

# Child Participation in Preventing and Combating Child Trafficking

**Presented by:**

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# Introduction

- ❖ Child Participation is one of the General Principle of CRC, is relevant to all child rights, and is a cross cutting strategy.
- ❖ Child Participation has to be an integral part of all Anti-Trafficking programmes.
- ❖ Not a one-time affair/tokenism but is a continuous process.

# Introduction

- ❖ Well-developed Minimum Standards/ethical guidelines exists.
- ❖ The State has the primary responsibility for realizing Child Rights, provide for systems to safeguard Child Rights .
- ❖ In-built mechanisms for Child Participation within the Planning process.

# Plan of Action

## National Plan of Action for Children, 2005 (India)

- ❖ Sets Goals and Strategies in all areas of Child Rights including Child Trafficking.
- ❖ Child Participation is in-built as a cross-cutting strategy.
- ❖ Advocate for child participation, especially for the girl child participation.
- ❖ Access to effective complaints procedures, capacity building programme, encourage children's groups/ councils/associations etc, development of child friendly materials etc.

# Legislation

## **Model Rules for Implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act, 2000**

- ❖ The Principle of Right to be Heard--Fundamental principles of Juvenile Justice and protection of children.
- ❖ Envisages Child Participation through formation of Child Committees in protective Homes for children.
- ❖ Provides space for voluntary organizations/ experts to assist in setting up and functioning of Child Committees.

# Programme

## Ujjawala---A Comprehensive Scheme for prevention and combat trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, 2007

- ❖ Prevention strategy includes formation of “Children Collective” and act as peer support group, pressure groups, communication vigilance group, social change agents etc.
- ❖ Provides funds to NGOs.
- ❖ Capacity Building and Training of NGOs.

# Judiciary

**Sakshi Vs Union of India ----A landmark Judgment lays down guidelines child friendly environment in holding trial of child sexual abuse :-**

- ❖ A screen between the survivors/witnesses and the perpetrator.
- ❖ The Presiding Officer would put questions to the survivor or witnesses in a language appropriate.
- ❖ The survivor during testimony should be allowed sufficient breaks as and when required.

# **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights**

**Set-up in March, 2007.**

**The Mandate of the Commission includes: -**

- ❖ To undertake formal investigation including concerns expressed by children themselves.
- ❖ To promote, respect and take serious consideration of the views of children in its work.

# Cross-Border Trafficking

- ❖ SAARC Convention on Trafficking has a number of provisions relating to issues concerning trafficked children---need to develop appropriate mechanisms for child participation.
- ❖ Example, Indo-Bangladesh Bilateral Initiative--- Joint Plan of Action and Roadmap for safe and quick repatriation of trafficked children.
- ❖ Guidelines for “Interviewing Children” is being developed as one of the initiative.

# Regional Initiatives

- ❖ Children's Manifesto for Afghanistan and its accompanying Framework for Action.
- ❖ National Plan of Action against the Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children including Trafficking in Bangladesh.
- ❖ Youth Partnership Project for child victims of CSEC in South Asia, ECPAT.

# Challenges

- ❖ Implementation of Child Participation as envisaged in the plans, programmes and policies, especially at the local level.
- ❖ Budget and Resource Allocation.
- ❖ Inclusion of all children, especially marginalized, hard to reach children.
- ❖ Capacity Building and Training of stakeholders— children, NGOs, Government officials, Policy makers and others.

THANK YOU