



Report

From Advocacy to Action – Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Unite for Child Rights

#BachheAageBiharAage

Organised by Child Rights Centre, Chanakya National Law University, Patna and UNICEF Bihar

March 10, 2021

Hotel Chanakya, Patna, Bihar

Background

Every child deserves a childhood in all its fullness, surrounded by protective families and communities, free from violence and with the opportunity to thrive as other children do. Rights are inalienable part of children's life and they must enjoy it, right from their birth. Many of the problems that children have to face are consequence of exploitative practices and educational gaps in both developed and developing communities. A child needs a protective environment to flourish and achieve his/her goals. An environment where children's rights are respected and protected is a must to continue on the path of development because children are the future.

In the year 1989, United Nations General Assembly adopted United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to protect rights of children globally. It came into force in the year 1990. It is an international human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. India ratified this convention in the year 1992.

UNCRC has become the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the history and has helped in transforming children's lives around the world. Till date, 196 countries are party of this international convention. It recognises all persons below the age of 18 years as Child. It calls for all children to be treated fairly, equally and with dignity. The convention is non-discriminatory in nature and in the best interests of a child. According to the UNCRC, all children should grow up in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity.

As far as Government of India's policy for children is concerned, the government adopted a new National Policy for Children in the year 2013. The policy recognises every person below the age of 18 years as a child. It recognises that a multi sectoral and multi dimensional approach is necessary to secure the rights of children. The policy has identified four key priority areas - survival, health and nutrition, education and development, and protection and participation for focused attention.

For protection of rights of children, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up in 2007 under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005. NCPCR is a statutory body whose mandate is to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Bihar has its own commission to protect child rights called as Bihar Commission for Protection of Child Rights (BSCPCR). It was setup in September, 2010 as a statutory body under Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005 to protect, promote and defend child rights in the state.

Executive Summary

According to 2011 census, population of children in Bihar is 4.75 crore which constitutes 46 per cent of the total population. This is more than the total population of Australia. With this huge population, problems and challenges are also huge. 41 per cent of the girls get married before the age of 18 years and nearly 25 children die per 1000 live births within four weeks of their birth. Malnourishment is also prevalent at a large scale in the state and almost every second child is undernourished. The reasons may range from family's economic woes to discrimination in the society but the result is that it ruins childhood and children have to suffer.

Children are the future. Therefore, it is important that every child exercises all his/her rights in full spirit. To get support from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and orient them on child issues, power of advocacy campaign and its planning, understanding data and using it effectively for child rights advocacy and advocacy as a tool for social change, a consultation programme titled "From Advocacy to Action - CSOs Unite for Child Rights" #BachheAageBiharAage was organised by Child Rights Centre (CRC), Chanakya National Law University (CNLU), Patna and UNICEF Bihar on March 10, 2021. It was organised at Hotel Chanakya, Patna.

Officials of Child Rights Centre, UNICEF, Save the Children, CSOs members were present during the programme and addressed the participants on key issues related to the theme. Around 60 participants were present including media persons and youths.

Child Rights Centre is a specialised research centre engaged in assisting various stakeholders and different institutions in protection and development of child rights. Established in 2018, CRC is mainly engaged in three kinds of activities. It aim for academic enrichment of students, capacity building of stakeholders, and Research and Advocacy.

United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a specialised agency of UN which works for the welfare of children all around the world. UNICEF is working in India since 1949 and engaged in various activities for protection of child rights with the motto of "for every child".

Registration

Before beginning of the programme, members of different Civil Society Organisations and media persons registered themselves. A special desk was setup outside the conference hall for registration. The registration sheet collected information of participants like name, organisation, theme of the organization, designation, contact number and email id. Participants were given half an hour to register themselves between 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The main event commenced at 10:30 a.m. and concluded at 5 p.m.



Figure 1: A participant registering herself at the registration desk

Inaugural Session



Figure 2: Ms. Shaheena Ahluwalia, Centre Coordinator, CRC

The inaugural session of the programme began at 10:30 a.m. with the welcome address by **Ms. Shaheena Ahluwalia, Centre Coordinator, Child Rights Centre (CRC)**. She welcomed all participants and gave introduction of all the guests present on the dais. The guests present on the dais were **Hon'ble Justice Mridula Mishra**, Vice Chancellor, Chanakya National Law University (CNLU), Patna, **Ms. Nafisa Binte Shafique**, Chief UNICEF Bihar, **Mr. Manoranjan Pd. Srivastava**, Registrar, CNLU, Patna, **Ms. Pragya Vats**, Head of Campaigns, Save the Children, New Delhi and **Mr. Prasanna Ash**, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, UNICEF Bihar. **Ms. Nipurnh Gupta**, Communication Specialist, UNICEF Bihar joined the event via video conferencing.

The programme began officially with the lamp lighting ceremony by the guests. Then after, **Mr. Chandan**, Programme Coordinator, Child Rights Centre presented a token of appreciation to all the dignitaries.



Figure 3: Guests lighting lamp to officially begin the event

The moderator **Ms. Shaheena Ahluwalia**, briefed about the work of the Child Rights Centre (CRC). She said that CRC a specialised centre is a part of Chanakya National Law University, Patna and supported by UNICEF Bihar. The centre's mission is to engage with child rights from multi disciplinary perspectives and to provide integrated technical support at different levels of governance - local, state and national level for protection of child rights. To this end, the centre seeks to specifically support in knowledge management and logistical support. It seeks to aim institutionalization of best practices for advocacy, research, collaboration, training to improve access to child rights and strengthen it in Bihar and India. Later, she invited **Hon'ble Justice Mridula Mishra**, Vice Chancellor, Chanakya National Law University (CNLU) for the chair address.

Policy of the government should be formulated in accordance with the needs of children: Hon'ble Justice Mridula Mishra, Vice Chancellor, CNLU.



Figure 4: Hon'ble Justice Mridula Mishra, Hon'ble VC, CNLU

Hon'ble Justice Mridula Mishra began her address by thanking UNICEF and resource persons. She said that children can't advocate for themselves. They are innocent and have not seen the world. They don't know how to get things in life. They don't know what is good and what is bad for them. Every child comes in this world with certain human rights. They have Right to Life, Right to be Protected, Right to Education.

Once they get education, they

become aware of their lives. Till then, it is the responsibility of the educated persons of the society to take a stand for children. We should come forward and do something for the development of children. The policy of the government and different organizations should be formulated in accordance with the needs of children. Children are the future therefore; their interests should be of utmost importance for us. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) along with the other stakeholders have a key role to play in realizing policies and schemes made for the welfare of children.

Talking about advocacy, she said that when you represent your own case or other persons' case with great emphasis, you do advocacy. There are people who are

vulnerable and needy in the society. They need our advocacy. I would like to thank CRC and UNICEF for organising such events.

Mentioning the objectives of CRC, she said that the objective of CRC is to do something for children. CRC is also engaged in research work related to children. Whenever, such proposals and ideas come in front of us, we try to realize those for the benefits of children. In the end, she requested resource persons to put their points in Hindi.

No child is left behind should be our mantra: Ms Nafisa Binte Shafique, Chief, UNICEF Bihar

After the address of Hon'ble Justice Mridula Mishra, Shaheena Ahluwalia invited **Ms. Nafisa Binte Shafique**, Chief, UNICEF Bihar for the chief guest address.

In her address, **Ms. Nafisa Binte Shafique**, Chief, UNICEF Bihar said that it is really an immense honour to be present here. All the key stakeholders who could be change makers are present

here. Bihar has about 47 million children which is about 50 per cent of the total population. She said that "We definitely need to work together to realise rights of every child. It is indeed good to see your interest and commitment to joining hands to ensure rights of children and adolescents. To ensure that no child is left behind should be our mantra. Bihar has progressed a lot in recent years which is reflected in the NFHS 5. The state has done well in education, water & sanitation but it is still a long way to go. In Bihar, 41 per cent girls are getting married before the age of 18 which is a big concern. Covid-19 has posed challenges and the progress made might be decelerated. We need to keep our voices together and raise it at different levels to achieve the targets set for children. There are parties in this process, one is duty bearer and other is right holder. Children are the right holders. We need to create an enabling environment to ensure their participation. This is 2021 and we have less than a decade to achieve the targets under SDGs. If we miss, the price will be paid by the children and adolescents who are the next generation."

Later, she emphasised on the need to act together by joining hands for advocacy for children. She mentioned about the advocacy campaign "Bachhe Aage Bihar Aage" ran by UNICEF Bihar and CRC, CNLU during Bihar assembly elections last year and congratulated CSOs, CRC and UNICEF for organising the programme.



Figure 5: Ms. Nafisa Binte Shafique, Chief, UNICEF Bihar



The Girl Effect - Where She's SAFE
Figure 6: Snapshot of the video

In the end, she played a 3 minute short video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpiuSKJ_h7Y&t=24s) named as “The Girl Effect” on the importance of education in the life of a girl.

Vote of thanks by Mr. Manoranjan Pd. Srivastava, Registrar, CNLU

Proposing vote of thanks, Mr. Manoranjan Pd. Srivastava said that “It is my extreme privilege to propose the vote of thanks here. I am thankful to the Hon’ble VC ma’am who always motivates us to do such activities. I am also thankful to UNICEF and Nafisa ma’am who are very supportive and enthusiastic to CRC. With their cooperation, CRC is doing lots of good work. I am thankful to resource persons Nipurnh Gupta, Pragya Vats, and Prasanna Ash and all the participants present here.”



Figure 7: Mr. Manoranjan Pd. Srivastava, Registrar, CNLU

Before the culmination of the inaugural session, Ms. Pragya Vats, Head of Campaigns, Save the Children, New Delhi and Mr. Prasanna Ash, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, UNICEF Bihar addressed the audience in brief.



Figure 8: Ms. Pragya Vats, Head of Campaigns, Save the Children

Ms. Pragya Vats said that children can't speak for themselves but sometimes they surprise us by sharing that how their world should be. We need strong partnership and cooperation to raise the issues of children and to take it forward. In the next session, we would like to hear from you that how can we strengthen the 40 per cent of population who are children. Until we campaign collectively, we can't ensure rights of children. As, today we have gathered here to discuss about their issues, we have to think that how can we protect rights of the children.

Prasanna Ash said that it is really a privilege to be here. Frankly speaking, nothing has much left for me to speak today. I would like to say that our role as duty bearer is very important because we have to ensure enabling environment for children, so that they can be provided a better world. We might act in different capacities, different organisations but our goal should be same. After receiving a plant as symbol of tokenism today now it is our responsibility to nurture this into a tree. This is same with children; we have to care for children so that they could exercise their rights and get a bright future.



Figure 9: Mr. Prasanna Ash, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, UNICEF Bihar

After the inaugural session, there was a tea break for 20 minutes.

Session 1

As the first speaker of Session 1, **Ms. Nipurnh Gupta, Communication Specialist, UNICEF Bihar** who joined via video conferencing spoke about “Advocacy as a tool for Social Change”. She began her address by thanking Hon’ble Justice Mridula Mishra, Ms. Nafisa Binte Shafique, Mr. Manoranjan Pd. Srivastava, Ms. Pragya Vats, Mr. Prasanna Ash and all CSOs present here. She presented her views through a power point presentation. She first talked about the UNICEF and its work since its inception. She said that UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the



Figure 10: Ms. Nipurnh Gupta, Communication Specialist, UNICEF Bihar

Rights of the Child which India signed in 1992. It made India obligatory to protect rights of children. In India, UNICEF started working in the year 1949 and since then UNICEF is working as the custodian of rights of children.



Figure 11: Participants with paper in their hand

In an exercise engaging all participants, Nipurnh Gupta requested everybody to shake a paper - once without folding the paper and then after

folding the paper. She conveyed that shaking folded paper doesn't make noise while shaking unfolded paper makes noise. We have to make noise for advocacy.

Talking about the origin of the word advocacy, she said that the word advocacy derived from a Latin word which means to speak for someone for some cause.

Defining advocacy, Nipurnh Gupta said that Advocacy is the act of supporting, defending and arguing for a cause. Advocacy means engaging people and organisations to make a difference, putting a problem on agenda and providing solution to that problem and seeking support for action on problem and solution. When advocacy is done for your own rights, it is called self advocacy. When it is done to change policy, rules or laws on a particular issue, it is called system advocacy. Advocacy could be at local, state or national level. If you look at larger framework, advocacy is not only about influencing policies. It is also about mobilising people. For this, we have to build an enabling environment and we need to collaborate for a cause. Capacity building and honing skills is necessary, this is why we organise such consultation. Advocacy is not only done at large scale but it could be done at small scale too. We can do it on social media.



Figure 12: A slide of Ms. Nipurnh Gupta's presentation

Quoting a famous line of **Dushyant Kumar**, “*Sirf hangama khada karna mera maksad nahin, meri koshish hai ki ye surat badalni chahiye*”, she said that the purpose of advocacy is not just to raise the issue but to bring about change. It is also important to mobilise public support for the success of any campaign. Focused and spirited advocacy has resulted in the legislation and implementation of several progressive policies in Bihar. ‘Tokenge Rokenge Badlenga’ campaign on child labour by UNICEF resulted in the government adopting effective measures like consultation with rescued children and a grant in the form of Chief Minister Relief Fund. Likewise, a study on pre-school education undertaken by UNICEF led to several steps taken by the state government to strengthen pre-school system in Bihar. Apart from this, she also mentioned about the recent advocacy programme christened “Bachche Aage Bihar Aage” and “Kids Take Over”.

Talking about the importance of media in advocacy, Nipurnh Gupta said that media plays a significant role in bringing change in society. Later, she mentioned about some films like Taren Zameen Par and Toilet Ek Prem Katha which were based on social issues and put an impact on the society at large.



Figure 13: A snapshot of video "Chhoti Si Aasha"

She also showed a short video “**chhoti si aasha**” during her presentation. It was a 22 second video on girl child. The video gave message on importance of sending girl child to school.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4apbEL1vBhl>)

Mentioning about strategic decisions and actions for an effective advocacy campaign, she said that we first need to identify the problem and its probable solutions then fix objectives of the advocacy. After this, engage policy audiences & stakeholders and develop an advocacy communication plan. Objective of advocacy should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, and Result oriented and with a Timeline. Include political leaders, government agencies, NGOs, academics and other relevant organisations in your advocacy plan. Voices of target group must be included in the process of advocacy because without adding their participation, we can't achieve our goal.

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In the middle of her presentation, she played video of a government school girl who talked about the dilapidated condition of their school. The girl said that the condition of her government school is very poor. Children of government officials should also study in government schools only then they will understand our problems. Another girl spoke about the lack of sanitation facilities in her school.

Nipurnh Gupta concluded her presentation with Monitoring & Evaluation and debunking advocacy myths.

Session 2

In the second session of the programme, **Ms. Pragya Vats**, Head of Campaigns, Save the Children spoke on ‘Power of Advocacy as a tool for social change’. She used a power point presentation to present her points and commenced by mentioning about the inception and work of Save The Children. She said that the voice of children is non-negotiable. Every child deserves rights that are an inalienable part of their life. We are the voice of children and onus is on us to protect child rights.



Figure 14: Ms. Pragya Vats, Head of campaigns, Save the Children

Talking about importance of partnership in advocacy, Pragya Vats said that sometimes we think that advocacy needs lots of money but this is not right. The most important thing we require is partnership. It is very important to connect individually and communicate effectively to convince and pursue the target group. She also urged to make campaigning and advocacy personal, to make it effective and emphasised on collective voice. Advocacy and campaigning is not just a job, if we all have a passion and outrage then only we could bring change. Channelizing energy is a part of advocacy. First we feel then we think and then finally we act. Until we feel that there is problem, we can't achieve the target.



Figure 15: A snapshot of the video

After running the video, she asked from the participants to share their observations.

One participant said that we need to be an aware society as a whole to raise voice against social evils like child marriage.

Another participant pointed that the video delivered message in a very simple way.

While sharing his experience related to prevention of child marriage, a participant said that people from Mahadalit community don't see age but they notice height marriage. In a village in Punpun in Patna, a parent fixed marriage of their minor girl. When we came to know about the proposed marriage, we approached parents and persuaded them to get their daughter married only after the age of 18 years.

A woman said that the tailor in the video was aware that the age of marriage is 18 years. Stakeholders need to understand their responsibilities.

Calling social media psychology, Pragya Vats said that social media is more about sociology and psychology than technology. It is a crucial medium for advocacy. It is the ultimate equaliser that gives a voice and a platform to anyone willing to engage. Change should begin from us. We need to think that are we doing enough? We all have to



Figure 16: A participant responding to Pragya's query

collectively take steps. Ultimately, we should strive to create an environment in which the society does not need organizations like Save the Children and UNICEF, where advocacy is not required for children.

After this, she asked participants that how many of you went to government schools? Why you went to private school not went to government school?

Responding her question, Shaheena Ahluwalia said that my parents thought that private school is better for me.

Rafay Ezaj Hussain said that I am thankful that I studied in government school. Government institutions need to be strengthened. Quality Education and health facilities are basic rights of every child and they must get it.

Talking about importance of creativity to make a successful advocacy campaign, Pragya Vats said that creativity is very crucial for any advocacy campaign. She mentioned about the campaign #KidsNotForSale launched by Save the Children in collaboration with ecommerce site Snapdeal in July 2020 to highlight the issue of child trafficking.



Figure 17: A participant putting her points during the event

"What needs to change must become a common agenda. It is equally important to talk about solution with the problem. Solution is really important to craft the way for change. It is not only enough to say that child marriage is wrong, we need to take action. Cooperation and collaboration is equally important. We need partnership across boundaries as a collective voice", she added further.

Later, Pragya Vats asked participants to share about a campaign that inspired them.

A participant said that Bell Bajao campaign inspired me. This campaign called on neighbours to take action.

A participant said that Chief Minister's human chain against children marriage inspired me because the human chain was formed by millions of people in the state.

A participant shared her experience related to child marriage. She was part of Najariya Badlo Abhiyan.

To motivate participants present in the event, Pragya Vats shared stories of Anju Rani and Saleha. Anju is a 17 year old young social activist working in the field of education and elimination of child labour. She found an organization named “Buland Udaan” and has successfully prevented many child marriages. Saleha is from Govandi, Mumbai who works to raise awareness about sanitation and hygiene. She went to New York to participate in an event organised by UN.

Pragya Vats concluded her presentation with emphasis on participation of youth and children. After the conclusion of Vats' presentation, Rafay Ezaj Hussain, Head, Save the Children, Bihar requested participants to raise a slogan “Jiska mudda uski ladai, jiski ladai uski aguaai”.

Session 3



Figure 18: Mr. Prasanna Ash, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, UNICEF Bihar

In the third session of the programme, **Mr. Prasanna Ash, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, UNICEF Bihar** spoke on 'Understanding and using data effectively for child rights advocacy'. He used a power point presentation to present his points. Ash said that we need evidence to identify and address issues. He showed a fuel meter and asked participants that what they observed from it. All

participants said that F means Fuel and E means Empty. Responding to participants' answer, Ash said that he used to think that E means Enough and F means Finish in his childhood.

During his presentation, Prasanna Ash touched upon a number of points such as SDGs, various indicators, sources of data, etc. Talking about United Nations Convention on Rights of the Children (UNCRC), he said that UNCRC ensures that every child exercises his/her rights. India is equally committed for the implementation of the convention. These rights include Right to Survival, Right to Participation, Right to Protection and many others. Mentioning sustainable development goals (SDGs), he said that SDG is a blueprint to achieve a sustainable future. In India, NITI Aayog is at

centre stage which is monitoring developmental work in accordance with SDGs and ranks different states of the country every year on different parameters.

On getting important information through reliable sources and their ultimate usage for advocacy, Prasanna Ash said that NFHS, U-DISE and NARS issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Education, Government of India, Census are some of the important sources to get reliable data. Data is just a number. What is important is how we can convert that into meaningful information and narrate a story in terms of their causes and effects.

Talking about the status and trends of various child-related indicators such as infant mortality rate, incidences of child marriages, malnourishment, etc. in Bihar, he explained about effective interpretation of the specific data to support any advocacy campaign. Unless and until, we hear children's voices, we can't frame correct policies for them. Bihar is home to 4.75 crore children which constitutes 46 per cent of the total population. Nearly 25 children die per 1000 live births within four weeks and 37 children die within five years of their birth. Almost every second child is under nourished. More than three-fifth of the children (6-59), adolescent girls (15-19) and women (15-49) are anaemic. Only 47.4 per cent rural population uses safe, functional and hygienic toilets and only 57 per cent households have access to functional household tap connection.

Our Intent is noble but if we do not execute in the right manner then it will not give the desired outcome. Role of CSOs is vital in implementing any scheme and programme. For this, we need to address the root cause. Until and unless, we address the root cause, we won't be able to make a difference.

Mentioning U-DISE report, Prasanna said that out of 100 children enrolled in class 1, 94 manages to reach class 5 but thereafter only 61 reaches class 8 and it further reduces to only 38 in class 10. Enrollment, retention and quality of education are the indicators to evaluate policies on education. He shared his experience of interacting with children in Gaya. Prasanna asked children of government schools in Gaya that are you getting benefits of government policies? Children replied that we are not getting benefits because it needs 75 % attendance we don't go to school because proxy teacher come, take attendance and go back to office. Teachers don't teach in government schools.

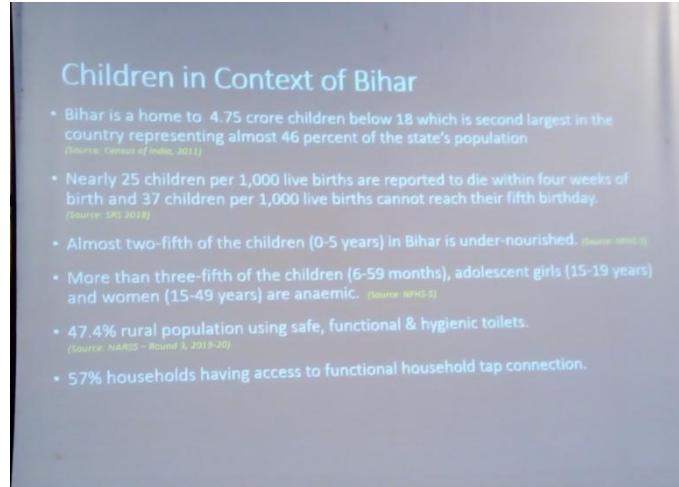


Figure 19: A slide of Prasanna's presentation

"As far as child marriage is concerned, 40 per cent girls are reported to get married between 20-24 years of age and 11 per cent reported to be pregnant or already became mother before they themselves come out of their teenage. Ideally it should be 0", he added further.

He talked in brief about GER, NER, transition rate completion rate, drop out, Maternal Mortality Rate, Full Immunisation – vaccinated with BCG, measles containing vaccine (MCV)/MR/MMR/Measles and 3 doses each of polio excluding polio vaccine at birth) and DPT or penta vaccine, birth registration and sex ratio.

Prasanna concluded his address by emphasising on the need to unpack and understand data better, need to be cognizant while comparing data from two sources, sample size, methodology, confidence level and margin of error.

Session 4



Figure 20:Mr. Shiv Kumar, Founder, Teachers of Bihar

Session 4 was addressed by **Mr. Shiv Kumar**, Founder, Teachers of Bihar. He highlighted the work of Teachers of Bihar since its inception. He said that two or three years ago national media used to call teachers in Bihar as *Nitish ke chaupat master ji, teachers or cheaters, Bihar teachers don't know A B C D, professionally unqualified*. It hurt me and then I decided to change this perception. I created a website and accounts on social media platform. I contacted other teachers and we started our efforts to convert negative things into positive things. Government school

teachers are well qualified and they don't lack talent. We only need to present it the right manner.

Later, he mentioned about the initiatives and ideas of Teachers of Bihar like E-magazine, Blog, Instagram, You Tube, Whats App groups to discuss about different topics, Diwas Gyan to tell children about important days, Yogdoot, Discussion Forum, Guru Shiksha, Shiksha Shruti, E – Sangrah, Shiksha shabdkosh, Baal Manch, Safe

Saturday, Miss You Teacher Campaign, Sunday Funday, Shikshak Saga, Padya Pankaj and online quiz.

"We have started coding for children of government schools, today more than 500 children are learning coding. During corona period even before the intervention of the government, we began school on mobile and started classes on mobile for standard 6 to 8. Today more than 70 thousand teachers are part of ToB and thousands of positive news stories have been published in state and national media", he added further.

Mentioning Ruby Kumari, mathematics teacher from Banka, Shiv Kumar said that Anand Mahindra and Shakrukh Khan and Amitabh Bacchan wrote about her skills on social media. Four teachers of Bihar have been nominated for ICT awards. Before them, not a single teacher from Bihar got nominated for this award. Education Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Secretary Sanjay Kumar have also tweeted about our work.

Accusing national media of not paying attention to positive side of Bihar, he said that there is a school "Nandini" in Sitamarhi where class rooms were painted as train compartments. This was first in the country and when same model was adopted in Gujarat and it got highlighted by the national media.

He concluded his address by showing a video "Aarambh" on the work of Teachers of Bihar. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3bbG3sn198>)



Aarambh (आरम्भ)- टीचर्स ऑफ बिहार (The Journey Begins)

Figure 21: A snapshot of the video

Session 5



Figure 22: Preety Anand, Advocacy Coordinator, CRC and Assistant Professor, CNLU

In the fifth session, an Interactive workshop was conducted to assess the learnings of the participants from the programme. This session was moderated by **Ms. Preety Anand, Advocacy Coordinator, CRC and Assistant Professor, CNLU**.

The participants were divided into four groups having six members each and

every group was told to prepare an advocacy plan on four different themes. The four themes were 'Ending Child Malnutrition in Bihar', 'Inclusive Education', 'How to stop Child Labour' and 'Ending Violence Against Children'.

The groups were told to include points like How are you going to select stakeholders? What will be strategy to engage them? How will you implement the advocacy plan? Timeline, Expected Outcome, How will you measure the changes by way of floating your advocacy plan? 20 minutes was given to each team for this task.

All groups held discussion with their members and presented their plan one by one.

Group 1

Theme: Ending Child Malnutrition in Bihar

Members: Nivedita Nisha, Rakhi Singh, Zafreen Neha, Monika Tuddu, Jitendra Singh, Priyaswara Bharati, Tayab Raja and Pranav Jha



Figure 23: A group member presenting his points

This group chose age group of 0-6 yrs and their specific issue was Lack of Protein. They found **undernourishment** in children as the target problems. They decided to work on stunting, underweight and wasting. The group members said that we will conduct a survey to assess parameters of nourishment like height, weight, etc. As far as **tactic** is concerned, we will invite people and will show movies to

guardians on social issues to make them informed and aware. We will also run awareness campaigns during festivals and nearby religious places like temples, mosque, church and quizzes will be organized on this theme. During the campaign, we will promote protein enrichment foods like pulses, Soyabadi and Sattu.

The group fixed a **timeline** of one year for the advocacy campaign where they will try to achieve the **target** of making mothers fully aware about proper diet of their children. They said that they will compare the data collected from a survey after the campaign and data of similar survey two years ago to **measure** the outcome.

They included mothers, Panchayati Raj Institutes (PRI) representatives, Aanganwadi workers, CDPO as their **stakeholders**.

Group 2

Theme: Violence Against Children

Members: Prakash Kumar, Kanhay Lal Das, Syed Amir, Rohit Singh, Pappu Choudhary, Abhinandan Gopal and Shiv Kumar.

The second group planned their advocacy campaign on the specific theme **Child Sexual Abuse in School**. For research, they said that particular geographic locations will be identified and one to one interaction will be held with children to collect data without revealing their identity.

Members of Meena Manch, Baal Sansad, SMCs were their **stakeholders** and chose street play, slogans, awareness programmes, open house discussion as their **tactics**.

The group fixed a **timeline** of 15th August to 14th November for the campaign and set **outcome** to bring perpetrators to justice. To resolve the problem a grievance box will be set up in all schools where children could register their complaints and their issues will be addressed by concerned authorities.

They planned to compare data of before the intervention and after the intervention to **measure** the result.



Figure 24: A participant speaking about the advocacy plan

Group 3



Figure 25: A group member speaking about the plan

Theme: Stop Child Labour

Members: Sourav Ranjan, Anshu Sonalika, Dinanath Kumar Sinha, Mukhtarul Haque, Asma Khan and Ravi Raushan Tuddu

The group 3 planned to do **research** to collect data on why children are going for labour and what are problems they face by at work site. Their stakeholders were children, ward members, parents, SMCs, Aanganwadi workers, madarsa, Labour Department and religious leaders. The group members said that their **tactic** will be to

aware children on child labour by orienting them and will inform them and their parents about government schemes.

They fixed a **timeline** of 1 year and number of children going to school, having access to health and nutrition as their outcome. They may do follow up with SMCs to **measure** the result.

Group 4

Theme: Inclusive Education

Members: Preety Anand, Sugandha, Srishti Sarraf and Shreya Sinha

Srishti first briefed on meaning of inclusive education. She said that when we talk about inclusive education it means that we want education for all. Article 21A of the constitution of India calls for education for all. At present, this provision is only in books all children are not getting education. Street children are deprived of education. In Delhi, "Pahchan" a not for profit organisation is working to educate street children. They have open schools where street children studies.



Figure 26: A group member speaking about the plan

Talking about the advocacy plan, she said that they will do **research** and review the government's programme to look for any scheme for street children. After this we will identify our target groups on the basis of age group and location. Our stakeholders will be street children, whole society specially educated people, influencers, minister and organisations working for children.

Speaking about **tactic**, she said that we will make children aware about their rights with the help of SHGs, volunteers, workshop, consultation programme, etc. After this, a database will be prepared. Our expected **result** is to lobbying for enactment of legislation for street children and will compare data at regular intervals to **measure** our efforts.

On **timeline** she said that it will be a continuous process therefore, we can't specify now.

Vote of Thanks



Figure 27: Mr. Chandan, Program Coordinator, CRC

Vote of thanks was proposed by **Mr. Chandan, Program Coordinator, CRC**. He thanked all participants said that today's programme was a very important consultation programme to talk about the child rights. I am delighted to propose the vote of thanks. I would like to thank Hon'ble Justice Mridula Mishra, Vice Chancellor, Chankya National Law University for inaugurating the programme despite her busy schedule. I extend my heartfelt

gratitude to UNICEF Bihar chief Ms. Nafisa Binte Shafique not only for spending her time with us today but also for encouraging us to achieve many endeavors. I sincerely thank Shri Manoranjan Prasad Srivastava, Registrar, CNLU for his presence and kind words. I specially thank Ms. Nipurnh Gupta, Communication Specialist, UNICEF Bihar. Her role is significant in successful conduct of today's programme. I also thank resource persons Mr. Prasanna Ash, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, UNICEF Bihar, Ms. Pragya Vats, Head of Campaigns, Save the Children and founder of Teachers of Bihar Mr. Shiv Kumar. I would like to thank Ms. Shaheena Ahluwalia, Centre Coordinator, Child Rights Centre, Ms. Preety Anand, Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator, Child Rights Centre, Sugandha ma'am, Research Coordinator, Child Rights Centre, Dr. Fr. Peter Ladis F., Training and Course Coordinator, Child Rights Centre, Mr. Abhishek Anand, Consultant, UNICEF, student members of CRC Srishti and Shreya. Without their support, this programme could not be conducted with so much ease. Last but not least, I would also like to thank members of civil society organisations (CSOs) who made this event successful and all support staffs including rapporteur for their contribution in the smooth conduct of this programme.

In the end all participants filled a feedback form and the programme concluded.