

Don Bosco

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# Child Policy

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Prepared by

Don Bosco  
Youth Animation - South Asia  
DBYA-SA

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Title:

# Don Bosco Child Policy-India

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# Don Bosco Child Policy

## A Child-Centred Educational Commitment

When Jesus was asked by his disciples who were the most important people in the Kingdom of God, he called a child, stood him in their midst and solemnly declared that it belonged to those who became like children (Mt 18: 1-3). Don Bosco embodied this policy of his Master in his own life and action. “For you I study, for you I work, for you I live, for you I am ready even to give my life,” he told his boys. Following him, we his sons and daughters place the young person at the very centre of our educational philosophy, spirituality and practice. The integral welfare of the young makes up the reason of our existence as a religious society in the world.

The numerous Don Bosco Institutions, spread over all the States of India, have educated hundreds of thousands of children for more than a century. Following Don Bosco’s System of Education, based on Reason, Religion and Loving Kindness, we have been pioneers in creating safe, conducive and family-like atmosphere in all our settings, in order to promote the integral growth of the young. The Salesian “assistance” practised in all our houses is nothing but a child promotion framework.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga sdb".

Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga sdb  
Regional Councillor for the Salesians of Don Bosco  
South Asia

Hence a lofty and integrated child policy and child protection policy have been part of our philosophy right from our origins.

The making of this present Don Bosco Child Policy, along the lines of our own tradition, began more than a decade ago in order to bring it up to date in keeping with modern needs. The 25th General Chapter has directed us to lay down norms of behaviour to which all Salesians and their collaborators must conform in dealing with children. In this process the present Policy is an important step forward. It is in consonance with the International Treaties and Conventions on Child Rights, the policies and laws of the Indian Government and the guidelines of the Church.

I place on record my gratitude to all those who contributed to the evolution of this policy in the past and to its final outcome. The Salesian Provincial Conference and the Salesian Forum for the Young at Risk have prepared child policies earlier that have contributed to the present document. Several experts in the field have been consulted. The Salesian Provinces have given their feedback on the draft. Fr. Maria Charles and the Don Bosco Youth Animation Team, integrating material from earlier documents and the latest policies and laws, have prepared the present policy.

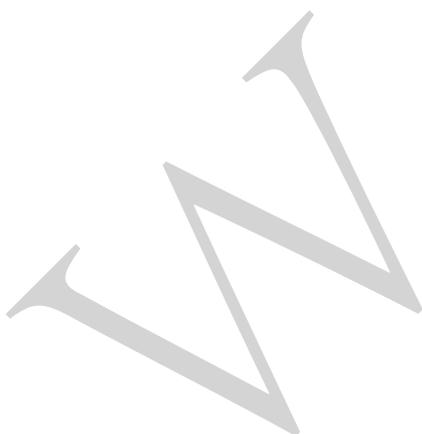
This Policy has been approved by the Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia. Hence I present and promulgate this policy for all our Salesian institutions with effect from 31st January 2014, the feast of Don Bosco. It is to be taken seriously as an official policy by the Salesians, staff, workers and everyone else involved with the children in our Centres of Work, for study, reflection and implementation. Our joy will be in seeing the young people grow as healthy and integrated human beings, honest citizens and good children of God.



Chapter 1

# Who we are





1.1 We are members of an international religious Order in the Catholic Church, officially known as the Society of St. Francis de Sales, but more popularly known as **Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB)**. This Society was founded in 1859 in Turin, Italy, by Don Bosco, a saint and educator who reached out to the exodus of aimless and homeless youngsters who flowed into the cities of northern Italy in the aftermath of the industrial revolution and pioneered a system of education based on reason, religion and loving kindness that did wonders with those rough and tough kids. Salesian institutions are generally referred to as Don Bosco Institutions.<sup>1</sup>

1.2 We specialize in working for young people, taking up any venture that could answer the needs of the young wherever they are. Some of our activities include academic and technical education at all levels, non-formal job-oriented training programmes for those who cannot enter the mainstream to pursue a career, providing leisure-time activities like youth centres, supportive and empowering services such as counselling, sports, music and arts. A high-priority area for us is the work for the Young at Risk - those who, often through

<sup>1</sup> Constitutions and Regulations of the Society of St. Francis de Sales, Art. 1

parental neglect or society's failure, have been pushed to the margins and are exposed to all kinds of risks and are therefore the most vulnerable sections in any society.

1.3 We are people who deeply feel called to journey with the young. And we've been doing it for over 150 years across the globe, having presences in over 130 countries. For us it has been an enviable and highly rewarding experience to come to know the young and their world up close - walking with them, sharing their dreams, listening to their puzzling questions, joining them in their search, and sometimes gently challenging them and being challenged by them, but always standing by their side offering them a reassuring adult presence as they struggle to find their feet in their topsy-turvy world, both within them and outside.

1.4 We are also part of the Salesian Family a vast movement of both professed religious and lay persons who share the same charism of Don Bosco, working for the welfare of the young. We also have numerous collaborators all over the world who share in our mission of working for the young. Together we encounter millions of young people every day all over the world.

1.5 In India we have been working with the young from the year 1906 and have established hundreds of Institutions and set up reach-out programmes for the education and development of young people all over the country.

## Chapter 2

# Why this Policy?

2.1 Following Jesus the Good Shepherd and Don Bosco the great apostle of the young, we have committed ourselves to caring for the needs of the young and preventing them from going astray so that they may enjoy “life in its fullness”.<sup>2</sup>

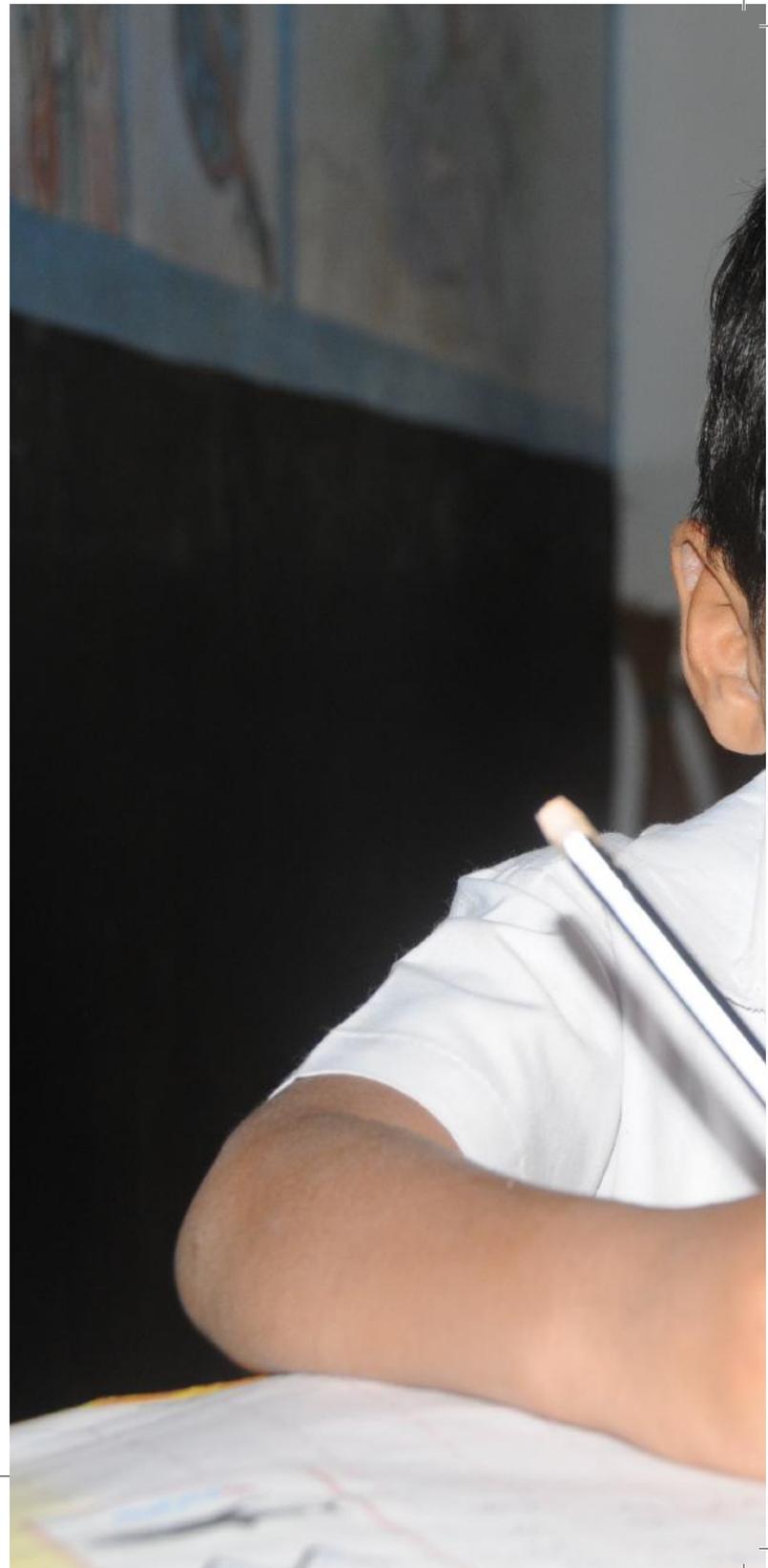
2.2 The protection of the children who are under our care is not only our duty and responsibility but also our priority today. We safeguard them from all possible physical, emotional and spiritual dangers. The 25th General Chapter of the Salesians of Don Bosco directed us to “lay down at both Congregational and provincial level, norms of behaviour to which all Salesians and their collaborators must conform, so as to prevent the scandals connected with sexual abuse, taking advantage also of opportune legal and scientific advice.”<sup>3</sup> The Salesians of Don Bosco at the world level have held many Congresses on the theme of Human Rights and the Rights of the Children.

2.3 We the Don Bosco Institutions of India have the responsibility to take care of the rights of the children

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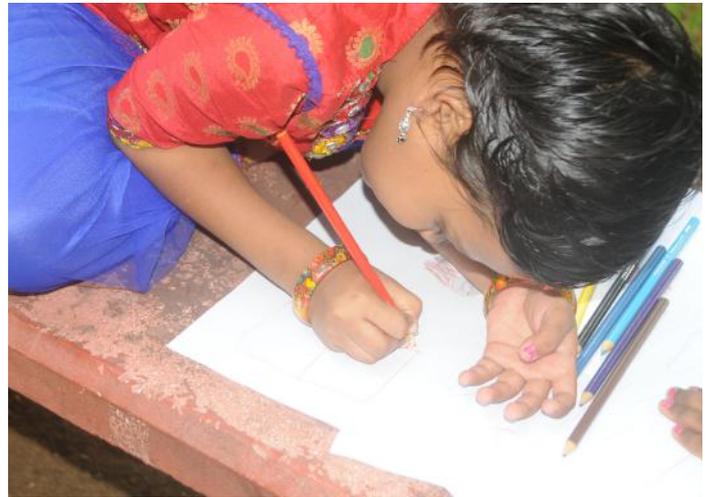
<sup>2</sup> John 10:10

<sup>3</sup> General Chapter of the Salesians of Don Bosco, 25, Art. 38.





in our care. We are aware that it is our duty to study, interpret and implement in our activities and institutions the laws enacted in the country for the protection and promotion of the rights of the children. This policy for children in the Don Bosco Institutions of India is our undeterred and loving commitment and contribution to the welfare, protection and empowerment of the children in our care.



# Chapter 3

## Child Policy in the Indian Context

3.1 India is home to almost 19% of the world's children, and has the largest child population in the world. More than one third of the country's population, 446.96 million, is below 18 years.<sup>4</sup> Despite its traditional ethos of non-violence, tolerance and spirituality and the new trillion-dollar economy notwithstanding, India hosts the world's largest number of sexually abused children, at a far higher rate than any other country. It is estimated that around 170 million or 40 per cent of India's children are vulnerable to or are experiencing difficult circumstances.<sup>5</sup>

3.2 The Constitution of India<sup>6</sup> guarantees fundamental rights to all children in the country and empowers the State to make special provisions for children. The State is responsible for ensuring that childhood is protected from exploitation and moral and material abandonment.

3.3 The National Policy for Children of 1974,<sup>7</sup> which has been revised in 2013 recognises that programmes for children should find prominent place in national plans for the development of human resources, so that

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4 [http://www.indg.in/social-sector/women-and-child-development/the\\_integrated\\_child\\_protection\\_scheme\\_icps.pdf](http://www.indg.in/social-sector/women-and-child-development/the_integrated_child_protection_scheme_icps.pdf) p.1

5 Ibid.

6 <http://lawmin.nic.in/coi/coiason29july08.pdf>

7 [http://www.childlineindia.org.in/CP-CR-Downloads/national\\_policy\\_for\\_children.pdf](http://www.childlineindia.org.in/CP-CR-Downloads/national_policy_for_children.pdf)







children grow up to become robust citizens, physically fit, mentally alert and morally healthy, endowed with the skills and motivations provided by society.

3.4 The Government of India reiterated its commitment to secure the rights of its children by ratifying related international conventions and treaties and drawing up relevant policies in the interest of the children in India. (Refer to Appendix 1 for the list of treaties and Conventions endorsed by the Government of India and for Policies enacted). These include Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948<sup>8</sup>, Declaration of the Rights of the Child 1959<sup>9</sup>, Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989<sup>10</sup> its two Optional Protocols, National Policy for Children 2013<sup>11</sup>, The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-Country Adoption 2013<sup>12</sup>

3.5 The Government of India has enacted several Acts to ensure care and protection for children. (Refer to Appendix 2 to view the various Acts and bills). These include National plan of Action for Children 2005<sup>13</sup>, The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006<sup>14</sup>, The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006<sup>15</sup>, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), 2006<sup>16</sup>, The Protection of Children

from Sexual Offences Act 2012<sup>17</sup> and Abolition of Child Labour Bill 2013.<sup>8</sup> “The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act”<sup>19</sup> is aimed at protecting the young from sexual abuse, harassment and child pornography. This bill deals with various crimes against children, including sale/trafficking, sexual assault, sexual/physical/emotional abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, child pornography, grooming for sexual purpose, incest, corporal punishment, bullying and economic exploitation. It categorises these crimes as crimes of “aggravated” nature and prescribes stringent punishment.<sup>20</sup>

3.6 The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)<sup>21</sup> and related programmes of the Government of India are aimed at building a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances through Government-Civil Society Partnership.<sup>22</sup>

3.7 The protection of the children who are under our care is not only our duty and responsibility but also our priority today. Taking into account all the above policies<sup>23</sup> of the Government of India, with our vision and time-tested experience in working with children, we the Don Bosco Institutions of India have produced the “Don Bosco Child Policy India” to share the responsibility of the State in the care and protection of children, especially the marginalised and the vulnerable.

8 [http://www.unic.org.in/items/Other\\_UniversalDeclarationOfHumanRights.pdf](http://www.unic.org.in/items/Other_UniversalDeclarationOfHumanRights.pdf)

9 <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/resources/child.asp>

10 <http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

11 <http://wcd.nic.in/childreport/npc2013dtd29042013.pdf>

12 <http://www.hcch.net/upload/outline33e.pdf>

13 <http://wcd.nic.in/NAPAUG16A.pdf>

14 <http://www.wcd.nic.in/cma2006.pdf>

15 <http://wcd.nic.in/childprot/jjactamedment.pdf>

16 [http://www.indg.in/social-sector/women-and-child-development/the\\_integrated\\_child\\_protection\\_scheme\\_icps.pdf](http://www.indg.in/social-sector/women-and-child-development/the_integrated_child_protection_scheme_icps.pdf)

17 <http://wcd.nic.in/childact/childprotection31072012.pdf>

18 <http://164.100.24.219/BillsTexts/LSBillTexts/asintroduced/4665ls.pdf>

19 <http://wcd.nic.in/childact/childprotection31072012.pdf>

20 The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012, <http://wcd.nic.in/legislation/Acts>

21 [http://www.indg.in/social-sector/women-and-child-development/the\\_integrated\\_child\\_protection\\_scheme\\_icps.pdf](http://www.indg.in/social-sector/women-and-child-development/the_integrated_child_protection_scheme_icps.pdf)

22 <http://wcd.nic.in/icpsmon/home1.aspx>

23 An exhaustive list of Child laws and Conventions is available at [http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/child\\_rights.htm](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/child_rights.htm)

## Chapter 4

# Preamble

We recognize and reaffirm that:

- (i) A child is any person below the age of 18 years.<sup>24</sup>
- (ii) Every Child has the right to childhood.
- (iii) The “children must have the right to express their views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child”.<sup>25</sup>
- (iv) Although the Right to Education Act recognizes the right to free and compulsory elementary education for all children in the 6-14 year age group, we agree with the Juvenile Justice Act and UNCRC that education for children should be extended from 0 to 18.<sup>26</sup>
- (v) All children have the right to be protected from any employment till the age of 14.<sup>27</sup>
- (vi) All children have the right to be protected from being abused or forced by economic or any other necessity to

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<sup>24</sup> This is a universally accepted definition of a child and comes from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). [http://www.unicef.org/crc/index\\_30229.html](http://www.unicef.org/crc/index_30229.html)

<sup>25</sup> United Nations Child Rights Charter, Art. 12

<sup>26</sup> Although CRC has 54 articles these 1-42 speaks about how children should be treated: <http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/documents/UNCRC%20Poster%20%28English%29.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., Art. 24

enter occupations unsuited to their age or strength.<sup>28</sup>

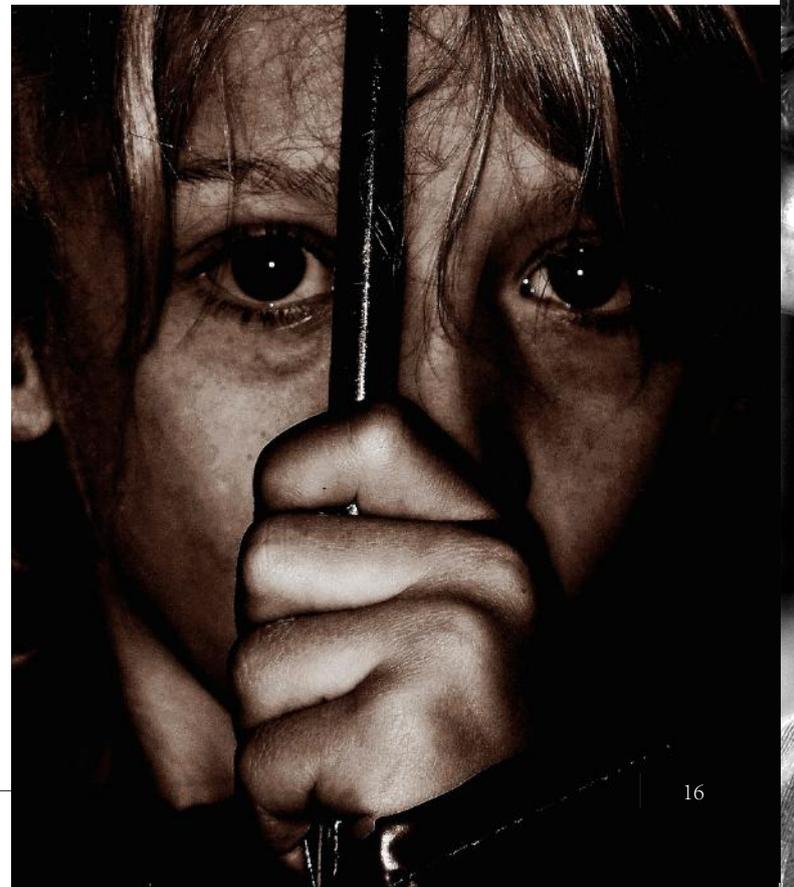
(vii) All children have the right to equal opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and a guaranteed protection of childhood and youth against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.<sup>29</sup>

(viii) Accompaniment of Children is a loving and continual presence in their life to enable a sense of educative confidence and dialogue. This implies guidance, direction and a certain style. Pedagogy of accompaniment is at the core of Don Bosco’s Educative system.

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<sup>28</sup> Ibid., Art. 39(e)

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., Art. 39(f)







## Chapter 5

# Child Policy in Don Bosco Institutions



### 5.1 Vision:

(i) The Don Bosco Institutions of India, following the teachings of Christ and the charism of Don Bosco strive to care and protect children whom we encounter in all our settings, in a spirit of reason, religion and loving kindness, with a rights-based approach<sup>30</sup>, to help them become healthy, integrated and responsible persons in life.

(ii) The Don Bosco Institutions of India recognize, uphold and promote children's interests and rights, share responsibility for children's development and protection, have zero tolerance of child abuse and use a comprehensive management approach for child care and protection.

### 5.2 Mission:

(i) The Don Bosco Institutions of India recognise the importance of their mission of working with children and young people by offering them education, development and safeguard the welfare of children and young people entrusted to their care.

<sup>30</sup> The situation of deprived children, and the structural causes of exclusion and poverty, cannot be addressed without providing those children with a voice and space to participate in decisions affecting them. Those with the power to shape lives must be accountable to the most deprived, if inequities are to be overcome. Discrimination must be identified, understood, and challenged to achieve equitable development for all children. [http://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/rights/index\\_60319.html](http://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/rights/index_60319.html)

(ii) The Don Bosco Institutions of India envision a protective environment for children, one wherein a set of policy, programmes, services, procedure, protocols, and standards are in place to ensure an overall development and protection of children from intended or unintended harm.

(iii) The Don Bosco Institutions of India aim to create 'child safe' environments, both within its premises and out in the society, where children are loved, respected, protected and empowered in their development process and we train all our personnel to become skilled, confident, competent and well supported in their responsibility of working with children.

### 5.3 Principal Guidelines of Don Bosco Child Policy India

(i) Every child has universal, intrinsic, inalienable and indivisible human rights.

(ii) Affirming and promoting survival, health, nutrition, development, education, protection and participation as the undeniable rights of every child.<sup>31</sup>

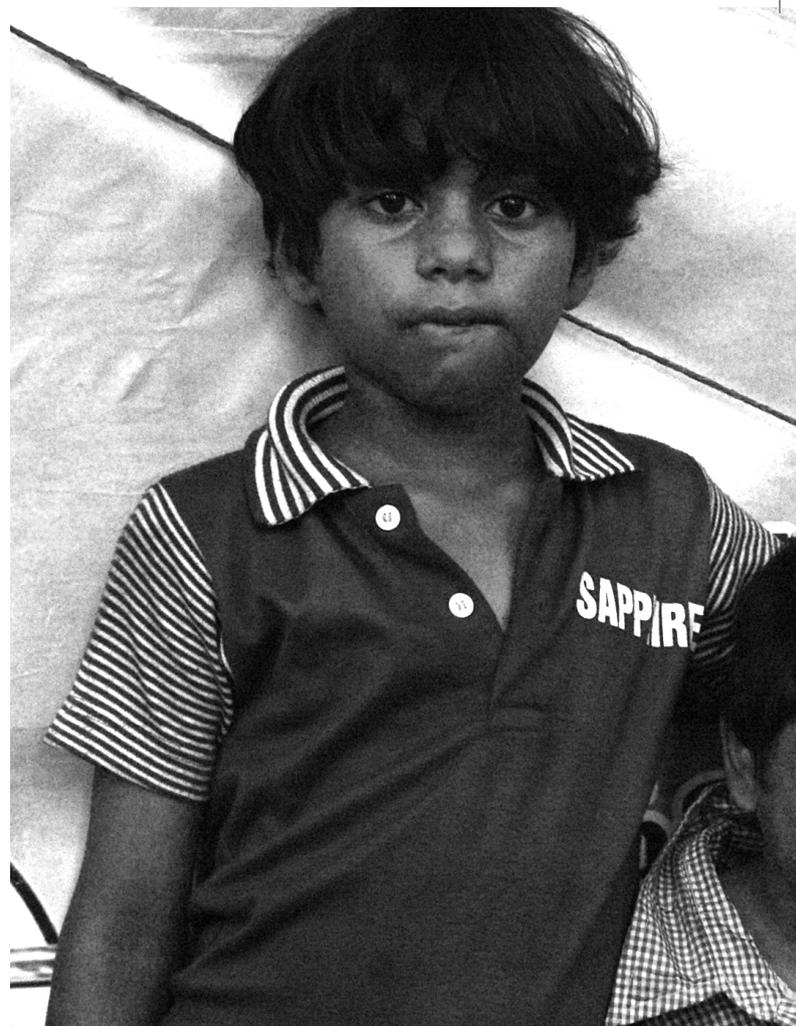
(iii) Development of a Child has to be addressed in its totality in terms of physical, social, psychological, intellectual, emotional, cognitive, moral and cultural and spiritual development of the child.

(iv) The wellbeing of the child is of prime importance; Children need to be protected from harm, abuses, neglect, exploitation, discrimination and violence.

(v) Promoting the safety, welfare and protection of children is of paramount importance. And every concern, allegation, suspicion and disclosure of abuse should be taken very seriously.

(vi) Every poor and marginalised child has the right to education and safe environment.

31 National Policy for Children, India, 2013. <http://wcd.nic.in/chil-dreport/npc2013dtd29042013.pdf> Art. 4.

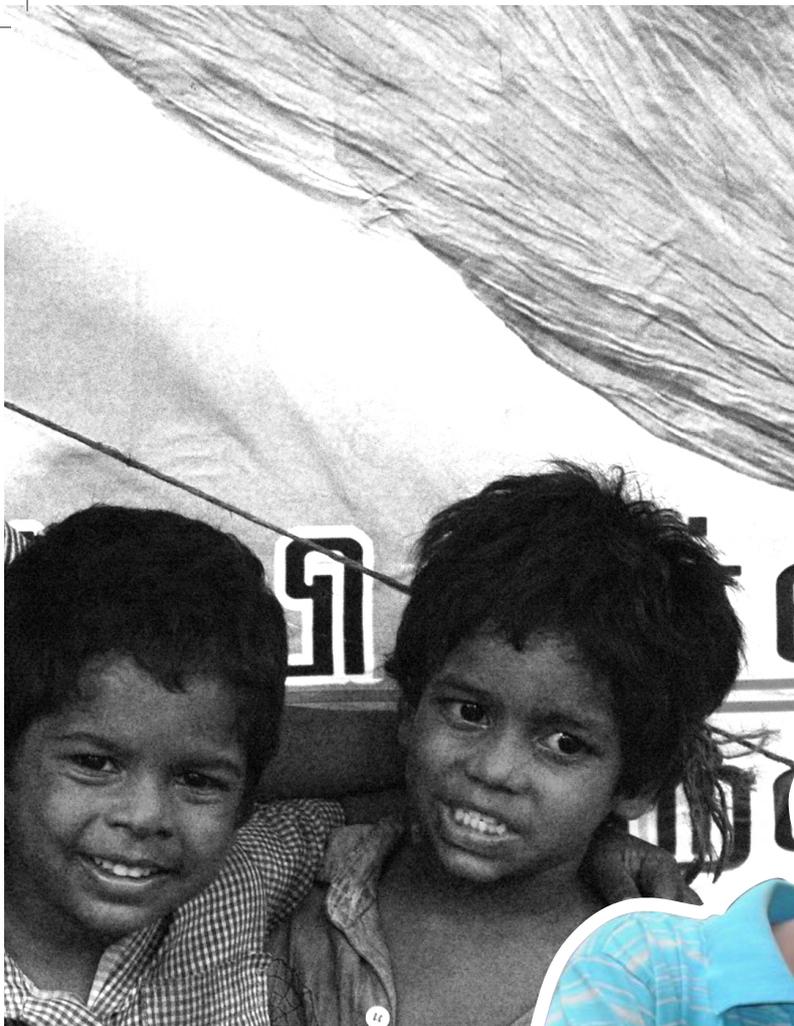


(vii) Families should be strengthened and kept from breakup, thus preventing the children from becoming homeless without care and protection.

(viii) Children found outside the mainstream have to be provided with support, beginning from emergency outreach initiatives to final rehabilitation with their families and in the social mainstream.

### 5.4 To whom does this Policy apply?

Don Bosco Child Policy India applies to everyone working for or associated with a Don Bosco Institution in



the Salesian provinces of India. It encompasses all the sectors of the Salesian Institution and includes without limitation:

- (i) Salesians of Don Bosco
- (ii) Salesian Family members who are professed religious or lay persons who are working in our Institutions
- (iii) Staff at all levels within

the Salesian Institutions either employed or offering part-time services

(iv) Associates who are Salesian lay collaborators – these include volunteers who belong to various international and national organizations, community volunteers, consultants and those on contracts

(v) The staff and/or representatives of partner organisations and local governments who are brought into contact with the children or are associated with the collection and possession of data of children of our Institutions

(vi) Visitors – (For example, donors, journalists, media personnel, researchers, celebrities etc) who may come into contact with children through the Don Bosco Institutions.



# Key Priorities of our Don Bosco Child Policy India

Survival, health, nutrition, development, education, protection and participation are rights that the Don Bosco Institutions of India uphold as key priorities in this policy.<sup>32</sup> Advocacy and Networking with organizations working with children are of vital importance to us to achieve protection and fulfilment of children's rights and their optimal development. Childline India Foundation estimates 40% of Children are marginalized due to poverty, labour, abuse, disability, malnutrition, conflicts, disasters, displacement, illiteracy, abandoned, etc.<sup>33</sup> Hence the poor and marginalised children are our priority in service and we target our resources to their care.

## 6.1 Survival, health and nutrition

- (i) We adopt the pro-life stand of the Catholic Church.<sup>34</sup> We strive to guarantee life, survival, health and nutrition to the child.
- (ii) We strive to provide a quality of life to children by way of health and education;

<sup>32</sup> The Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, [http://www.unicef.org/crc/index\\_30177.html](http://www.unicef.org/crc/index_30177.html)

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.childlineindia.org.in/child-in-india.htm> 2006

<sup>34</sup> The inalienable rights of the person must be recognized and respected by civil society and the political authority. Every human being has a right to life and physical integrity from the moment of conception until death. <http://www.cin.org/vatcong/donumvit.html>, III.

(iii) We seek collaboration from parents, health professionals, and educators in caring for the needs of the child in all aspects.

(iv) We affirm in all our Don Bosco Institutions, with the State, that the right of survival is an inalienable right of every child and it is important to accord the highest priority to promote health and wellbeing of children.

(v) We affirm, together with the State, that every child has a right to be safeguarded against hunger, deprivation and malnutrition and provide care against these which affect children by giving nutritious diet in our Institutions and ensure safe environment and hygienic living spaces.

(vi) We provide the adolescents access to information, support and services essential for their health and development, including information and support on appropriate life style, wholesome choices and awareness on the ill effects of alcohol and substance abuse.<sup>35</sup>

(vii) We affirm and support holistic nurturing; wellbeing with nutritive attainment of all children, keeping in view their individual needs at different stages of life in a life cycle approach.<sup>36</sup>

(viii) We shall provide in all our Institutions adequate

<sup>35</sup> National Policy for Children, India, 2013. <http://wcd.nic.in/childreport/npc2013dtd29042013.pdf> Art. 4.4 (ix)

<sup>36</sup> National Policy for Children, India, 2013. <http://wcd.nic.in/childreport/npc2013dtd29042013.pdf> Art. 4.4 (viii)



safeguards and design mechanisms to enforce safety standards for the services and products designed and distributed to children

(ix) We shall provide in all our Institutions special adequate care and safety measures for the differently-abled children

## 6.2 Education and Development

(i) We believe that every child has equal right to learning, knowledge and education.

(ii) We recognise, together with the State the responsibility to secure this right for every child, with due regard for special needs, through access, provision and promotion of required environment, information, infrastructure, services and supports, towards the development of the child's fullest potential.<sup>37</sup>

(iii) We join hands with the State to provide universal and equitable access to quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for children below six years of age and help ensure that every child is in school and enjoys the fundamental right to education as enshrined in the Constitution.<sup>38</sup>

(iv) We offer appropriate education for the physical, emotional and cognitive development of children and young people so as to empower them to live their lives and to take necessary protection for themselves.

(v) We shall provide and promote quality, child-friendly, gender-sensitive and locally relevant education.

(vi) We shall impart human rights education to children in all our settings to enable them to be aware of their rights and to exercise them responsibly.

(vii) We promote the right to recreation which includes opportunities for sports, leisure, recreation and creativity.

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<sup>37</sup> Ibid., Art. 3.5

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., Art. 4.6



(viii) We collaborate with the State to prevent children dropping out of education, promote compulsory enrolment of children in school, strive for quality primary and secondary education for all as non-negotiable, and promote secondary education.

(ix) We enable children in their holistic development and draw out their personal aspirations focussing on their aptitudes and by reviewing the curriculum from a life-skills perspective.

(x) We provide a healthy environment to educate children which includes enriching group experiences to exercise their social skills, social awareness programmes to sensitise them to be socially responsible and to be proactive.

(xi) We make available skill training to older children so that they may be able to find employment. And it is equally important that we impart independent life-coping skills.

### 6.3 Protection

(i) Successful protection begins with prevention. We assert that a safe, secure and protective environment is a precondition for the realisation of all other rights of children.<sup>39</sup>

(ii) We practice utmost vigilance to protect children in our care since violence, exploitation and abuse of children are often practiced by someone known to the child, including parents, other family members, caretakers, teachers, employers, law enforcement authorities, state and non-state actors and other children.

(iii) We help in creating a social safety net<sup>40</sup> for children in the society to protect children from vulnerabilities underlying many forms of harm and abuse; this we do

39 National Policy for Children, India, 2013. <http://wcd.nic.in/childreport/npc2013dtd29042013.pdf> Art. 4.7

40 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social\\_safety\\_net](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_safety_net)

especially by working with Child Welfare Committee.<sup>41</sup>

(iv) We strive to prevent, to respond and to resolve any abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence affecting children, seeking always the best interest of children with immediacy.

(v) We shall strive to sensitize the Government and the civil society, particularly the families to create a caring and protective environment for all children, to reduce their vulnerability in all situations and protect them from all forms of neglect, stigma, discrimination, sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking, hazardous labour, violence, abandonment, living and working on the street, impact of armed conflict, sale or trafficking for any purpose or in any form, child marriage, substance abuse, etc.<sup>42</sup>

(vi) We shall provide positive and protective environment for children to enhance their development, progress, health and education which in turn can help the children to grow into competent, committed and compassionate men and women.

(vii) Keeping in mind the stress, distress and suicidal tendencies prevalent among the young, our institutions shall provide adequate counselling facilities to the parents, teachers and students and also display in the premises information about approved distress agencies like Childline.

### 6.4 Participation

(i) We affirm every child's right to express oneself. Participation is an underlying value that needs to guide the way each individual right is ensured and respected. Don Bosco's system of Education offers myriad opportunities for children's participation. By formulating and implementing this process of involving

41 <http://wcd.nic.in/childprot/jjact2000.pdf>

42 National Policy for Children, India, 2013. <http://wcd.nic.in/childreport/npc2013dtd29042013.pdf> Art. 3.9

the child in making decisions, we help the child to become proactive and a team player.

(ii) We make certain that children are educated in the awareness of their rights and are provided with opportunities to develop skills, form opinions and express their aspirations in accordance with their age and maturity so as to enable them to be actively involved in their own development and in all matters that concern and affect them.

(iii) We affirm that children should not be pressurized, constrained or influenced in ways that might prevent them from freely expressing their opinions or leave them feeling manipulated.

(iv) We respect the views of the children and discuss with them and understand matters concerning them.

(v) We provide knowledge and training on the concept and processes of child participation to the personnel of our institutions.

(vi) We strive to empower the children by providing them with information about their rights.

(vii) We shall design all our programmes so as to move from a welfare approach to rights based approach and engage children (appropriate to their age) in programme planning, implementation and evaluation.

(viii) We shall establish mechanisms for participation and involvement of children on matters related to them in all our institutions before the end of 2015.

### **6.5 An Environment of Pedagogy of Presence:**

(i) The Pedagogy of Presence of Don Bosco in the education of the young<sup>43</sup>, with its principles of Reason, Religion and Loving Kindness, that we seek to practise in all the Don Bosco institutions for the overall development of the children has borne much fruit in

43 Constitutions and Regulations of the Society of St. Francis de Sales, Rome, 2003. Pp. 248-255.

the last hundred years. We uphold and promote an educative environment of inclusive and positive culture in all our Institutions.

(ii) The Pedagogy of Presence of Don Bosco, followed in all Don Bosco Institutions throughout India, speaks at length about the importance of joyous and serene environment needed for a healthy development in young people.

(iii) Practising the Don Bosco's spirit of joy and optimism, friendship and guidance the Don Bosco Institutions help to create an environment of positive culture and of learning for the children.

(iv) We work always in an appropriate open environment where everyone could be observed.

(v) We treat all young people equitably, with respect and dignity placing always the welfare of the individual child first. Prevention of discrimination and creation of an educative environment is our priority. For this purpose we involve parents / guardians wherever possible.

(vi) We maintain an appropriate emotional and physical space for the children.

(vii) We make activities enjoyable and



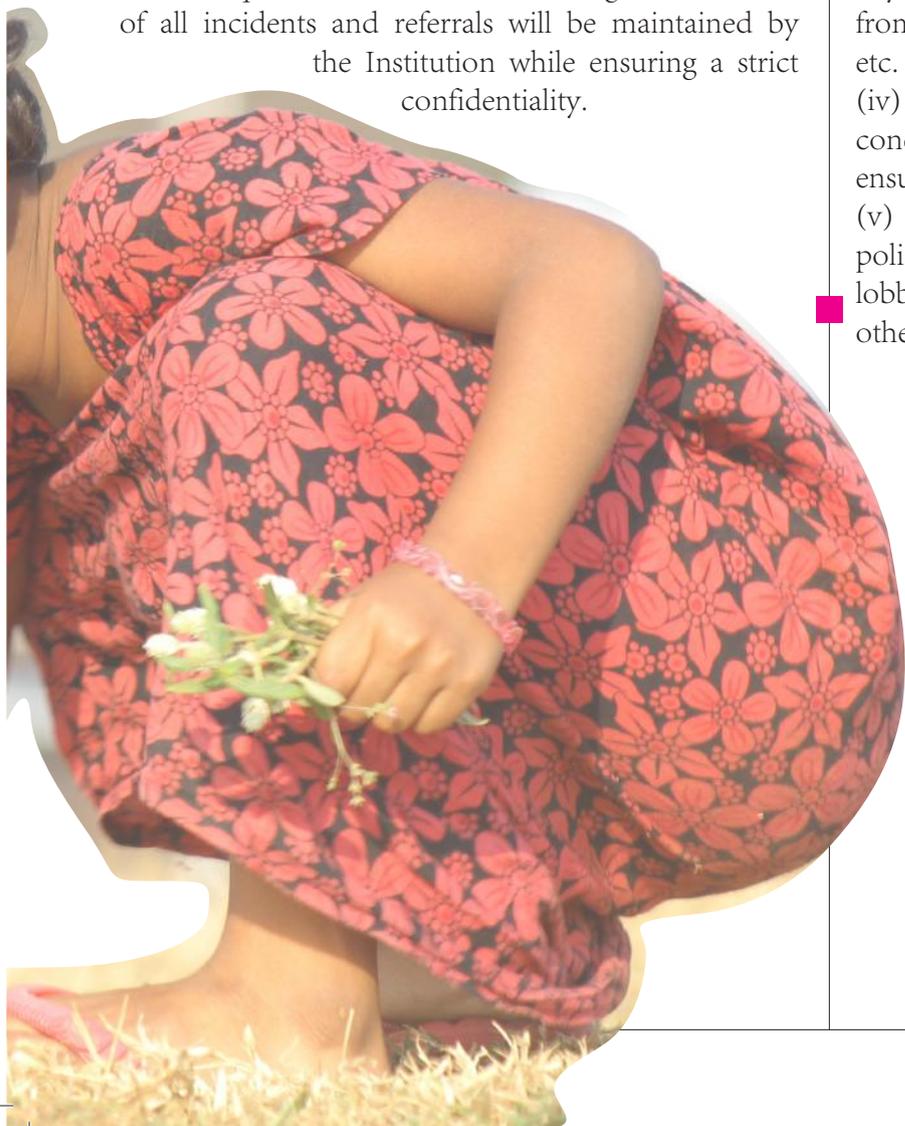
promote fair play. We ensure that, if any form of manual or physical assistance is required, it is provided openly and appropriately. We make all efforts to ensure that children should always be consulted and their agreement gained.

(viii) We give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism. We recognise the developmental needs and capability of children and avoid pushing them beyond a limit against their will.

(ix) We ensure that a written record is kept of all incidents involving children along with the details of the subsequent action taken/treatment given. A record of all incidents and referrals will be maintained by the Institution while ensuring a strict confidentiality.

## 6.6 Advocacy and Networking

- (i) We shall strive to make every Don Bosco institution a child advocacy unit. We shall have a range of individuals, professionals and advocacy organizations who promote the optimal development and rights of children.
- (ii) We understand that we are not alone in this endeavour for child care and protection and hence we shall network with like-minded organisations to protect, protest, safeguard and promote child rights.
- (iii) We are ready to forge alliance with other groups for any issues concerning the protection of children ranging from exploitation such as child labour, child trafficking etc.
- (iv) We help the children to voice their problems and concerns and we try to prevent any form of dominion to ensure that the children feel free to express their views.
- (v) We contribute to development of government policies or even transnational policies by participating in lobbying, policy research, filing law suits and engaging in other types of initiatives to influence decision-makers.



## Chapter 7

# Coordination and Monitoring

7.1 Addressing the rights and needs of the children in all our Don Bosco Institutions throughout India calls for a synergistic coordination. Therefore we maintain a good level of understanding, coordination and networking among our institutions and provinces in order to arrive at incisive and successful strategies in providing services to the young.

7.2 We affirm that rights-based approach calls for conscious, convergent and collateral linkages among different sectors and settings with indicators for tracking progress.<sup>44</sup>

7.3 We carry out periodic assessments of the planning, implementation and monitoring of our services to the young and we are willing to be bound by this policy for the sake of the children to whose wellbeing we have committed our lives.

7.4 The Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia will be the nodal group which will periodically reassess the situation of the children, ensure qualitative interventions and offer a dynamic roadmap for future course of action.

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<sup>44</sup> Ibid., Art. 6.1





## Chapter 8

# Research, Documentation and Capacity Building

8.1 While all our Don Bosco Institutions have a mechanism set in place, and a working module for offering service to the children in our neighbourhood, we also strive to build up a reliable and functional documentation on children's issues and their problems.

8.2 In all our State level Don Bosco Institutions, a continuous process of indicator-based child impact assessment and evaluation of our services shall be developed leading to a system of review and capacity building.

8.3 At the National level, there will be a research centre for a comprehensive understanding of the problems

of the children and carry out researches continually in order to enhance our interventions both qualitatively and quantitatively.

8.4 Professionally and technically qualified people will be placed at various levels to take care of children. All our sectors working with children ensure that well planned capacity-training programmes and initiatives will be organized on a regular basis.

8.5 All our personnel working with children undergo training on a regular basis so that they are sensitized and made aware of current child development and rights issues and laws.



### **Resource Allocation**

Every Don Bosco Institution which caters to the welfare of children will allocate required resources in terms of funds as well as personnel to implement Don Bosco Child Policy India and they do so with commendable transparency and accountability.

A periodic assessment of child budgeting in each Institution is carried out by the Don Bosco State level President and his Council to guarantee the resource allocation, utilisation and its impact on services rendered to the children.

### **Review of Child Policy**

A comprehensive review of the Don Bosco Child Policy India will be taken up once in five years by competent personnel in consultation with all our members, collaborators and children in our Institutions.

# Appendix 1

## POLICIES AND CONVENTIONS FOR THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948<sup>45</sup>
2. Declaration of the Rights of the Child 1959<sup>46</sup>
3. National Policy for Children 1974<sup>47</sup>
4. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (UNCRC)<sup>48</sup> its two Optional Protocols
5. UNESCO World Declaration on Education for All, 1990<sup>49</sup>
6. UNESCO Report on A World Fit for Children, 2002<sup>50</sup>
7. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 2004<sup>51</sup>
8. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 2004<sup>52</sup>
9. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006<sup>53</sup>
10. WHO Child Growth Standards, 2006<sup>54</sup>
11. National Policy for Children 2013<sup>55</sup>
12. Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-Country Adoption 2013<sup>56</sup>
13. Constitutional Provisions on Child Labour<sup>57</sup>
14. Optional Protocols to Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>58</sup>

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45 [http://www.unic.org.in/items/Other\\_UniversalDeclarationOfHumanRights.pdf](http://www.unic.org.in/items/Other_UniversalDeclarationOfHumanRights.pdf)

46 <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/resources/child.asp>

47 [http://wcd.nic.in/national\\_policy\\_for\\_children\\_1974.pdf](http://wcd.nic.in/national_policy_for_children_1974.pdf)

48 <http://www.unicef.org/crc/> Also read the following document which gives articles 1-42 on how children should be treated: <http://www.unrcrletsgetitright.co.uk/documents/UNCRC%20Poster%20%28English%29.pdf>

49 [http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Reports/UNESCO\\_World\\_Declaration\\_on\\_Education\\_for\\_All%201990.pdf](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Reports/UNESCO_World_Declaration_on_Education_for_All%201990.pdf)

50 [http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Reports/UNICEF\\_World\\_Fit\\_for\\_Children\\_Declaration\\_2002.pdf](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Reports/UNICEF_World_Fit_for_Children_Declaration_2002.pdf)

51 <http://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>

52 [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal\\_justice/Convention\\_on\\_the\\_Elimination\\_of\\_all\\_forms\\_of\\_Discrimination\\_against\\_Women.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Convention_on_the_Elimination_of_all_forms_of_Discrimination_against_Women.pdf)

53 [http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convention\\_accessible\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convention_accessible_pdf.pdf)

54 [http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Reports/WHO\\_Child\\_Growth\\_Standards\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Reports/WHO_Child_Growth_Standards_2006.pdf)

55 <http://wcd.nic.in/childreport/npc2013dtd29042013.pdf>

56 <http://www.hcch.net/upload/outline33e.pdf>

57 [http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Reports/Constitutional\\_Provisions\\_for\\_Child\\_Labour.pdf](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Reports/Constitutional_Provisions_for_Child_Labour.pdf)

58 [http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Optional\\_Protocol\\_to\\_Convention\\_on\\_Rights\\_of\\_Child\\_on\\_Sale\\_of\\_Children\\_Child\\_Prostitution\\_Child\\_Pornography.pdf](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Optional_Protocol_to_Convention_on_Rights_of_Child_on_Sale_of_Children_Child_Prostitution_Child_Pornography.pdf)



# Appendix 2

## ACTS AND BILLS FOR THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN



1. The Guardian and Wards Act, 1890<sup>59</sup>
2. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956<sup>60</sup>
3. The Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act, 1956<sup>61</sup>
4. The Delhi School Education Act, 1973<sup>62</sup>
5. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976<sup>63</sup>
6. Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) 1979<sup>64</sup>
7. The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act 1986<sup>65</sup>
8. The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992<sup>66</sup>
9. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995<sup>67</sup>
10. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000<sup>68</sup>
11. Goa Children's Act, 2003<sup>69</sup>
12. Protection of Child Rights Act 2005<sup>70</sup>
13. The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005<sup>71</sup>
14. National plan of Action for Children 2005<sup>72</sup>

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59 <http://wcd.nic.in/gawaact.htm>

60 <http://wcd.nic.in/act/itpa1956.htm>

61 [http://mha.nic.in/pdfs/Young\\_Persons\\_Harmful%20Publication\\_%20Act1956.pdf](http://mha.nic.in/pdfs/Young_Persons_Harmful%20Publication_%20Act1956.pdf)

62 [http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Delhi\\_Schools\\_Education\\_Act\\_1973.pdf](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Delhi_Schools_Education_Act_1973.pdf)

63 [http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Abolition\\_of\\_Bonded\\_Labour\\_System\\_Act\\_1976.pdf](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Abolition_of_Bonded_Labour_System_Act_1976.pdf)

64 <http://wcd.nic.in/icds.htm>

65 [http://pblabour.gov.in/Pdfs/Child%20Labour%20\\_Prohibition%20\\_%20Regulation\\_%20Act,%201986.pdf](http://pblabour.gov.in/Pdfs/Child%20Labour%20_Prohibition%20_%20Regulation_%20Act,%201986.pdf)

66 <http://wcd.nic.in/infantmilkpact1.pdf>

67 <http://socialjustice.nic.in/pwdact1995.php>

68 <http://wcd.nic.in/childprot/jjact2000.pdf>

69 [http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Goa\\_Childrens\\_Act\\_2003.pdf](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Goa_Childrens_Act_2003.pdf)

70 [http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/National\\_Commission\\_for\\_Protection\\_of\\_Child\\_Rights\\_Act\\_2005.pdf](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/National_Commission_for_Protection_of_Child_Rights_Act_2005.pdf)

71 <http://wcd.nic.in/The%20Gazette%20of%20India.pdf>

72 <http://wcd.nic.in/NAPAUG16A.pdf>

15. Right to Information Act, 2005<sup>73</sup>
16. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006<sup>74</sup>
17. The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006<sup>75</sup>
18. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006<sup>76</sup>
19. Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), 2006<sup>77</sup>
20. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012<sup>78</sup>
21. Abolition of Child Labour Bill 2013<sup>79</sup>
22. Notification banning Child Labour in Domestic, Shops and Establishments<sup>80</sup>



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73 <http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/MANUAL%20ON%20RIGHT%20TO%20INFORMATION%20ACT.pdf>

74 <http://www.wcd.nic.in/cma2006.pdf>

75 [http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/National\\_Commission\\_for\\_Protection\\_of\\_Child\\_Rights\\_Act\\_Amendment\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/National_Commission_for_Protection_of_Child_Rights_Act_Amendment_2006.pdf)

76 <http://wcd.nic.in/childprot/jjactamedment.pdf>

77 [http://www.indg.in/social-sector/women-and-child-development/the\\_integrated\\_child\\_protection\\_scheme\\_icps.pdf](http://www.indg.in/social-sector/women-and-child-development/the_integrated_child_protection_scheme_icps.pdf)

78 <http://wcd.nic.in/childact/childprotection31072012.pdf>

79 <http://164.100.24.219/BillsTexts/LSBillTexts/asintroduced/4665ls.pdf>

80 [http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Notification\\_Banning\\_Child\\_Labour\\_in\\_Domestic\\_Shops\\_and\\_Establishments\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Notification_Banning_Child_Labour_in_Domestic_Shops_and_Establishments_2006.pdf)

# Appendix 3

## INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR CHILD WELFARE



There are several constitutional provisions for children. These include the following.

**Article 14** provides that the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.

**Article 15(3)** provides that, “Nothing in this article shall prevent the State for making any special provision for women and children.”

**Article 21** provide that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

**Article 21A** directs the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.

**Article 23** prohibits trafficking of human beings and forced labour.

**Article 24** prohibits employment of children below the age of fourteen years in factories, mines or any other hazardous occupation.

**Article 25-28** provides freedom of conscience, and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.

**Article 39(e) and (f)** provide that the State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing to ensure that the health and strength of workers, men and women and the tender age of children are not abused and that the citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength and that the children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that the childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.

**Article 45** envisages that the State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

# Glossary

**CHILD OR CHILDREN:** in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 'child' means every human being under the age of 18 unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. For the purposes of this policy, Salesian Provinces of India considers a child to be a person under the age of 18 years.

**CHILD PROTECTION:** an activity or initiative designed to protect children from any form of harm, particularly arising from child exploitation and abuse.

**PARENT:** A "parent" is a person who: Is the mother, father, stepfather, stepmother of the child; or at law has responsibility for - the long term care, welfare and development of the child; or the day-to-day care, welfare and development of the child; is in a de facto relationship with a person referred to above; or is specified as the child's prospective adoptive parent under the Adoption Act

**CAPACITY OF THOSE IN CONTACT WITH THE CHILD:** includes the knowledge, motivation and support needed by families and by community members,

teachers, health and social workers and police, in order to protect children.

**PHYSICAL ABUSE:** the use of physical force against a child that results in harm to the child. Physically abusive behaviour includes shoving, hitting, slapping, shaking, throwing, punching, kicking, biting, burning, strangling and poisoning

**NEGLECT:** the failure by a parent or caregiver to provide a child (where they are in a position to do so) with the conditions that are culturally accepted as being essential for their physical and emotional development and well-being

**EMOTIONAL ABUSE:** refers to a parent or caregiver's inappropriate verbal or symbolic acts toward a child or a pattern of failure over time to provide a child with adequate non-physical nurture and emotional availability. Such acts have a high probability of damaging a child's self-esteem or social competence





**SEXUAL ABUSE:** the use of a child for sexual gratification by an adult or significantly older child or adolescent. Sexually abusive behaviours can include fondling genitals, masturbation, oral sex, vaginal or anal penetration by a penis, finger or any other object, fondling breasts, voyeurism, exhibitionism and exposing the child to, or involving the child in, pornography.

### **CHILD EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE**

*one or more of the following:*

- committing or coercing another person to commit an act or acts of abuse against a child
- possessing, controlling, producing, distributing, obtaining or transmitting child exploitation material
- Committing or coercing another person to commit an act or acts of grooming or online grooming.

