ଆଦର୍ଶ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିତ୍ୱ ଆମକୁ ଏହି ମହତ୍ତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦେଇଯାନ୍ତି । ଯଦି ଶିଶୁ ମନରେ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକତା, ଦେଶପ୍ରେମ, ଦୟା ଓ ନୈତିକ ଶକ୍ତିକୁ ସଂଚାରିତ କରାଯାଏ, ତେବେ ସେମାନେ ଦେଶ ଓ ଜାତିର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଏବଂ ପ୍ରଗତିରେ ଅମୂଲ୍ୟ ଯୋଗଦାନ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିବେ ।

ବ୍ୟାବହାରିକ ସଂଯୋଜନ: ଶିଶୁ ଯତ୍ନ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ପାଇଁ ପଥ

ଏହି ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧକୁ ଅର୍ଥପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଭାବରେ ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କ ମନକୁ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ନିମ୍ନ ଲିଖିତ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇପାରେ:

୧. କାହାଣୀ ବା ଗଳ୍ପ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଶିକ୍ଷା:

ପୁରାଣ ଓ ଧାର୍ମିକ ସାହିତ୍ୟର ଶିଶୁ ଚରିତ୍ରଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ନେଇ ନିୟମିତ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଗଳ୍ପ ଶୁଣାଇବା ଏବଂ ତା ପରେ ଗଳ୍ପର ନୀତିମୂଳକ ଆଲୋଚନା କରିବା । ଏହି ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷୀରେ କିମ୍ବଦନ୍ତୀୟ ପଞ୍ଚତନ୍ତ୍ର ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧୀୟ କାହାଣୀ ଏଠାରେ ଉଲ୍ଲେଖ କରିବା ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ।

ପ୍ରାଚୀନ ଭାରତର ରାଜା ଅମରଶକ୍ତି ତାଙ୍କର ତିନିଜଣ ଅନୁଶାସନହୀନ ଓ ଅଧ୍ୟୟନରେ ଅନାଗ୍ରହୀ ପୁତ୍ରମାନଙ୍କର ଶିକ୍ଷା ନେଇ ଚିନ୍ତିତ ଥିଲେ । ଗତାନୁଗତିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପଦ୍ଧତି ଦ୍ୱାରା ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଶିକ୍ଷାଲାଭ ଅସମ୍ଭବ ବୋଲି ଭାବି, ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ନୀତି ଓ ଜ୍ଞାନ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦେବାର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ସେ ବିଦ୍ୱାନ ବିଷ୍ଣୁ ଶର୍ମାଙ୍କ ଉପରେ ନ୍ୟସ୍ତ କଲେ । ବିଷ୍ଣୁ ଶର୍ମା ଗତାନୁଗତିକ ପାଠ୍ୟପୁସ୍ତକ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଶିକ୍ଷା ନ ଦେଇ, ପଶୁପକ୍ଷୀମାନଙ୍କ ଜୀବନ ଉପରେ ଆଧାରିତ ଆକର୍ଷଣୀୟ କାହାଣୀଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଦ୍ୱାରା ନୀତି ଓ ରାଜନୈତିକ ବୁଦ୍ଧିମତ୍ତା ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦେଲେ । ଏହି କହାଣୀଗୁଡ଼ିକ ପରେ ସରଳତା ଏବଂ କାହାଣୀ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଜୀବନର ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦେଇ ଅସୁଥିବା କାଳଜୟୀ ପଞ୍ଚତନ୍ତ୍ର ଓ ହିତୋପଦେଶ ଭାବରେ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ହେଲା ।

ଯେପରି ବିଷ୍ଣୁ ଶର୍ମା ଶିକ୍ଷା-ବିତୃଷ୍ଣ ରାଜପୁତ୍ରମାନଙ୍କୁ ଜ୍ଞାନୀ ଶାସକ ଭାବେ ଗଢ଼ିତୋଳିଥିଲେ, ସେହିପରି ଆକର୍ଷଣୀୟ ଶିକ୍ଷାପ୍ରଦ କାହାଣୀ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଶିଶୁ ଯତ୍ନ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନଗୁଡ଼ିକର ଅଶାନ୍ତ ଓ ଦିଗ୍‌ଭ୍ରାନ୍ତ ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ନୀତି, ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଓ ଜ୍ଞାନତ୍ମକ ଶକ୍ତି ବିକାଶ କରିପାରିବା ।

ମାନସ ମନ୍ଥନ:

କାହାଣୀ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ନୈତିକ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଆଜିର ଶିଶୁ ସେବା ସଂସ୍ଥାନମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ମଧ୍ୟ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପ୍ରାସଙ୍ଗିକ । ଅନେକ ଶିଶୁ ଯେଉଁମାନେ ଅସୁବିଧାଜନକ ପରିବେଶ କିମ୍ବା ବିଚ୍ଛିନ୍ନ ପରିବାର ତଥା ଅପରାଧୀକ ପୃଷ୍ଠଭୂମିରୁ ଆସନ୍ତି, ସେମାନେ ଅନୁଶାସନାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପ୍ରତି ଆଗ୍ରହ ଦେଖାନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ, କିନ୍ତୁ ଅର୍ଥପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଭାବରେ ମାନସିକ ଶାନ୍ତି, ପ୍ରେରଣା ଓ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶନ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରୁଥିବା କାହାଣୀ ସହିତ ଜଡ଼ିତ ହୋଇପାରନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ତତ୍ ସନ୍ନିହିତ ଶିକ୍ଷାକୁ ମନରେ ଅନ୍ତଃସ୍ଥାପିତ କରି ସୁଧାରିଯାଇ ପାରନ୍ତି ।

୨. ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ଏବଂ ଧ୍ୟାନ:

ସରଳ ଭକ୍ତିମୂଳକ ଗୀତ, ପାର୍ଥନା ଓ ଯୋଗ ପ୍ରାଣାୟାମ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଏବଂ ନିୟମିତ ଅଭ୍ୟାସ କରାଇବା ।

୩. ସୃଜନଶୀଳ ଅଭିବ୍ୟକ୍ତି:

ନୈତିକ ଓ ପୌରାଣିକ ବିଷୟବସ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ମହାକାବ୍ୟ ଆଧାରିତ କଳା, ସଙ୍ଗୀତ, ନାଟକ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରିବା ତଥା ଆୟୋଜକ କରି ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଭୂମିକାରେ ଅଂଶଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଇବା । ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଧାର୍ମିକ ଉତ୍ସବ ଦିବସଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ନୈତିକ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧ, ଚରିତ୍ର ନିର୍ମାଣ ଏବଂ ମହାପୁରୁଷଙ୍କ ଜୀବନ ଉପରେ ଆଧାରିତ ବିତର୍କ, ଚିତ୍ରାଙ୍କନ ଏବଂ ପ୍ରବନ୍ଧ ଲେଖା ପ୍ରତିଯୋଗିତା ଆୟୋଜନ କରିବା ଏବଂ ସେଥିରେ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅଂଶଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବାକୁ ଉତ୍ସାହିତ କରିବା ।

୪. ଦୈନନ୍ଦିନୀ (Dairy) ଲେଖା:
ଦୈନନ୍ଦିନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟର ବିବରଣୀ ସହିତ ନିଜର ଚିନ୍ତନ ଓ ଆତ୍ମ ପ୍ରତିଫଳନକୁ ଦୈନନ୍ଦିନୀରେ ଲିପିବଦ୍ଧ କରିବାକୁ ଉତ୍ସାହିତ କରିବା ।

୫. ଆଦର୍ଶସଙ୍ଗ:
ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଓ ନୈତିକ ଭାବରେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ ଥିବା ଆଦର୍ଶ ମାନଙ୍କ ସାହଚର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଏବଂ ଆଲୋଚନାର ସୁଯୋଗ ଦେବା ।

୬. ପାଠ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ସଂଯୋଜନ:
ଭାରତୀୟ ଦର୍ଶନ, ଗୀତା ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟ ଧାର୍ମିକ ଓ ନୀତିଶାସ୍ତ୍ର ତଥା ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମାନଙ୍କ ଜୀବନି କଥା ଦ୍ୱାରା ପ୍ରେରିତ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧ ଭିତ୍ତିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଉପରେ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱାରୋପ କରିବା ।

୭. ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଗ୍ରନ୍ଥାଗାର:
ଶିଶୁ ଯତ୍ନ ଗୃହ ସୁଧାର ଗୃହରେ ପୌରାଣିକ, ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଓ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନଙ୍କ ଜୀବନୀ ଉପରେ ଆକର୍ଷଣୀୟ ପୁସ୍ତିକ ଥିବା ଗ୍ରନ୍ଥାଗାରର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରିବା ଏବଂ ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କୁ ସେହି ପୁସ୍ତକଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ନିୟମିତ ଭାବେ ପଢ଼ିବା ପାଇଁ ଉତ୍ସାହିତ କରିବା ।

୮. ଟେଲିଭିଜନ:
ଟେଲିଭିଜନ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଶନିବାର ଓ ରବିବାର ଦିନ ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କୁ ନୀତିମୂଳକ, ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଓ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ତଥା ମହାନ୍ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନଙ୍କ ଜୀବନୀ ଉପରେ ଆଧାରିତ ତଥ୍ୟଚିତ୍ର ଓ ଚଳଚ୍ଚିତ୍ର ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରିବା ।

୯. ଶିଶୁ ଯତ୍ନ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ପାଇଁ ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ଅଭିଭାବକ ଓ କର୍ମଚାରୀ ଚୟନ ଏବଂ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ:
ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ସମସ୍ତ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକୋଣରୁ ଏହା ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟ ଯେ, ଯତ୍ନ ଓ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ କରୁଥିବା ଓ ଆଇନ ସହିତ ସଂଘର୍ଷରେ ଥିବା ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ଜୀବନକୁ ସୁଗମ କରିବାରେ ଶିଶୁ ଯତ୍ନ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାନରେ ରହୁଥିବା ଏବଂ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଯତ୍ନ ଓ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦାୟିତ୍ୱରେ ଥିବା ବୟସ୍କମାନଙ୍କର ଭୂମିକା ସବୁଠାରୁ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ । ତେଣୁ, ଏହି ଅଭିଭାବକ ଓ କର୍ମଚାରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ କଠିନତା ଏବଂ ବିଚକ୍ଷଣତାର ସହିତ ଚୟନ କରାଯିବା ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଜରୁରୀ । ସେମାନେ କେବଳ ଦରମା ପାଇଁ ବୃତ୍ତି ଭାବରେ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବା ଉଚିତ୍ ନୁହେଁ, ବରଂ ଗଭୀର ପ୍ରତିବଦ୍ଧତା, ସହାନୁଭୂତି ତଥା ଦୃଢ଼ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଏବଂ ନୈତିକ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧରେ ନିହିତ ଏକ ଦୃଢ଼ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ସହିତ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ସମ୍ପାଦନ କରିବା ଉଚିତ୍ । ସାଧୁତା ଏବଂ ମାନବିକତା ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଚରିତ୍ରର ମୂଳଦୁଆ ହେବା ଉଚିତ୍ ।

ଏଥି ସହିତ ଯତ୍ନଗୃହର ଅଭିଭାବକ, ସେବାଦାତା ଓ କର୍ମଚାରୀମାନେ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ସଠିକ୍ ପଥରେ ଆଗେଇବା ନେବା ପାଇଁ ନିୟମିତ ଭାବରେ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷିତ ହେବା ଅତ୍ୟାବଶ୍ୟକ ।

ମାନସ ମନ୍ଥନ:

ଏହାକୁ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରେ ରଖି, ମହିଳା ଏବଂ ଶିଶୁ ବିକାଶ ବିଭାଗ ଏକ ଉତ୍ସର୍ଗୀକୃତ ବୃତ୍ତିଗତ କ୍ୟାଡର୍ (Dedicated cadre of professionals) ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା କରିବାକୁ ବିଚାର କରିପାରେ, ଯେଉଁଥିରେ ଏକ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଭାବରେ ପରିକଳ୍ପିତ ପରୀକ୍ଷା ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଉଚ୍ଚ ଭାବପ୍ରବଣ ବୁଦ୍ଧିମତ୍ତା (Emotional intelligence), ନୈତିକ ଓ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ (Ethical& spiritual conviction), ଏବଂ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ସମ୍ବେଦନଶୀଳତା ରଖିଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନଙ୍କୁ ଚିହ୍ନଟ କରି ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ଦିଆଯାଇ ପାରିବ । ଏପରି ଏକ ଦୂରଦୃଷ୍ଟିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଏକ ସ୍ପନ୍ଦନଶୀଳ, ଅନୁକମ୍ପାପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଏବଂ ଅପରାଧମୁକ୍ତ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ଗଠନ କରିବାରେ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଯୋଗଦାନ ଦେବ ।

୧୦. ସରକାରୀ ନିରୀକ୍ଷଣ:

ଶିଶୁ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାନରେ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ପୂର୍ବରୁ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କ ନୈତିକ ଚରିତ୍ର ଏବଂ ପୃଷ୍ଠଭୂମିର ପୁଙ୍ଖାନୁପୁଙ୍ଖ ଯାଞ୍ଚ କରାଯିବା ଉଚିତ । ଶିଶୁ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାନର ଶିଶୁ ଏବଂ କର୍ମଚାରୀଙ୍କ ଅନୈତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକଳାପ ଉପରେ କଡ଼ା ନଜର ରଖିବା ଉଚିତ୍ ଏବଂ ଶିଘ୍ର ତଦନ୍ତ ସହ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠନର ଦୁଷ୍ଟ ପ୍ରଭାବରୁ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାନକୁ ଦୂର କରିବାକୁ ଯଥୋଚିତ ତ୍ୱରିତ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବା ବିଧେୟ ।

ସୁଧାରରୁ ପୁନରୁତ୍ଥାନ

ପୁନର୍ବାସ କେବଳ ନିୟମ ପାଳନ ଏବଂ ସଂଶୋଧନ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ସୀମିତ ନହୋଇ ଶିଶୁର କୋମଳ ମନରେ ଲୁକ୍କାୟିତ ଦିବ୍ୟ ଗୁଣର ପୁନରୁତ୍ଥାନ ପାଇଁ ଏକ ପ୍ରୟାସ ହେବା ଉଚିତ । ଶିଶୁ ଯତ୍ନ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନଗୁଡ଼ିକ କେବଳ ଆଶ୍ରୟସ୍ଥଳୀ ନୁହେଁ; ସେଗୁଡ଼ିକ ପବିତ୍ର ପରୀକ୍ଷଣାଗାର ଯେଉଁଠାରେ ଆହତ କୋମଳ ଆତ୍ମାଗୁଡ଼ିକ ସୁସ୍ଥ ଏବଂ ରୂପାନ୍ତରିତ ହୁଅନ୍ତି ।

ଆଧୁନିକ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଶୀଳତାରେ ଭାରତର କାଳଜୟୀ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଓ ନୈତିକ ଚେତନାକୁ ସମାହିତ କରି, ଆମେ କେବଳ ଆଇନ୍ ପାଳନକାରୀ ନାଗରିକଙ୍କୁ ନୁହେଁ ବରଂ ପ୍ରବୁଦ୍ଧ- ମାନବ ଗଠନ କରିପାରିବା । ଆସନ୍ତୁ ଆମେ ବିଭ୍ରାନ୍ତି, ଉପଭୋକ୍ତାବାଦ (Consumerism) ଏବଂ ନୈତିକ ଅସ୍ପଷ୍ଟତା (Ethical ambiguity) ଦ୍ୱାରା ଜର୍ଜରିତ ଏହି ବିଶ୍ୱରେ, ଭାରତର ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ଏବଂ ପୌରାଣିକ ପରମ୍ପରାରେ ଆଧାରିତ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଏବଂ ନୈତିକ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧକୁ ପୁନଃପ୍ରବର୍ତ୍ତନ (Reintroduce) କରି, ଅପରାଧ ପ୍ରବଣ ଓ ମାନସିକ ଆହତ କିଶୋର ମାନସିକତାକୁ, ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ (Purpose), ଆତ୍ମମୂଲ୍ୟ (Self-worth) ଏବଂ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶକ୍ତିରେ (Inner strength) ରୂପାନ୍ତରିତ କରିବା ।

କେବଳ ଅପରାଧ ମାନସିକତାକୁ ପରିଚାଳନା ନକରି ସେମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଲୁକ୍କାୟିତ ଧ୍ରୁବ, ନଚିକେତା, ଅଭିମନ୍ୟୁ ଏବଂ ଧର୍ମପଦମାନଙ୍କୁ ଜାଗ୍ରତ କରିବା ଏବଂ କିଶୋର ଆତ୍ମାକୁ ପରିବେଶ ଓ ପୋଷଣ ଦେବା, ଯଦ୍ୱାରା ସେମାନେ ନୈତିକ ସାହାସ ଏବଂ ଦିବ୍ୟ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକୋଣରେ ଉଦ୍ଦୀପିତ ହୋଇ ସମାଜକୁ କରିବେ ଆଲୋକିତ ଏବଂ ଅପରାଧମୁକ୍ତ ସମାଜର ହେବ ଅଗ୍ରଦୂତ ।

। ଜୟ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ।

LGBTQIA+ Youth vis-a-vis the Juvenile Justice System: the Unjust and Non-responsive Society

Subhashree S. Sen

'Yes! They too are the future of the nation, irrespective of the so-called 'uncommon' existence.' The camouflaged LGBTQIA+ youth in society stand at the intersection of hope and hardship. The unvocal 'queer kids' lived in the ray of hope for change and acceptance, which is a struggle altogether. These youth have been segregating themselves from the dayto-day life of society, faced challenges, discrimination, bullying, rejection by families and many more, based on their identity and gender expression. While legal victories and social awareness have brought visibility, deep-rooted prejudices, systemic gaps, and social stigma continue to shape their lived experiences. Coming out remains a profoundly complex and often traumatic process due to familial, social, and institutional backlash. Even though in the last decade, the LGBTQIA+ youth have become increasingly expressive about their sexual orientation and gender identity, aided by social media platforms as a· safe space for self-expression. Many queer youth face emotional, physical, or financial abandonment after coming out. Commonly, forced conversion therapies, psychiatric interventions, and even violence at home are witnessed. With the societal pressure, families pushed their queer kids into child marriage, and some even denied access to education. This situation is too general and not uncommonly observed, regardless of the area, i.e., cities, towns, or rural places.

In addition, school and college discrimination is the underlying basis for queer youth. We can say that schools are the place where it all begins, rather than the family. The homophobic and transphobic individuals bully, misgender, and exclude them from the so-called 'normal' groups in the school, making them silent for their voices for who they are, which is not unique to schools and colleges. The primary concern is the lack of gender-neutral washrooms or sensitised counsellors in the schools. The institutional harassment and non-recognition often lead to dropping out of schools and colleges by transgender and non-binary students. Further, mental health crisis is one of the significant issues leading to high levels of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation due to isolation and stigma. Also, economic marginalisation, digital and physical violence are matters of consideration, as workplace discrimination, lack of job opp011unities, and identity-based bias restrict economic mobility, enrooting them to indulge in begging, sex work, or informal labour.

However, the interaction of LGBTQIA+ youth with the Juvenile Justice System (JJS) is a critical area of concern, especially in countries like India, where both the Juvenile Justice System and queer rights are evolving. The increasing disproportionate vulnerability of LGBTQIA+ youth owing to societal stigma, family rejection, lack of legal protection, and systemic discrimination contributes to the approach of the Juvenile Justice System (JJS), which often exacerbates these vulnerabilities. The grounds for queer youth to enter the Juvenile Justice System might be family rejection and homelessness, leading to survival crimes like theft, begging, sex work, and so on, gender nonconformity or same-sex behaviour, criminalised or socially misunderstood, institutional discrimination by police or community members, and victimisation leading to retaliatory or defensive acts. The ambiguity in the Juvenile Justice System creates struggle and trouble for the LG-BTQI-A+ youth, such as discrimination and misidentification, abuse and violence, lack of mental health support, denial of gender expression and rights, and lack of legal awareness and representation. Inclusively, sexual harassment of queer youth within the JJS is another serious concern, yet under-addressed human rights issue, exposing the convergence of institutional neglect, gender -based violence, and social invisibility. Despite constitutional protections and judicial recognition of queer rights, queer youth in custodial institutions often suffer sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse without adequate legal or institutional safeguards. While the Juvenile Justice Act is gender-neutral, no express provisions exist for LGBTQIA+ children. Youth in conflict with the law or in need of care and protection often

lack tailored institutional safeguards. Whereas, the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, came up with a gap in lacking the institutional implementation within Juvenile homes or protection mechanisms, inclusive of minor transgender individuals. Furthermore, the landmark judgment in NALSA v. Union of India, the Supreme Court affirmed the right to self-identify one's gender, which is relevant for placement and treatment in juvenile institutions and is still not systematically enforced in JJ institutions.

In -a nutshell, LGBTQIA+ youth in the juvenile justice system often face double marginalisation, as children and as queer individuals. While India has made some progress in acknowledging queer rights, the juvenile justice architecture remains largely heteronormative and unprepared to deal with the specific needs of LGBTQIA+ minors. A child rights-based, gender-affirmative and inclusive approach is essential to ensure justice and dignity for all queer youth.

The author is a practicing a practicing Lawyer in the High Court of Orissa and Research Scholar.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS : ensuring justice, equality and protection for children in India

By Soumyashree Mandal
Research Assistant

"If we are to reach real peace in this world, we shall have to begin with the children."

~ Mahatma Gandhi

"***Every Child Matters***" is not merely a slogan it is a solemn affirmation of the universal rights of every child, regardless of their caste, class, gender, region, religion, or disability. It reflects the moral and constitutional commitment to uphold justice, equality, and protection for the youngest and most vulnerable members of society.

As Hon'ble Justice Bhagwati observed, ***"Children are the future of the nation. If a child goes wrong, the nation goes wrong."***

In a country as vast and diverse as India, where over 400 million children constitute nearly one-third of the population, the stakes are immense. Protection of children's rights is not merely a constitutional or international obligation it is a moral imperative.

Despite significant legal and policy advancements, the Indian child continues to face deeply entrenched challenges: child labour, trafficking, early marriage, malnutrition, gender-based violence, and systemic exclusion from quality education and healthcare. These issues are not isolated incidents but symptoms of broader socio-economic inequities and institutional failures. The promise of childhood of safety, learning, play, and dignity remains unfulfilled for millions.

Realizing the vision that every child truly matters demands more than fragmented interventions. It calls for a holistic, rights-based, and child-centric approach one that strengthens legal protections, ensures effective enforcement,

engages communities, and fosters an inclusive environment where all children can thrive.

India has enacted several key statutes to safeguard the rights of children, including:

- The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986
- The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012
- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
- The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 etc

These laws collectively provide a comprehensive legal framework to address education, health, protection from abuse, and the right to dignity and equality.

As Hon'ble Justice Mr Surya Kant reiterated at the inaugural session of the State- Level Meet 2025 on POCSO that:

> *"Our child protection framework, though well-intentioned, remains disjointed and under-equipped. What we need is a fundamental shiftone that sees the child not as a passive witness in a criminal trial, but as a person in urgent need of sustained and holistic care,"*

The judiciary has been equally instrumental in shaping children's rights jurisprudence. In ***Bandhua Mukti Morcha vs Union of India***, the Supreme Court declared bonded child labour unconstitutional and directed rehabilitation measures. In ***M.C. Mehta vs State of Tamil Nadu***, the Court prohibited child

labour in hazardous industries and emphasized the right to education as an alternative to exploitation. Similarly, in ***Unnikrishnan J.P. vs State of Andhra Pradesh***, the Court recognized education as a fundamental right flowing from Article 21, which later led to the constitutional insertion of Article 21A. In ***Sheela Barse vs Union of India***, the Court took notice of the plight of children in custody, insisting that children should never be lodged in prisons. These judicial interventions have consistently transformed abstract rights into enforceable protections.

Yet, despite this robust legal and judicial framework, the reality of children's rights in India remains disheartening. The persistence of child labour, trafficking, child marriage, and sexual exploitation reveals a wide gap between law and practice. The POCSO Act, though progressive, suffers from poor implementation, with conviction rates alarmingly low and delays in trials eroding its deterrent effect. The Juvenile Justice system is plagued by poorly trained personnel, inadequate infrastructure, and overburdened Child Welfare Committees. Social practices such as child marriage continue despite criminalization, sustained by poverty and cultural acceptance. In the digital age, the challenge has expanded further with children facing threats of cyber exploitation, grooming, and online abuse, areas where existing laws remain inadequate.

The need of the hour is to bridge the gap between legislation and enforcement. This requires harmonization of overlapping statutes into a unified child rights code to eliminate contradictions, such as those between the Child Labour Act and the Right to Education Act. Institutions like Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees must be strengthened with better staffing, training, and accountability. Judicial processes must be made more child-friendly, with expansion of fast-track courts to ensure timely disposal of cases under POCSO. Technology can be harnessed to combat new forms of

exploitation, through AI-driven surveillance of online abuse and strengthening platforms like Track Child for tracing missing children. Equally important is the role of schools and communities, which must act as the first line of protection and reporting against child abuse.

Ultimately, protecting children's rights requires more than laws; it demands a change in societal mindset. As Hon'ble Justice Krishna Iyer rightly said, "***Every child has a fundamental right to full development, and any neglect of this right is a national loss.***" Unless the State, judiciary, and society work together, these rights will remain aspirational rather than real. Children cannot wait for protection tomorrow they need it today. Their voices must be heard, their dignity must be upheld, and their future must be secured through collective will and action.

Hurdles in Child Protection-

Children in India face multiple barriers in realizing their rights. Poverty forces many into labour, malnutrition, and exploitation, while harmful social practices like child marriage and gender bias persist despite legal bans. Weak enforcement of progressive laws such as POCSO and the Juvenile Justice Act leads to delays and inadequate protection. Lack of awareness among children and parents further limits access to remedies. In today's digital era, cyber exploitation and online abuse pose fresh challenges with insufficient safeguards. Above all, systemic delays and institutional apathy reduce children's faith in justice, leaving rights more aspirational than real.

How to overcome this hurdles?

Protecting children's rights requires tackling poverty through strong nutrition schemes and making schools hubs of child rights education for both students and parents. Community awareness is crucial to eliminate harmful practices like child marriage and gender bias, along with holding local authorities strictly

accountable. Laws like POCSO and the Juvenile Justice Act must be enforced by trained, child-friendly police units and fast-track courts to ensure timely justice. Legal aid and awareness campaigns should empower families to recognize and assert their rights. In the digital era, cyber safety, digital literacy, and tools like Track Child are essential to prevent online abuse and trafficking. Above all, coordinated efforts by the government, judiciary, and society are key to turning legal protections into lived realities for every child.

Conclusion

In sum, the protection of children's rights demands more than progressive laws it requires determined implementation, social reform, and collective responsibility. Strengthening welfare schemes to fight poverty, expanding child-friendly courts, promoting digital safeguards, and spreading awareness at the grassroots are urgent steps to bridge the gap between promise and reality. Schools, communities, and families must become active guardians of children's dignity and future. As Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer remarked, ***"Every child is a supreme asset of the nation. Neglect of a child is the neglect of the nation's future."*** Protecting children, therefore, is not just a legal mandate but a moral and constitutional duty to secure a just and humane society.

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STATE LEVEL CONSULTATION ON EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT & POCSO ACT WITH SPECIFIC FOCUS ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, 2024:

In response to the D. O. letter F.No. 1(11)JJC/I&S/BVN/SCI/2024 dated 20.07.2024 received from Supreme Court of India, a State Level Juvenile Justice Consultation was held on 01.09.2024 in collaboration with the Odisha Judicial Academy, Department of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD), Department of Women & Child Development (WCD), and UNICEF. The consultation was dedicated to exploring the effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, with a specific focus on the rights of children with disabilities (CwD).

The consultation commenced with an insightful address by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Debabrata Dash, Chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Committee, who emphasized the urgent need to reform and strengthen support systems for CwD. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa, in his keynote address, enlightened the gathering through Virtual mode, urging the stakeholders to adopt inclusive strategies, stating, "effective implementation of legal acts requires a comprehensive approach that takes into consideration the specific needs of children with disabilities."

Key Dignitaries in Attendance

The event was witnessed and graced with the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including:

- Hon'ble **Mr. Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh** – Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa (via video conferencing)
- Hon'ble **Mr. Justice Debabrata Dash** – Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Orissa
- Hon'ble **Mr. Justice S.K. Sahoo** – Chairman, Judicial Academy & Training Committee, High Court of Orissa
- Hon'ble **Miss Justice Savitri Ratho** – Member, Juvenile Justice Committee
- Hon'ble **Mr. Justice Aditya Mohapatra** – Member, Juvenile Justice Committee
- Hon'ble **Mr. Justice Murahari Sri Raman** – Member, Juvenile Justice Committee
- **Puisine Judges of High Court of Orissa**
- **Mr. Bishnupada Sethi, IAS** – Principal Secretary, SSEPD
- **Smt. Shubha Sarma, IAS** – Principal Secretary, Deptt of W & CD
- **Ms. Shalini Pandit, IAS** – Commisioner-cum-Secretary, Deptt. of S & ME
- **Ms. Shyni S., IPS** – IG of Police, CAW&CW,
- **Ms. Monisha Banerjee**, IAS – Director, ICDS
- **Mr. William Hanlon**, Jr. – Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, Odisha

Senior officials from the High Court, WCD, SSEPD, Health, and School and Mass Education departments, along with members of the judiciary, civil society organizations, and the media, were also present to make the consultation effective.

Key Discussions and Sessions

The consultation featured four technical sessions, each designed to address different facets of protecting children with disabilities within the juvenile justice system.

- **Technical Session 1.** Understanding the Needs of CwD

  Chaired by Hon'ble Justice Debabrata Dash, the first session emphasized the social and structural barriers that prevent CwD from accessing basic services. Dr. Sruti Mohapatra, a leading disability rights advocate, highlighted the critical need for early identification, inclusive infrastructure, and trained professionals to support CwD.

- **Technical Session 2.** Departmental Initiatives and Challenges

  This session, chaired by Hon'ble Justice Savitri Ratho, brought to light the ongoing efforts of the Departments of WCD, SSEPD, Health, and Education. Presentations revealed that while progress has been made in creating specialized care homes and educational programs, significant gaps remain, particularly in infrastructure and professional training. The session called for better coordination across departments and disability-friendly upgrades in Child Care Institutions (CCIs).

- **Technical Session 3.** Children with Disabilities in the Juvenile Justice System

  Chaired by Hon'ble Justice Aditya Mohapatra, this session focused on the unique vulnerabilities of CwD, especially those in conflict with the law and victims of abuse. Discussions underscored the need for mental health support, legal representation, and the appointment of special educators in Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and Child Welfare Committees (CWCs).

- **Technical Session 4.** Voices from the Field

  Chaired by Hon'ble Justice Murahari Sri Raman, featured insights from field experts on the practical challenges of implementing the POCSO Act and JJ Act for CwD. The session highlighted the lack of interpreters, disability-friendly courtrooms, and the need for tailored legal processes for CwD to ensure their rights are protected.

Key Recommendations

The consultation concluded with several critical recommendations:

- **Conduct a comprehensive survey** to identify Juveniles/ children with disabilities (CwD) and assess the nature of their disabilities to ensure that each individual is appropriately addressed and provided with suitable care and support.
- **Disability-friendly infrastructure** across CCIs, JJBs, and CWCs.
- Strengthen **early identification protocols** and **inter-departmental collaboration**.
- Enhance **training for police, judicial officers, and educators** to work sensitively with CwD.
- Expand availability of **special educators**, therapists, and disability experts.
- **Vulnerability mapping** to identify and address risks faced by CwD.

Facts, Figures and Schemes of Dept of W & CD, Govt of Odisha (01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025)

1. Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) –

- A total of 2,487 cases involving children in conflict with the law were registered during the last financial year. The top five districts in terms of the number of cases registered before the Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) were Khordha [Additional JJB – 153 cases], Balasore (146), Cuttack (128), Additional JJB Sundargarh (126), and Keonjhar (118).

- Offence-wise classification of registered cases indicates:
  - o 12.30% were for petty offences
  - o 61.64% for serious offences
  - o 26.05% for heinous offences

- The majority of children in conflict with the law apprehended were in the 15–17 years age group.

- In terms of legal outcomes:
  - o 96.98% of children were released on bail
  - o 1.74% were sent to Observation Homes during the pendency of the inquiry

- Preliminary assessments for heinous offences were conducted in 185 cases by the JJBs, of which 113 cases were transferred to the Children's Courts for further proceedings.

- As of 31st March 2024, 9,013 cases remained pending in the JJBs. By 31st March 2025, the total case load rose to 9,169 pending cases.

- During the last financial year, 2,331 cases were disposed of, and 14 children were sent to Special Homes for long-term rehabilitation.

2. Institutional Care Support

A total of 220 registered Child Care Institutions (CCIs) that cater to over 8150 children, offering shelter, education, healthcare, and psychosocial support. These institutions include Children's Homes, Open Shelters, Observation Homes, Special Homes, and Places of Safety. In 2024–2025, significant strides were made in education and skilling:

- 934 children have successfully enrolled in higher education and technical Education.
- 211 have secured employment in the private or corporate sectors, and
- 75 have started their own businesses.
- Additionally, 66 children have received vocational training at the World Skill Centre in Bhubaneswar, indicating a clear emphasis on self-sufficiency and empowerment.
- 8124 children (99 % of CCI residents) were enrolled for Aadhar, enabling access to education, healthcare, and welfare schemes
- 19,894 cases were reported to the 31 Child Welfare Committees (CWCs).
- The Department of Women & Child Development released grants totalling ₹54,51,72,374 to 141 Child Care Institutions (CCIs) to enhance service quality.
- Through deinstitutionalisation efforts, 3,801 children were reunited with their families/legal guardians.

3. Non-Institutional Care

Adoption

- 379 children were declared legally free for adoption.
- 279 children were placed with adoptive families:
- 246 through in-country adoption
- 33 through inter-country adoption

Sponsorship and other Alternative Care

- 5,585 children received support under the Sponsorship Programme
- 32 children were supported through the Foster Care Programme
- 422 young adults benefited from the Aftercare Programme

4. Child Helpline – 1098

- The Childline 1098, a 24x7 toll-free emergency outreach service, is operational from September 2023 in all 30 districts with 276 trained personnel.

- The service responds to over 5,000 calls monthly on issues such as child marriage, abuse, trafficking, and missing children.

- 30 District Child Helpline Units, 10 Railway Helpdesks, and a State Control Room ensure swift interventions.

5. Promoting Holistic Child Development

Dance & Music Studios in CCIs

- 30 Child Care Institutions have been equipped with Dance and Music Studios to nurture creative skills among children.

MAHAK Cultural Festival & UTSAHA Sports Meet

- Held from 26–30 November 2024 at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.
- Over 1,200 children from 30 districts participated in singing, dance, quiz, football, and athletics events.
- The event celebrated the creative and sporting talents of children and was graced by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha and other diginitaries.

Capacity Building and Awareness

- Nine state-level training programmes were conducted on key themes such as:
    - o Psychosocial care
    - o Legal literacy
    - o Emergency response
- Massive IEC campaigns were launched through FM radio, cinema halls, LED screens, and bus shelters, highlighting child protection services, especially Childline 1098.

6. JASHODA Scheme

This initiative aims to support orphaned, HIV-affected, and highly vulnerable children without parental or legal guardianship.

During 2024–25, a total of 1,486 children benefited:

- 766 children received assistance for technical education
- 8 meritorious students were awarded ₹**20,000** each as encouragement
- 40 children received marriage assistance
  Males – ₹40,000, Females – ₹50,000
- 672 girls received financial support under Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana

7. Rescue, Repatriation & Rehabilitation

Since 2024, a special drive has been ongoing to trace and rescue missing children:

- 445 children were rescued within Odisha
- 280 children were restored within the state
- 161 children were restored to other states

8. Aamari Sishu Web Portal

The Aamari Sishu portal is a comprehensive digital platform ensuring transparency and efficiency in the care, protection, and rehabilitation of children.

It facilitates real-time coordination among key stakeholders including:

- District Child Protection Units (DCPUs)
- CWCs, JJBs
- Child Care Institutions (CCIs)
- Other relevant service providers

The portal aligns with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, reinforcing a rights-based, child-centric approach to protection.

Photo Gallery











State Level Consultation 2024













State Level Consultation 2024













State Level Consultation 2024













State Level Consultation 2024





Visit of School Children to the High Court of Orissa and Museum of Justice













Visit by Hon'ble Chairperson, JJC to different CCIs of the State and the Handicrafts prepared by the inmates










Visit of school children, including differently abled children, to the High Court of Orissa & Odisha Judicial Academy



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