

Cover Page

Annual Report 2020-21

Every Right for Every Child

Child Rights Trust



Child Rights Trust

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Karnataka Child Rights Observatory (KCRO)

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Trust Registration No. : 158 (29-08-2002); Bengaluru, Karnataka

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Registered under 80 G to give 50% tax exemption to the donors

"The one thing all children have in common is their rights. Every child has the right to survive and thrive, to be educated, to be free from violence and abuse, to participate and to be heard. "

- **Ban Ki-moon**, UN Secretary-General

Universal Children's Day, 20 November 2014

The Team

Trustees

- Dr. Padmini
- Mr. Anselm Rosario

Executive Director

- Mr. Vasudeva Sharma N.V, Trustee

Directors

- Mr. Nagasimha G Rao
- Mr. Satish G C

Project Coordinators

- Mrs. Nagamani C N - ChildLine Nodal Agency
- Mr. Kalakappa B.S - KCRO
- Mr. Venkatesh T - IMAGE and GOOD

Project Assistants

- Ms. Amritha, Project Assistant
- Mr. Somashekhar, Project Assistant
- Mrs. Ambika Murthy, M&D (Monitoring & Documentation)

- Mr. Koushik, State Project Assistant

Admin and Finance

- Ms. Sowmyashree,
- Ms. Priyanka R, Account Assistant

Volunteers

- Mr. Ramakrishna
- Mr. Kantharaja
- Ms. Sujatha
- Ms. Sujtha

Field Facilitators

- Mr. Raghavendra HC
- Ms. Geetha Butta
- Mr. Vishwaas
- Ms. Vanitha
- Mr. Sathish
- Ms. Shilpa

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1. Note from the Managing Trustee

This year has undoubtedly been a most disruptive, dispiriting and even damaging one for children and for those who work with and for them. As in the rest of India, children in Karnataka were probably some of the worst sufferers, if not by being actually attacked by the Covid-19 virus, due to the deleterious effects of the lockdowns - the loss of employment and income in the family, resulting in children's poorer health and nutrition; disruptions due to brutal migrations; anganwadi and school closures that affected not only their learning but also their nutritional supplements, peer interactions and play opportunities – leading to all types of problems from being pulled into child labour or child marriage to mental anguish due to restrictions on their normal activities and also due to the uncertainties and the chaos in their daily lives.

CRT, along with countless other child rights organisations, was first stunned by the first lockdown but quickly energised itself to provide relief and awareness directly to vulnerable families. It also produced a lot of awareness materials for caregivers and other duty bearers of children.

I am proud of our team that so quickly and eagerly adapted to the changed circumstances and reinvented itself. At the same time, it could not totally drop its usual activities, working from home, reaching out to children, child-related institutions and NGOs, while adhering to Covid-19 appropriate behaviour norms.

We managed to keep contact with our target groups and NGOs with innovative use of online platforms in each of our projects – even if the individual children did not have access to such facilities, they were constituted into groups with the support of the NGO concerned, and discussions and training were continued.

One major breakthrough was E-Manthana [E-discussions] a weekly zoom event wherein different child-related topics were discussed with a lead speaker or panel, followed by interactive sessions with the audience. Several of these were led by experts but some also featured some unusual or innovative programme or individual, often in a remote area -these were scintillating pointers to hidden talents and dedication. The sessions were sometimes attended by huge numbers, even upto 100. Now they are also available on FB and Youtube, and so the reach may be much wider.

With the continued prospect of Covid -19 mutations that later may become endemic, we will have to keep adapting and innovating. This is a challenge that CRT will face with continued determination and teamwork.

R.Padmini

Managing Trustee

2. Vision, Mission and Aim

Child Rights Trust [CRT] is a non-profit organization involved in spreading child rights perspectives among all stakeholders. Initiated in August 2002, CRT has a goal to reach out to individuals and groups who are at the grassroots level working directly with vulnerable children as well as administrators and policy makers at the highest level. Through research, training, advocacy and lobbying activities, CRT is empowering NGOs to be effective in their service provision from child rights perspective and also in preparing vulnerable groups in both urban and rural areas to access the services due to them from the Govt. In its pursuit to uphold every right to every child, CRT is working with people's representatives and Governments from grassroots to national level using advocacy and lobbying techniques. We have been recognised with the Karnataka State Child Welfare Award in 2008.

Vision

Every Right for Every Child

Mission

To endeavour to protect and promote all the inherent and indivisible rights of children whoever and wherever they are.

Objectives

- To achieve and to consolidate the rightful position of children in general to the benefits and services to which they are entitled as children, and to a healthy and safe environment which is their due as human beings;
- To endeavor to protect, maintain and develop children's inherent right to peaceful existence and quality of life to which they are entitled;
- To sensitize civil society and the authorities on child rights;
- To carry out statistical research and research in social sciences relevant to children and their families;
- To secure the effective use of the legal process to remedy children's grievances

3. Our supporters

Supporters	Projects Supported
Creatnet services, New Delhi; Radhakrishna, US & Trustees	CRT's general activities, Children's Museum and Building fund
Educo, Spain	Children in Governance
Foundation for Children and Women (FCW), USA	Publications and Training by CRT and general administration
GOI and ChildLine India Foundation	ChildLine Nodal Agency and CCI Study
India Literacy Project (ILP), USA	RTE TaskForce
Local resource Mobilisation including??	General Activities and Administration
Rejuvenate India Movement (RIM), USA	Sustainable Menstrual Hygiene Management
TdH – Netherlands Comic Relief Fund, United Kingdom	IMAGE and IMAGE Next (Anti Child Marriage Campaign) and GOOD – Getting Out Of Devadasi System
UNICEF	Karnataka Child Rights Observatory (KCRO)

CRT is a Trust, registered under 80G and 12 A. Any donations to CRT by individuals and organisations will receive a 50% tax exemption as per Govt rules.

4. Impact So far

- Developed the concept of Child Rights Grama Sabha (CRGS) in 2006 which is now part of the RDPR system. Every year on an average one lakh fifty thousand children and in the last 15 years around 22 lakh children have taken part in the CRGS held at Grama Panchayats of Karnataka and have experienced democratic processes at the grassroots level.
- Since 2008 in the district level Child Rights Parliaments, every year about 1,500 children, on an average, are taking part, and so far, more than 20,000 children have taken part in the process.
- Around 500 child representatives have interacted with the legislators, ministers and Chief Ministers in the State level Child Rights Parliament held since 2008 and have raised child rights centric issues voicing the concerns from the grassroots experiences. The process has reached several policy and implementation issues to the highest level of the decision making and have resulted in some programs and projects.
- Facilitated with more than 100 legislators in Karnataka to form Karnataka Legislators Forum for Child Rights since 2008 and reached out to more than 1000 child centric issues to be raised on the floor of the Legislative Council and Assembly.
- Regular interactions with the media have resulted in wide news coverage and editorial on various child rights issues drawing the attention of the Govt and public alike.
- Since 2003 conducted more than 700 training programmes in various parts of the state and the country and have reached out to 21,000 personnel directly.
- Worked with 100 + teachers in 20 Schools (Shidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballapura Dist) while reaching out to 5000+ students in sensitizing on child rights and gender issues while sensitising and realising RTE Act 2009.
- In a collective effort facilitated in preventing 700+ Child marriages, provided information and knowledge about PCMA 2006 and rescued 1000 + children from labour situations while sensitising about CALPRA 1986.
- Trained 500 members of District Child Welfare Committees on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000/2015 and related statutes in protecting the interests of children.
- Facilitated in organizing 25 Rural Children's Libraries reaching out to more than 2500 children
- Initiated a Children's Museum with artefacts from across the world with more than 300 pieces which has been viewed and studied by more than 500 children.
- A daily news compilation and analysis of 'children in news' (CIN) is reaching out to 300 + clients comprising NGOs, Govt officials, media, students, activists, etc.
- E Manthana, an innovative method of conducting weekly webinars (initiated in April 2020) reached out to 3000 + participants.
- Advocated with the Education department to get a circular on display of ChildLine 1098 at schools premises and Health department in hospitals.
- Advocated with department of Labour to get circular to support ChildLine and NGOs in rescue and case interventions

5. Programme Highlights (2020-21)

- a. **Karnataka Child Rights Observatory (KCRO)** initiated in 2008 as a consortium of NGOs and interested individuals to monitor the situation of children in Karnataka from UNCRRC perspective. Today KCRO is also conducting various capacity building programmes both online and offline to equip the NGOs on child rights monitoring. KCRO works with groups of legislators from both Assembly and Council while raising child centric issues through the Karnataka State Legislators' Forum for Child Rights.



- Provided relief measures to around 10,000 urban poor and the migrating families, lactating and pregnant mothers and children, while working with UNICEF, Dept of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Bengaluru City Corporation during Covid Lockdown.
- Studied the effect of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) and other social protection schemes in the state reaching out to the BPL families in all the 30 districts (conducted interviews in three phases in an interval of 15 days with the informers from villages)
- Tabulated and analysed the child centric questions raised in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Council and prepared the report 'Are there Children in Vidhana Soudha?'. Out of 12,780 questions raised in the Assembly (7,491) and Council (5,289), 608 questions are child centric [Assembly 342 and Council 266]
- Conducted a series of lectures and webinars on SDGs, NEP and Covid 19 care.



- b. RTE TaskForce Karnataka** was initiated in 2009 as a response to give wide publicity, education, training on the Right of the Children for Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009. Currently the RTE TaskForce is having a field operation at Sidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballpura district. The RTE TaskForce also takes the responsibility of sensitising the state network members on the various developments with respect to the RTE Act implementation both at national and state level.



- Conducted awareness sessions about Covid 19 and child marriage issues with 462 adolescents, 25 CMPOs, 126 Anganawadi workers and 50 ASHA workers.
- 45 child marriages prevented and followed up and 8 FIRs filed. One child marriage incident was followed up with the help of interstate coordination.
- Assessment of 50 Anganawadis conducted for status and services required and followed up with the local authorities. 23 AWCs got water connection under Jal Jeevan Mission, 2 AWC constructions initiated. With this learning CDPO's office-initiated assessment in 310 AWCs on the infrastructure requirements.
- Joined the *Oduva Belaku* initiative of RDPR and worked with 9 GP libraries in developing them to be child friendly; and contributed in discussions and efforts to improve the learning standards of children.
- 20 Rural Children's Libraries were equipped with reading and work books. 480 children have shown improvement in three language reading levels. In 36 villages 9 community volunteers could conduct activities with 671 children involving reading books, games and recreational activities
- Facilitated in admitting 45 children to Diploma courses, 23 to ITI and around 320 to join PUC.
- Workshops on Multi-Dimensional Learning Space Concept conducted with CRPs and BRPs in Sidlaghatta taluk.
- 28 GP level PDOs trained on the concept of Child Rights Grama Sabha. Collaborated with 10 GPs to conduct CRGS.
- In response to the issues raised in CRGS, 3 toilets, 3 new classrooms, 7 compounds, 4 old classrooms renovations and 2 new playgrounds were constructed under MNREGA.
- A PIL filed by RTE Task Force's network agency questioned rule 4(7) in the RTE Karnataka Rules. [the local authority shall identify the neighbourhood school where children can be admitted and make such information public for each habitation within its jurisdiction]
- Advocated for continued education to the children during Covid 19 lockdown in case of children enrolled to non govt schools under Sec. 12.1c of the RTE Act.
- Several complaints with respect to fee hike and pressure to pay fees to schools were handled; 21 cases could be settled at Bengaluru to either reduce the fees or waive off.



- c. **ChildLine 1098 Nodal Agency**, Bengaluru coordinates with four ChildLine Collaborative agencies in Bengaluru since 2007. The Nodal agency conducts capacity building activities to the collaborative agency personnel and coordinates with the Govt and its other agencies in the smooth operation of ChildLine 1098 in linking the children in need of care protection with the service providers from Govt and other groups.



- Nodal agency coordinates with 4 ChildLine Collaborative agencies – APSA, BOSCO, SAATHI Railway and BOSCO Railway ChildLine
- Organised consultaitons with CDPOs and other stakeholders on effecrive case intervnetion in cases of child marriages, child labour and missing children. 85 participants from various departments.
- Organised workshops on understanding JJ Act and its interventions with the CWC, DD, DCPO, ACP and other stakeholders along with childLine Collaborative agencies,
- Organised ChildLine Se Dosti week in Nov reaching out to 500 community members.
- Took part in multi-level discussions with the communities, NGOs, SLSA, DCPU and in the High Court on the issues of rescuing children in begging and children used in begging. Took an active role in the campaign to end begging by providing material, posters and in the action plan development.
- Conducted 7 awareness programmes with children, adults including police personnel on JJ Act and POCSO.
- Responded to more than 50 calls for relief measures during Covid 19 lock down.
- Translated the 'Psychosocial Support for Children during COVID-19 Manual' into Kannada which is used for training the facilitators to provide psycho-social assistance to children affected by Covid 19.



d. Initiatives for Married Adolescent Girls Empowerment - IMAGE & IMAGE Next is largely working in five districts towards combating child marriages. CRT being a partner of a larger state level consortium since 2015 has taken the role of advocacy and knowledge partner of the project at the state level.



- In an innovative method loaded more than 150 tablets (supplied by TdH NL) with 10th standard and PUC syllabus (lessons drawn from Chandana and sourced from ILP-India Literacy Project) and reached them to EMGs- Early Married Girls located in remote villages in Chikballapur, Chamarajanagara, Bidar, Belagavi and Bagalakote to use the tools and face the exams in the Covid 19 period.
- As per the reports more than 500 girls were benefited by the material.
- Organised several competitions among EMGs to encourage them to communicate with the local community about Covid awareness and also prevent child marriages in the pandemic period.
- Conducted audio visual programs (online and recorded versions) on covid awareness, life skills and leadership development reaching more than 10000 EMGs and other community members.
- Conducted a public awareness programme at Bagepalli on 5th Aug 2020 involving the community members to prevent child marriages and particularly in the pandemic period.
- Organised a state level consultation with the SLSA, DLSA, DCPUs, ICPS, DWCD and KSCPCR with the EMGs and the field workers to draw the attention of the Govt on the plight of the EMGs and so as to prevent child marriages.
- Conducted a research on Status and Support required by the EMGs to integrate them into mainstream educational, development and participation on par with other children in the society and empower them in 5 districts of Karnataka with Ms. Nina Nayak being the chief consultant in the study. Study to be released in 2021.
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e. **Children Getting Out of Devadasi (GOOD) System for further dedication**, concentrates on five north Karnataka districts to end the Devadasi System. CRT has been a consortium member since 2018 and is the knowledge partner along with making advocacy efforts.



- Organised series of programmes with the members of the consortium on Covid awareness and the public education to be conducted among the communities.
- Provided educational material to the members of the Kishori Sanghas to face 10th and PUC exams
- Conducted online life skills orientations
- Honoured Corona warriors from the groups who laboured to provide relief measures of the communities with a certificate.
- Organised a state level advocacy meeting with the Govt and concerned authorities like KLSA and KSCPCR to streamline the Prohibition of Devadasi dedication Act



f. **Children in Governance** is a new programme initiated in 2020 to facilitate Grama Panchayats (GPs) and the service providers at the GP level and the children in examining the role of child participation in Governance. The project has field presence in 60 GPs of 6 taluks in 3 districts. The project is coordinating with the Dept of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and local NGOs and CBOs as well as other service providers and aims to organise the Child Rights Grama Sabhas effectively. The concept of CRGS was developed by CRT in 2006 in action research conducted in 15 GPs of Ballary district.



- The project has been just initiated and expected to get launched in the month of March in 15 GPs of Karnataka.

g. Child Rights Training, Rural children's library and Children's museum & network



activities are an ongoing programme of CRT since its beginning. CRT is the secretariat of CACL- Campaign Against Child Labour and Network for Parenting. CRT conducts training on child rights centric issues continuously with various partners all over with Govt., NGOs, educational institutions and private parties. As a part of the networking and advocacy, CRT invests a lot of time discussing with the media, social work, law and education colleges and students in taking the child rights information to every nook and corner.

CRT has a special interest in working with the Govt departments that have a greater attention towards children, that includes Dept of Women and Child Development; Directorate of Child Protection; Dept of Health; Dept of Education; Home; Rural Development and Panchayat Raj; Planning; Social Welfare; Labour and the State Legal Services Authority.

- In the UN year to eradicate child labour system in the world 2021 organised 44 days special campaign. Preparation for the same conducted with the member organisations in the state
- Took part in the national level planning meeting for the above.
- Conducted E Manthana online weekly programme on child rights related issues
- Continued support to Children's Museum but due to covid no significant activities possible.
- Rural children's libraries activities were limited to covid awareness

Others:

6. Prepared a paper on equity in ECCD, which identified the gaps and shortfalls across gender, caste, class and location and provided solutions and suggestions to improve the quality of the programme and reach.

7. Policies and Committees

- CRT has Child Protection Policy and POSH policies and has conducted mandatory training to the team members.
- Constituted an IC and CP Committee with external and internal members.
- Adhered to the UNICEF Child Safeguarding policy

RTE TaskForce	Follow up with the communities on the Covid relief and continued educational facilities for children Providing necessary material help to libraries Initiating Vidyashilpi programme in Rural areas to facilitate learning atmosphere for children.
Children in Governance	Development of material, consultations, organizing children's groups and conducting Child Rights Grama Sabha
IMAGE - Next	Continued partnership with the larger network to prevent child marriages and to advocate for the welfare of the married adolescent girls. Lobby to bring changes in the Karnataka Prohibition of Child Marriages Rules
GOOD	Continued partnership and lobby for the amendment to the proposed changes in the Devadasi dedication prohibition Act
Capacity building and other network activities	Work with institutions and groups in building capacities on child rights issues and also to develop new networks with individuals who are working at Grama Panchayat level.

Thanks ...

- Supporters
- Donors with special reference to building donation
- Volunteers
- Network members of KCRO, RTE TaskForce Karnataka, CACL-K, Network for Parenting, SAIVAK, IACR
- School of Social Work
- RadioActive 90.4
- Karnataka Legislators' Forum for Child Rights
- Members of CWCs, JJBs and KSCPCR
- Media friends
- Students and the faculty of various colleges and institutions who have interned with CRT
- Supporters in Govt Depts - DWCD, Police, Education, Labour, RDPR, Law and Parliamentary Affairs and KLSA, NIMHANS,
- Families of the team members
- Trust members
- Children of Karnataka