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Appendix-1

EDUCATION PROGRAMME ON CHILD RIGHTS

The convention on the **rights of child** draws attention to four sets of rights for every child:

1) Right to survival
2) Right to protection
3) Right to development
4) Right to participation

1)The Right to Survival:

The right to Survival includes ;

- the right to life.
- the attainable standard of health.
- nutritious and an adequate standard of living.
- right to name and nationality.

2) The right to protection:

This right includes;

- freedom from all forms of exploitation , abuse and inhuman or degrading treatment.
- right to special protection in situations of emergency or armed conflict.

3)The right to Development:

This right includes;

- the right to be educated.
- to receive support for development and care during early childhood.
- to social security.
- the right to leisure, recreation and cultural activities.

4) The Right to Participation:

The Right to Participation accords;

- the child has right to access to appropriate information.
- the freedom of thought and expression, conscience and religion.

Article 1: Definition of child

A child is recognized as a **person under18**, unless national laws recognize the age of majority earlier.

I am a CHILD…

And so am I…..

And so is anyone below the age of 18

If you are below 18 you are a child, as important as any other child

You could be…
*A girl or a boy
* A small baby or a teen
* Rich or poor
* A Hindu or a Muslim, etc
* Born to a businessman or a famous actor
* Black skinned, or white or brown all over
* Needing special things - like a wheelchair, or hearing aids In any situation that's completely different from everyone else

IT DOESN'T MATTER!

Article:2 Non-discrimination

All RIGHTS APPLY TO ALL CHILDREN WITHOUT ANY EXCEPTIONS

Protection from discrimination

•It's state's obligation to act positively to protect children's from all discriminations irrespective of the child's

- Race
- color
- sex
- language
- religion
- political or other opinion
- national, ethnic or social origin
- property
- disability
- birth or other status.

The childhood doesn't have Racial limitations

Article 3: Best interests of the child

•All actions concerning the child shall take full account of his or her best interests.

•The State shall provide the child with adequate care when parents, or others charged with that responsibility, fail to do so.

Article 4:Implementation of rights

'The **State must do all** it can to implement the rights contained in the Convention.'

•Forming various committees to survey & report on status of children

•Implementing various schemes like;

- Beti Bachao Andolan
- Free compulsory primary education
- Celebrating year as 'Nirogi Bal Varsh'
- 'Mid-day meal' scheme
- Orphan homes, Remand home, Juvenile homes, Rehabilitation Centre

Article 5:Parental guidance and the child's evolving capacities

The **State must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents** and the extended family to provide guidance for the child which is appropriate to her or his evolving capacities.

Article:6 Survival and development

Every child has the inherent right to life, and the **State has an obligation to ensure the child's survival and development.**

Children enjoying their lunch at school combining their right to survival and a quality education.

Article:7 Name and Nationality

The child has the right to a name at birth, to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, to know his or her parents and be cared for by them.

Article 8: Preservation of identity

The State has an obligation to protect, and if necessary, re- establish basic aspects of the child's identity. This includes name, nationality and family ties.

Article:9 Separation from parents

1) The child has a **right to live with his or her parents** unless this is deemed to be incompatible with the child's best interest.

2) The child also has the **right to maintain contact with both parents** if separated from one or both.

Article 10: Family reunification

RIGHT TO HAVE A FAMILY WHO LOVE AND CARE

Children and their parents have the right to leave any country and to enter their own for purposes of reunion or the maintenance of the child-parent relationship.

Article 11: Illicit transfer and non-return

The State has an obligation to prevent and remedy the kidnapping or retention of children abroad by a parent or third party.

Article:12 The child's opinion

RIGHT TO BE ABLE TO EXPRESS MY OWN VIEWS.

The child has the **right to express his or her opinion** freely and to have that opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting the child.

Article 13: Freedom of expression

The **child has the right to express his or her views**, obtain information, make ideas or information known, regardless of frontiers.

Article 14: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

The State shall respect the child's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, subject to appropriate parental guidance.

Article:15 Freedom of association

SING & SHAKE HANDS WITH FRIENDS AND SAY HELLO

Children have a right to meet with others, and to join or form associations.

Article 16: Protection of privacy

Children have the right to protection from interference with privacy, family, home and correspondence

Article 17: Access to appropriate Information

CHILDREN SHOULD KNOW THEIR RIGHTS

1) The State shall ensure the accessibility to children of information and material from a diversity of sources,

2) It shall encourage the mass media to disseminate information which is of social and cultural benefit to the child, and take steps to protect him or her from harmful materials.

Children should know their **rights**

Article 18: Parental responsibilities

Parents have joint **primary responsibility for raising the child**, and the State shall support them in this. The State shall provide appropriate assistance to parents in child-raising.

Article:19 Protection from abuse and neglect

TO BE PROTECTED AGAINST ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, NEGLECT, VIOLENCE AND DANGER

The state shall protect the child from all forms of maltreatment by parents or others responsible for the care of the child and establish appropriate social programmes for the prevention of abuse and the treatment of victims.

Article:20 Protection of a child without family

SPECIAL CHILD PROTECTION DEPRIVED OF FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

The State is obliged to provide special protection for a child deprived of the family environment and to ensure that appropriate alternative family care or institutional placement is available in such cases. Efforts to meet to meet this obligation shall pay due regard to the child's cultural background.

Article 21: Adoption

In countries where adoption is recognized and/or allowed, it shall only be carried out in the best interests of the child, and then only with the authorization of competent authorities, and safeguards for the child.

Article:22 Refugee children

Special protection shall be granted to a refugee child or to a child seeking refugee status. It is the State's obligation to co-operate with competent organizations which provide such protection and assistance.

Case Study

Chandika was six years old when his family was killed in internal conflict in Sri Lanka. His relatives willingly gave shelter, but were unable to provide for his schooling. When the strife escalated a year later, Chandika's foster family decided to take refuge in the neighboring country. During their journey, Chandika unfortunately got separated from the family but managed to reach a refugee camp. At first, he was able to secure his basic needs to sustain himself. But as more and more refugees arrived and the camp got overcrowded, food, shelter and other facilities were shared out by family. As a lone child, Chandika was not entitled to hold an identification card and found himself left out. What should have been done to secure Chandika's survival and to promote his rights? Could networking with other refugee camps not have traced his foster family in order to reunite them? Failing that could not the refugee camp authorities have registered Chandika and other children like him and placed them in temporary foster care with a family within the camp? This would have ensured that such children could avail of food, shelter and whatever health and educational facilities were available at the camp.

Article 23: Disabled children

DISABLED CHILD HAS RIGHT TO ENJOY DECENT LIFE

A disabled child has the right to special care, education and training to help him or her enjoy a full and decent life in dignity and achieve the greatest degree of self-reliance and social integration possible.

Children in Tokyo's Kome School which is the oldest educational institution for the disabled children in the city.

Article:24 Health and health services

RIGHT TO HAVE HIGHEST STANDARD OF MEDICAL CARE

The child has a right to the highest standard of health and medical care attainable. States shall place special emphasis on the provision of primary and preventive health care, public health education and the reduction of infant mortality. They shall encourage international cooperation in this regard and strive to see that no child is deprived of access to effective health services.

Article 25: Periodic review of placement

A child who is placed by the State for reasons of care, protection or treatment is entitled to have that placement evaluated regularly.

Article:26 Social security

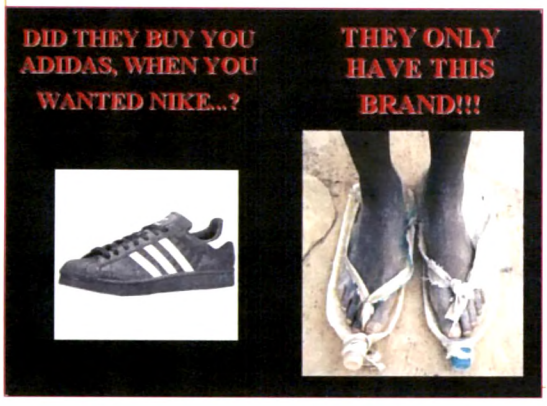
TO LIVE IN A PEACEFUL COMMUNITY AND A WHOLESOME ENVIRONMENT

The child has the right to benefit from social security including social insurance.

Article:27 Standard of living

TO HAVE ADEQUATE FOOD AND A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE BODY

Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Parents have the Primary responsibility to ensure that this responsibility can be fulfilled. State responsibility can include material assistance to parents and their children.



Article:28 Right to education

THE RIGHT TO A FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT FOR FULL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUALS AND WIDER COMMUNITIES

The child has right to education, and the State's duty is to ensure that primary education is free and compulsory, to encourage different forms of secondary education accessible to every child and to make higher education available to all on the basis of capacity. School discipline shall be consistent with the child's rights and dignity. The state shall engage in international co-operation to implement this right.

Article 29: Aims of education

Education shall aim at developing the child's personality, talents, mental and physical abilities to the fullest extent.

Education shall prepare the child for an active adult life in a free society and foster respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, and for the cultural background and values of others.

Article:30
Children of minorities and indigenous populations

Children of minority communities and indigenous populations have the right to enjoy their own culture and practice their own religion and language.

Children from Around the World Cards

I am 13 years old, and my country has been fighting over a boundary with another country for three years. A captain from the army came to my home and told me that because I am so big and strong, I should join the army and fight for my country.

I am 10 years old, and I speak the language that my parents and grandparents and all my family have always spoken. In the local school, none of the teachers speak my language, and they don't allow me to speak it either - they say we must all learn how to speak their language.

Article:31
Leisure, recreation and cultural activities

The child has the right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities.

A rugby sports carnival in East London, South Africa provides access to the right of play, education, and health care as young people learn rugby skills, about community participation and HIV prevention.

Article:32 Child labor

RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED FROM WORK THAT AFFECTS HEALTH

The child has the right to be protected from work that threatens his or her health , education or development. The State shall set minimum ages for employment and regulate working conditions.

Brick Breaking

Stone Lifting

Fruit Selling

Stone Breaking

Agrarian Labor

Shepherd Labor

Article:33 Drug abuse

Children have the right to protection from the use of narcotic and psychotropic drugs and from being involved in their production or distribution.

Article 34: Sexual exploitation

The State shall protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography.

Article:35 Sale, trafficking and abduction

It is the state's obligation to make every effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children.

Trafficking means '*immoral*' buying or selling of children for any purpose.

TRAFFICKING

"Trafficking in human beings is the illegal trade of human beings, through abduction, the use or threat of force, deception, fraud or "sale" for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labor, servitude or slavery."

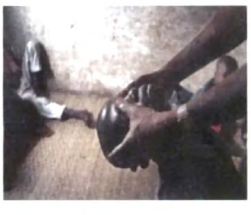
Article:36 Other forms of exploitation

Teenagers learn skills to earn an income and enjoy their rights of protection from economic exploitation.

The child has the right to protection from all forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare not covered in articles 32,33,34 and 35.

Article 37: Torture and deprivation of liberty

No child shall be subjected to torture, cruel treatment or punishment, unlawful arrest or deprivation of liberty. Both capital punishment and life imprisonment without the possibility of release are prohibited for offences committed by persons below 18 years.



Article:38 Armed conflict

While the international minimum age for children in armed Conflict is15,often children, like this young teenager are recruited or forced to serve as soldiers.

states parties shall take all feasible measure that children under 15 years of age have no direct part in hostilities. No child below 15 shall be recruited into armed forces. State shall also ensure the protection and care of children who are affected by armed conflict as described in relevant international law.

Children In A World Of Violence

Children and War / Human Rights

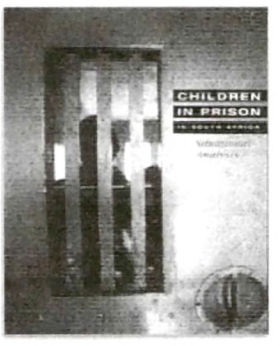
Article 39: Rehabilitative care

The State has an obligation to ensure that child victims of armed conflicts, torture, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation receive appropriate treatment for their recovery and social reintegration.

Beautiful Gate Foundation, Rehabilitation Centre
Since 1996

Article:40 Administration of juvenile justice

A child in conflict with the law has the right to treatment which promotes the child's sense of dignity and worth, takes the child's age into account and aims at his or her reintegration into society. The child is entitled to basic guarantees as well as legal or other assistance for his or her defense. Judicial proceedings and institutional placements shall be avoided wherever possible.



THANKYOU

BY

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Children's Rights And Responsibilities

Can you match the rights to the responsibilities?

From an illustrated guide issued by the National Children's Rights Committee, South Africa and the UNICEF document on the Rights of a Child.

Children have the right...

to be protected from conflict, cruelty, exploitation and neglect...

www.instantdisplay.co.uk

and the responsibility...

not to bully or harm each other.

www.instantdisplay.co.uk

Children have the right...

to a clean environment, at home, at school or wherever they are...

www.instantdisplay.co.uk

and the responsibility...

to do what they can to look after their environment.

www.instantdisplay.co.uk

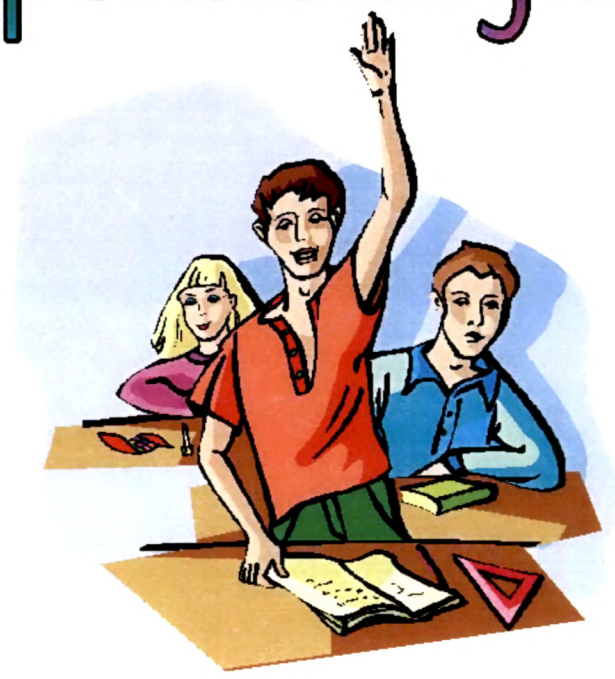
Children have the right...

to be educated...

www.instantdisplay.co.uk

and the responsibility...

to learn as much as they can and help others to learn.



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Children have the right...

to freedom of thought and religion...

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and the responsibility...

to respect other people's thoughts and religions.

www.instantdisplay.co.uk

Children have the right...

to be heard...

www.instantdisplay.co.uk

and the responsibility...

to listen to
other people.

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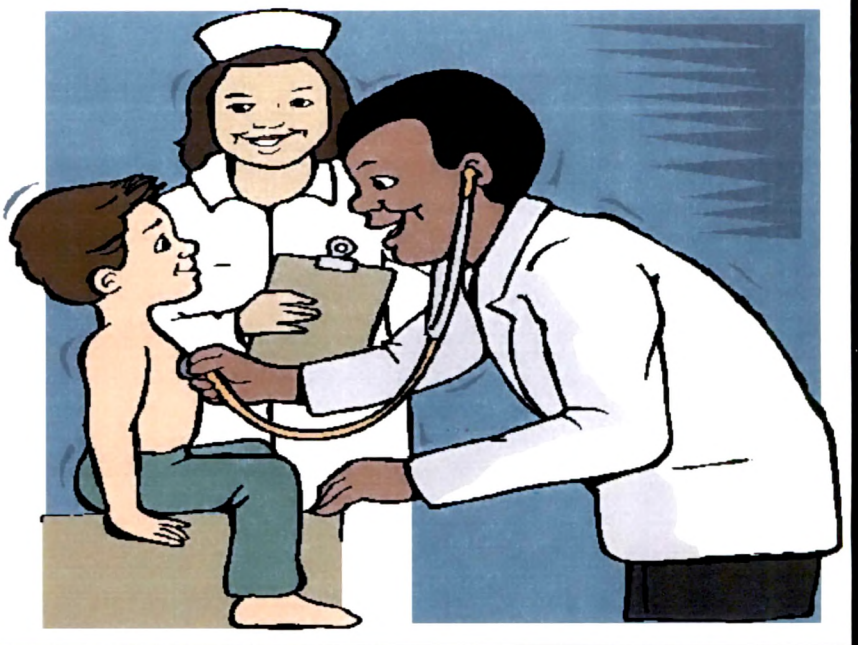
Children have the right...

to proper medical care...



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and the responsibility...

to take care of themselves.

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Children have the right...

to be loved
and
respected...

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and the responsibility...

to show love
and respect
to others.

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Children have the right...

to special care for special needs...

www.instantdisplay.co.uk

and the responsibility...

to be the best they can be.

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Children have the right...

to make mistakes...

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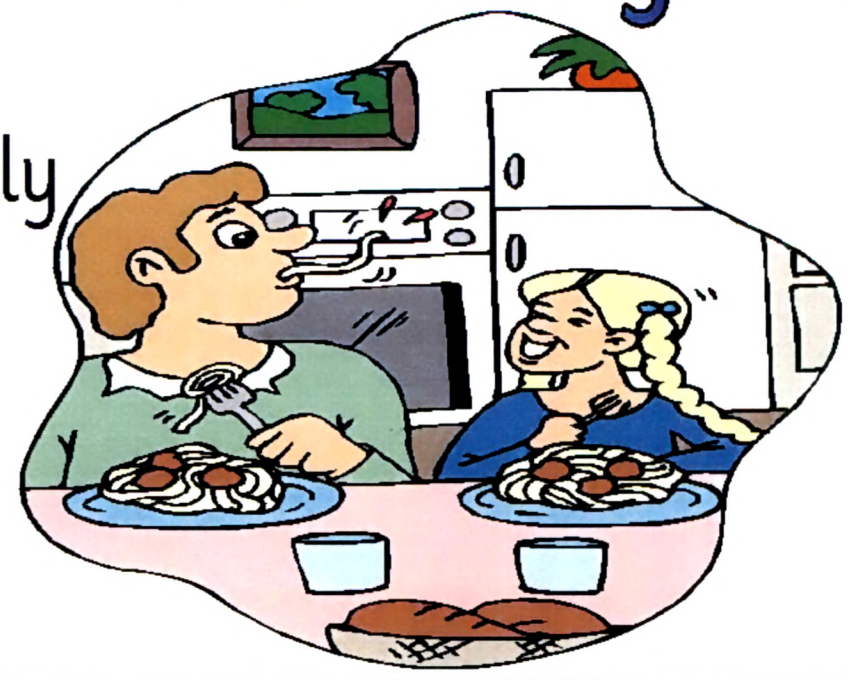
and the responsibility...

to learn from their mistakes.

www.instantdisplay.co.uk

Children have the right...

to be adequately fed...



www.instantdisplay.co.uk

and the responsibility...

not to waste food.

www.instantdisplay.co.uk

Children have the right...

to relax, play and join in a wide range of activities...

www.instantdisplay.co.uk

and the responsibility...

to include everyone in their games and activities.

www.instantdisplay.co.uk

Booklet on Child Rights

✦ Historical perspective:

Although children are regarded as God's Apostle who come to this earth bringing messages of GOD. Actually only during this century "children have been discovered". Children were not regarded as separate entities with distinct interests and attitudes and were taken for granted. Children were not recognized on their own rights and were looked upon as properties that could be handled in any way. They were taken as merely the members of the family not of the society as a whole. They had to suffer or enjoy their lives according to the status and condition of their parents. They had to live life dictated by parents and society.

It was perhaps **Englantyne Jebb** of England who first started an international movement for providing the child with a status. The debates she initiated culminated in a Declaration adopted by the League of Nations on Sep 26, 1925. But unfortunately the Declaration could not be given effect to as the league itself died. It was only in the fifties of the twentieth century that the UN decided to draft once again a charter of the rights of the child and after certain modifications it was adopted unanimously at a plenary sessions of the UN General Assembly on Nov 20, 1959. To comprehensively deal with the issues concerning the development and well being of children, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights started its work on Convention of 1989, which contains 54 articles and was divided into four categories.

Right to survival

Right to protection

Right to development

Right to participation

✦ What is a Convention?

A convention is a specific type of international law. It is an agreement especially among nations, usually created within an international organization such as the United Nations.

✦ What is the Convention on the Rights of the Child?

The CRC is a treaty (a formal agreement between states) that lays out the rights of children and the standards to which all governments must aspire in order to promote these rights.

EVERY child and young person under 18 has rights and responsibilities. They're protected by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It's been signed by every country in the world, except the USA and Somalia.

The Convention begins by talking about the reasons why it's needed:

▪ **BECAUSE children are individuals and members of their families and communities. They have rights and responsibilities, appropriate to their age and development.**	▪ **BECAUSE families play a really important role in society. Children develop best if their families give them love, understanding, and happiness.**	▪ **BECAUSE the world needs to work together to make life better for children, especially children in the world's poorest countries.**
▪ **BECAUSE recognizing everyone's rights are vital for a world full of freedom, justice and peace.**	▪ **BECAUSE children should grow up "in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity."**	▪ **BECAUSE children's cultures and traditions should be protected.**
▪ **BECAUSE children need special care and protection.**	▪ **BECAUSE, in all countries of the world, there are children living in exceptionally difficult conditions. These children need special help.**	▪ **BECAUSE children were not regarded as separate entities with distinct interests and attitudes and were taken for granted.**

Your rights under the UNCRC

The convention in Child-Friendly Language
(UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

The Convention spells out your rights in a series of "articles".

Article 1: Definition of a child (i.e. the right to be a child)

'A child is recognized as a person under 18, unless national laws recognize the age of majority earlier.'

This means that definition of child varies according to the laws of particular country. In India too various laws consider a person 'child' differently.

- **The Indian Majority Act, 1875:** A person is deemed to have attained majority on completion of 18 years.
- **The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929:** 'Child' means a person who, if a male, has not completed 21 years of age, and if a female, has not completed 18 years of age.
- **The Children (Pledging of labour) Act, 1933:** 'Child' means a person who is under 15 years.
- **The Factories Act, 1948:** No child who has not completed his 14th year shall be allowed to work in any factory.
- **The Apprentice Act, 1961:** A person shall not be engaged as an apprentice unless he is not less than 14 years of age.
- **The Women's and Children's Institution Act, 1956:** A 'child' means a boy or girl who has not completed the age of 18 years.
- **The Mines Act, 1983:** No person below eighteen years of age shall be allowed to work in any mine or part thereof.

- **The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986:** 'Child' means a person who has not completed his 14th year of age.
- **The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1986:** Child means a person who has not completed the age of 16 years.
- **The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986:** 'Juvenile' is a boy who has not attained the age of sixteen years, and a girl who has not the age of eighteen years.

It gives scope to employers to manipulate with the age of children which results in widespread child labour. So there is a need to unanimously accept one definition of 'Child'.

Article 2: Non-discrimination

'All rights apply to all children without exception. It is the State's obligation to protect children from any form of discrimination and to take positive action to promote their rights.'

It means all rights applicable to all children irrespective of the child's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

Despite of the guarantee of the right, many children face discrimination. Still in many villages of India children become victims of **gender discrimination.** Boys are given priority in receiving education, getting good food, cloth and going out for play. While girls have to look after house hold works and taking care of younger siblings.

Even all over the country poor children are discriminated on the basis of property as they have to receive lower quality education compare to rich children who receive education from private schools. Its nothing but **differential education.**

Article 3: Best interests of the child

'All actions concerning the child shall take full account of his or her best interests. The State shall provide the child with adequate care when parents, or others charged with that responsibility, fail to do so.'

All social welfare institutions, courts, other bodies and people that work with and for children must put what is best for the child first. As for example, if there is best school located very far from the home and there is other sub-standard school in near by vicinity of the home then parents should send their child to the best school. Also for the full development of child's personality he/she should be given opportunity according to his/her area of interest.

Article 4: Implementation of rights

'The State must do all it can to implement the rights contained in the Convention.'

i.e. All governments must do the best they can . Both rich and poor governments must do the very best they can to find ways to make sure the rights in this Convention apply to all children. If, in spite of all its efforts, a country does not have enough money to pay for everything its children need, it should ask other countries to help it.

The government of India has launched various schemes for healthy survival and well-being of children.

Children Related Schemes:

- Scheme of Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Mal-Adjustment (For the purpose of NORMS only)
- National Awards For Child Welfare
- National Child Awards For Exceptional Achievements
- Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Award For Service To Children
- Balika Samriddhi Yojana (BSY)
- Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY)
- Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG)
- Early Childhood Education for 3-6 Age Group Children Under the Programme of Universalisation of Elementary Education.
- Scheme for welfare of Working Children in need of Care and Protection
- An Integrated Programme for Street Children
- Childline Services
- Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)
- Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme For the Children of Working Mothers
- Beti-bachao andolan
- Sarv siksha abhiyan(free and compulsory primary education for 6-14 age group children)

Article 5: Parental guidance and the child's evolving capacities

'Your family has the responsibility to help you learn to exercise your rights, and to ensure that your rights are protected.'

i.e. Parents and caregivers must guide their children

Governments must respect that parents and others who look after children have a responsibility, a right and a duty to guide children on how to use their rights. Sometimes guidance is provided by local custom or culture. The older or more mature a child is, the more he or she will be involved in decisions of this kind.

Think about this. How old do you think a child should be before you can understand and use your rights? When you talk about some of the rights later in this book, it may be interesting for you to talk about some of them with your parents or the people who look after you. After all, very young children need to be very well guided by grownups. Older children begin to understand the importance of rights and responsibilities.

Article 6: Survival and development

'Every child has the inherent right to life, and the State has an obligation to ensure the child's survival and development.'

This means that governments must do everything they can to make sure that every child survives and develops (grows up healthy and strong).

Children who are born in very poor surroundings where there is a lot of illness around the, no clean water and little medical help often die early in childhood. This makes it very important that help is given to mothers and their babies at this stage of their lives.

Article 7: Name and nationality

'The child has the right to a name at birth. The child also has the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, to know his or her parents and be cared for by them.'

Birth registration ; 2000–2007*, total	41
Birth registration ; 2000–2007*, urban	59
Birth registration ; 2000–2007*, rural	35

* Percentage of children less than five years of age that were registered at the moment of the survey.

Main data sources: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS).

Article 8: Preservation of identity

'You have the right to an identity – an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you.'

Articles 7 & 8 together i.e. ***The right to be you***

Having a name and a nationality (being citizen of a country) is called having an identity. One of the first things you learn in you life is what your name is. The next thing you learn is what family you belong to and how old you are. When your birth is registered you are given a first name and a family name and the date of your birth. Your nationality is also written down. This says who you are.

Article 9: Separation from parents

'You have the right to live with your parent(s), unless it is bad for you. You have the right to live with a family who cares for you.' i.e. **The right to be part of a family**

Children have the right not to be separated from their parents or family against their will. Sometimes, however, the courts may decide that a separation is best for a child. Perhaps the parents have been hurting the child or not looking after the child properly. Or perhaps the parents are not living together and the court must decide which parent the child should live with. Before the court can make a decision, everyone must be able to say how she or he feels about this. Governments must respect the right of the child who is separated from one or both parents to continue to see both parents regularly (unless this is not in the best interest of the child.

Article 10: Family reunification

'If you live in a different country than your parents do, you have the right to be together in the same place.' i.e.**Governments must help families to stay together.**

If a child and his or her parents are in different countries and wish to join up as a family, the two governments must do everything they can to make this happen quickly and in the kindest possible way. A child whose parents live in different countries should have the right to see both parents regularly. This means that the governments of these countries should respect the right of the child and parents to visit each other.

Article 11: Illicit transfer and non-return

The State has an obligation to prevent and remedy the kidnapping or retention of children abroad by a parent or third party. i.e. **Governments must stop people taking children out**

of a country

Governments must do everything they can to stop children being taken out of the country they are living in illegally and not returned. This means that governments must come to agreements with each other to make sure that, if children are taken in this way, they will be returned quickly.

This kind of thing can happen when a parent wants to take a child away from another parent, even though the court has said he or she cannot. It is like stealing a child.

Article 12: The child's opinion

'The child has the right to express his or her opinion freely and to have that opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting the child.'

This story identifies CRC Article # 12. You have the right to say your opinion when concerning decisions affecting you.

Tarun 's parents are divorced. His mom has custody of him and he is happy with that. That is what he wanted when they got divorced because his mom lived closer to his school. Now Tarun has a problem. His mom wants to get a job in Europe and take Tarun with her. Tarun doesn't want to go to Europe because the only language he speaks is Gujarati and Tarun also does not want to move because he will be leaving his dad and friends behind.

Tarun's father is fighting his mother in court for custody so that Tarun does not have to go to Europe. After the court case ended, Tarun still had to go with his mother because the court wouldn't listen to Tarun or his father. Tarun said even if he didn't stay with his father, he could stay with other family members. The next week, Tarun got on a plane and left the country.

Tarun's rights were violated because the court did not want to listen to him. It is not about him deciding where he goes or not, but he should at least be considered and have his voice heard.

Article13:-Freedom-of-expression

You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.

Article 14: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

Children have the right to think or believe what they like. They also have the right to choose their own religion. But, at the same time, parents have the right and duty to guide children while they are growing up. Because you have the right to believe what you like, obviously other people do too. This means you need to respect that we all have different religions and beliefs. Some people may choose not to believe in any religion at all. We all need to learn to respect each other and what we believe.

How many religions can you think of? Do you know people who do not believe in any god at all? Does belonging to a different belief make people bad or just different? Many of the evil things in the world happen because people forget that we are all brothers and sisters in the big human family. As children we can grow up in spirit of humanity and change this world.

Article 15: Freedom of association

You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

Children have the right to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly. This means that children have the right to choose their friends and go to any meeting, march or protest, provided it is peaceful. However, if you decide to go out and smash a shop window or throw a stone at the police or kill somebody, you are not protesting peacefully but interfering with somebody else's rights. If you do this, governments have a right and a duty to stop this kind of protest.

Article 16: Protection of privacy

You have the right to privacy.

Nobody can search the home, clothes or read the letters of any child without a very good reason. Like every other person, children have the right to respect.

Article-17:--Access-to-appropriate-information

You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspapers, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

Article 18: Parental responsibilities

You have the right to be raised by your parent(s).

Governments must help parents and caregivers to look after children in the best possible way. Governments must also make sure there are good institutions, facilities and services to care for children who need extra help. Governments must do everything they can to make sure that children of working parents benefit from the child-care services and facilities they qualify for.

Article 19: Protection from abuse and neglect

You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

The government must do everything it can to protect children from parents and other people who hurt them. The government must try to protect children from all kinds of physical and mental violence, injury or abuse (including sexual abuse), bad treatment or exploitation.

Article 20: Protection of a child without family

You have the right to special care and help if you cannot live with your parents. Various things can be done to provide help and care to these children. Children can be put in foster

care, adopted or placed in a home with other children. Whatever is done, it is important that the child's needs and background and happiness are considered.

Article 21: Adoption

You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care. Governments must make sure adoption happens in a way that is in the best interest of the child. They must make sure that responsible people are in charge. They must make sure that good and kind people are chosen to adopt the child. And they must make sure that the parent or parents giving up the child for adoption are sure they want to do this. It is obviously very important that children should go to loving homes and be properly looked after.

Article 22: Refugee children

You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.

Governments must make sure that refugee children are protected and helped. This applies to refugee children who are all alone and refugee children who are with their parents or with other people who are looking after them.
A refugee is a person who has left his or her own country, often because she or he has been forced to leave because of a war, and is trying to get permission to live in another country. Refugees have often lost everything they own and have been separated from other members of their families. Many of them are children.

The United Nations has a program that works with refugees all over the world. Governments must co-operate with the United Nations or other organizations working with the United Nations to protect and help refugee children. They must also try to find the parents or family of refugee children who are on their own.
Try to imagine what it must be like to be a child refugee, all alone in a strange country. Perhaps you cannot even speak the same language. You will need all the help you can get. There are many children who have this problem. Even if you can't help them, it's good to think about them sometimes and realize how hard life it's for some members of our human family.

Article 23: Disabled children

You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life.

Children with mental and physical disabilities have the right to live a full and decent life. Such children must be allowed to live with dignity and pride. They must be given everything they need so that they can help themselves and join actively in the life of the community.

Article 24: Health and health services

You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment and information to help you stay well.

Governments must try to make sure that no children are deprived of their right to health care. Many things need to be done to make this happen:

- Governments must stop young babies and children from dying.
- Governments must try to keep children healthy and well by providing health care, fighting disease and malnutrition (poor eating) and providing healthy foods and clean drinking water.
- Governments must make sure that mothers are looked after when they are pregnant and after they have had their babies. This heals keep their children healthy.
- Governments must teach everyone about child health and healthy eating, cleanliness, hygiene and preventing accidents. It is very important that parents and children know about these things.
- Governments must teach people about how to stop getting sick and show people how to stop having more children than they want or can afford.
- Governments must also act to get rid of traditional practices that damage the health of children.
- Governments must work with other governments in the world to bring about these important rights. Special attention must be given to the needs of developing countries.

Article 25: Periodic review of placement

If you live in care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate.

Article 26: Social security

You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

Children have the right to receive social welfare benefits (grants). Governments must do everything they can to make sure they get these benefits as soon as possible.

Article 27: Standard of living

You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. You should not be disadvantaged so that you can't do many of the things other kids can do.

The most important people to provide this standard of living are the parents or those who look after the children. How good a job they will do depends on how much they can afford and how well they are able to look after the children. As far as possible, governments must help parents and other caregivers to provide for the child's development. Where needed, governments should give help and support, particularly where food, clothing and housing is needed.

Article 28: Education

You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

Article 29: Aims of Education

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Governments agree that children should learn about the following things. This is what education should do:

- Education should make the very best of children's personalities, talents, mental and physical abilities.

- Education should develop children's respect for human rights and freedoms and what the United Nations believes.

Education helps you learn respect for the human family to which we all belong. The rules of that family are that all countries and people should live in friendship, peace and understanding.

- Education should also develop children's respect for their parents, cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living and the country from which she or he comes. It should also develop the child's respect for people who are different and come from different cultures and nations.

So while education helps you respect your own family, culture and country, it also helps you respect other cultures and nations. This is most important if we are to be members of the human family.

- Education should prepare children to live responsibly in a free society. This means we must be understanding, we must be peaceful and we must be tolerant. It means that we must work for equality between men and women and boys and girls. Education should develop children's respect for the world in which they live - for the natural environment.

So, as you can see, education is a lot more than just sitting in class or doing homework or writing exams. It means preparing yourself for life.

Education means becoming a whole person.

Article 30: Children of minorities or indigenous populations

You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion – or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

Article 31: Leisure, recreational and cultural activities

You have the right to play and rest.

Children have the right to rest and relax and play in ways that suit their ages. Children also have the right to take part freely in cultural life and the arts. Governments must respect and encourage the right of the child to take part in cultural and artistic life and must also make sure that there are suitable and equal opportunities for culture, art, play and relaxation.
What opportunities are there for play and relaxation and culture in your area or community or school? How could these be improved?
What would you like to do that you cannot do at the moment? Sport? Art? Drama? Poetry? Music? May be some of the parents or teachers at your school could help you start something new.

Article 32: child labor

You have the right to protection from work that harms you, and is bad for your health and education. If you work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.

Children have the right to be protected from being forced to work to make money for others. Children also have the right to be protected from doing work that is dangerous or will stop them from going to school or will harm their health or development.

Governments must do everything they can to make sure that this right is protected. This

means they must set an age below which children must not be allowed to work. They must make rules about how many hours and in what conditions children may work. They must punish those who break these rules.

It is a very terrible thing that small children all over the world are forced to work for a living. Some very big companies make lots of money by selling products that are made by children. Some parents are so poor that they feel they have no choice. What should governments do to stop this from happening?

Article 33: Drug abuse

You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and from the drug trade.

We all know that drugs are very dangerous. In some parts of the world, children are even used to help make or smuggle drugs. This puts the children in danger and turns them into criminals at an early age.

Article 34: Sexual exploitation

You have the right to be free from sexual abuse. Governments must protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. It is very important that governments work together to stop children being paid or forced to take part in illegal sexual activity or exploited as prostitutes or for other illegal sexual practices, or to make pornographic films and other performances. Sexual abuse is a very terrible thing. The first thing children need to know about sexual abuse it that it is not their fault if it happens. This is what could happen. Somebody could touch you in a place you do not want to be touched. Somebody could ask you to touch them. Somebody could show you pictures of people touching each other in this way. The person who does this could be someone you know very well. He or she could be your mom, your dad, your uncle or your neighbour. He or she is probably older than you and may be quite nice to you. Whoever he or she is, what they are doing is wrong. Because it is wrong, they will ask you to keep it a secret. They will probably try to frighten you or threaten you. Find somebody to tell. Don't keep the secret. If you do, they will never stop.

And always remember! It is not your fault.

Sometimes children are very poor and hungry and can be persuaded to do things they do not really understand in exchange for food or money. Sometimes they are locked up or beaten and forced to do things against their will.Some of these things involve having sex with adults or taking part in films or plays or photographs that show such things.

All these children are hurt and frightened and need help.All children need to know about these things so they are careful not to talk to stranger.

Article 35: Sale, trafficking and abduction

No one is allowed to kidnap or sell you.

Article 36: Other forms of exploitation

You have the right to protection from any kind of exploitation (being taken advantage of).

Exploitation is when people use children or others for their own benefit. For example, they may make them work for very little money. Sometimes children are exploited because they are too small to protect themselves.

Article 37: Torture and deprivation of liberty

No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way.

Article 38: Armed conflict

You have the right to protection and freedom from war. Children under 15 cannot be forced to go into the army or take part in war.

There are many international rules about children living in places where there are wars and fighting with weapons. Governments agree to respect these rules and to try to make sure others respect them. One of the things governments must do is make sure that children under the age of 15 years old do not fight in wars. This means they must not allow any child under 15 to join their armies.
If you watch television, you will have seen child soldiers in some parts of the world. These children have lost their childhood. They do not go to school. They do not play. They are separated from their families. The armies that recruited them are ignoring the Convention and all the international rules.

When recruiting children between fifteen and eighteen years of age, governments must try to recruit older children (those closer to 18) before they recruit younger ones (those closer to 15). Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children where there are wars and fighting with weapons.

Article 39: Rehabilitative care

You have the right to help if you've been hurt, neglected or badly treated.

Governments must do everything they can to help child victims to recover from being hurt. Sometimes it is their bodies that have been hurt and sometimes it is their minds. They must also be helped to rejoin the community. Children should be allowed to get better in a place and in a way that restores their health, self-respect and dignity.

Article 40: Administration of juvenile justice

You have the right to legal help and fair treatment in the justice system that respects your rights.

Children accused of breaking the law or committing a crime has the right to be treated in a way that gives them a feeling of dignity and worth. The way they are treated must also help them respect the human rights and the freedom of others. They also have a right to be treated in a way that is suitable to their age and helps them to feel that they will be able to rejoin society and play a role in the community in the future. It is important that we think about this. Imagine you are accused of breaking a law. Is it best to treat you as a horrible child who will never be any good to anybody? Or should people try to show you how you can work things out and do better in the future? If children are treated with respect and given some help, many will be able to find their way back to communities. That way we can build a better society and happier children.

Article 41: Respect for higher standards

If the laws of your country provide better protection of your rights than the articles in this Convention, those laws should apply.

Article 42

You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights and help you learn about them, too.

Articles 43 to 54

These articles explain how governments and international organizations like UNICEF will work to ensure that the rights of children are protected.

Major Constitutional Provisions

Fundamental Rights

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

• **Article 15**: ... shall not discriminate against any citizen... (3) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making special provision for women and children. (4) Nothing ... shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Article 17: "Untouchability" is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. ...

• **Article 19**: (1) All citizens shall have the right – (a) to freedom of speech and expression; ... (c) to form associations or unions; (d) to move freely throughout the territory of India; (e) to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India.

• **Article 21**: No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

• **Article 21 A**: ... shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years...

• **Article 23**: Traffic in human beings and begar and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited...

• **Article 24**: No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.

Directive Principles of State Policy

• **Article 39**: ... (e) ... the tender age of children are not abused... and not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength; (f) that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood... protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.

• **Article 45**: ...provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

• **Article 46**: ...shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes,...

• **Article 47**: ...raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health...

• **Article 51**: The State shall endeavour to – ... (c) foster respect for international law and treaty obligations ...

• **Article 51A**: ... (k) ... parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.

✦Happenings in Society:

- A 14 year girl studying in 9th standard was raped at 6'o clock morning when she was on her way to tuition from home by two road passer-bys. (July-2009, place-dungri, dist-valsad)
- An article published in The Divya Bhaskar, dated 22-01-08, states that a 13 year old child named Nidhi commited suicide due to the overburdened homework and the emotional abuse by the teacher in the class. The child could never complete the homework on time as a consequence of which the child was daily emotionally abused and insulted in the class.
- A nine-year-old boy, son of a senior official with a Surat based diamond unit, was abducted on Thursday morning but before the kidnappers demand for a ransom of Rs 50 lakh could be met, his body was found near a pond in Vijalpore industrial area on Friday. (TOI, 2007)

- 40% of India's population is below the age of 18 years which at 400 million is the world's largest child population.
- Less than half of India's children between the age 6 and 14 go to school.
- A little over one-third of all children who enroll in grade one reach grade eight.
- One in every ten children is disabled in India.
- 95 in every 1000 children born in India, do not see their fifth birthday.
- 70 in every 1000 children born in India, do not see their first birthday.
- Only 38% of India's children below the age of 2 years are immunized.
- 74% of India's children below the age of 3 months are anemic.
- Amongst married women in India today, 75% were under age at the time of their marriages.
- 23% of India's children are underweight at birth.
- More that 50% of India's children are malnourished.
- Every sixth girl child's death is due to gender discrimination.
- 1 out of 4 girls is sexually abused before the age of 4.
- Female mortality exceeds male mortality in 224 out of 402 districts in India.
- Death rate among girls below the age of 4 years is higher than that of boys. Even if she escapes infanticide or foeticide, a girl child is less likely to receive immunisation, nutrition or medical treatment compared to a male child.
- 53% of girls in the age group of 5 to 9 years are illiterate.
- 17 million children in India work as per official estimates.
- There are approximately 2 million child commercial sex workers between the age of 5 and 15 years and about 3.3 million between 15 and 18 years.
- They form 40% of the total population of commercial sex workers in India.
- 80% of these are found in the 5 metros.
- 71% of them are illiterate.
- 500,000 children are forced into this trade every year.

Despite constitutional provision and convention on rights of child, children are deprived of their rights and live in adverse conditions and many a times become victims of unhealthy and inhuman practices. Problems of children are grave and widespread which require efforts of each member of human family to eradicate it and create healthy, peaceful and child-friendly society.