



It takes every Indian TO END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

STAKEHOLDERS MEET AT STATE LEVEL

IT TAKES JAMMU & KASHMIR TO END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

World Vision India partnered with Humanity Welfare Organisation at Srinagar - Kashmir to organize various meetings at the State towards taking forward the Campaign plans to end Child Sexual Abuse. Much of information related to the secondary data was not available for the state, hence the team planned towards meeting different groups Children, Youth, Teachers, Community to gather and gather some information through focus group discussions to understand the issues related to context and children.

Team:

1. Anjana Purkayastha (Senior Director, Special Projects)
2. Mikhael Pradhan (Head Advocacy)
3. Shanthi Hopper (Senior Manager – Advocacy & Programmes)
4. Susheela Jeliya (Technical Specialist – Disability)
5. Ajay Mahajan (Technical Specialist- Child Protection & Participation).

Purpose:

- To identify and prioritize child protection issues in the community.
- Identify most important root causes of those issues and map the existence and effectiveness of the Elements of the child protection system in the community. (Anantnag/ Kashmir)
- State Level Consultation on Pre-launch
- To recommend further action steps

Different engagement plan was organized between 27th till 29th and as planned with the help of partners we also had plans to engage with key stakeholders as government department.

- Meeting with UNICEF Chief.
- Stakeholders Meet at the State Level- Divisional Commissioner Office Srinagar
- Consultation on Disability Rights, FGD with Community.



- District Level Stakeholders Meet
- FGD with teachers, Children and Youth
- Meeting with Child Line and CFS monitoring staff

Event Details:

Event	Date	Participants	Nos
State Consultation	27 June 18	Deputy Divisional Commissioners (10-12 districts); CSO members; independents	35
FGD with mixed Community	28 June 18	Village head; youth & adults	25
Meeting /discussion	28 June 18	Deputy Divisional Commissioner, Anantnag & ICPS Department members	8
FGD with teachers	29 June 18	Government school & private school teachers	12
FGD with children	29 June 18	Boys (14-16years)	11

Partners:

1. Director of Social Welfare
2. Additional Divisional Commissionaire
3. Additional Commissionaire Kashmir
4. Coordinator - CPC District collector office
5. Coordinator – CPC education dept.
6. Project Manager – Action Aid
7. Child Line
8. Help line
9. ICDS
10. ICPS
11. Child welfare Centre
12. JJB
13. CWC
14. Social welfare department

Campaign Targets:

- WCD-SCRC
- Children
- School and colleges

- Media
- Academia
- Parents and general public
- Government departments
- NGOs and UNICEF

UNICEF meeting at Srinagar:

Mr. Hilal Bhat, UNICEF head of J&K shared about the situation of children in the state and the issues pertaining to them like stone pelting, conflict scenario, poverty, and child labour, absence of secondary data and functionality of JJ ACT.

At par with other states, JJ Act was not updated (2013-2014) and implementation of the ICPS is at infant stage. Detention of Children in the police stations has no boundaries. Police or para army or



CRPF are so focused only on security issues and children are never in their work plan. [Neither they are aware about the Acts and their role in protecting the Children and their rights.](#) Training on Police on JJ Rule 89 at Udampur police training academy was suggested by the UNICEF head.

The recent ASIFA case: The case is shifted to Pattan Court and continues hearing is on. Child line is only in two districts and the third one is in plan and per day Child line receives average of 40 calls. Nothing can be done in silos and especially in the State like Kashmir. UNICEF chief is willing to work with WVI in Kashmir as WV does in other states.

Stakeholder Consolation and District Consultation:

On 27th June at Srinagar in the Divisional Commissioner's office Stakeholder consultation was



held with various stakeholders to support the global campaign to end violence against children. Around 15 participants were present in the hall and all district level commissioners across were available on video conference call from 2.15 pm till 4.30pm. Out of the 22

districts II were on the video call. All the representatives were actively involved in discussing towards addressing child protection issues for the state in specific. This was a very good initiative by the Divisional Commissioner to lead the process and invite all the district level representations for a cause. Mr. Javed Tuk from Humanity Welfare Organisation made the arrangements to the meeting. WV team shared about the WV aims and objectives along with the video on WV interventions in India. Child protection system and its approaches and about the CSA campaign and its progress and plans. The team comprising of Ms. Anjana, Mikhael, Shanthi and Ajay also on polices and gaps in child protection.

The main appeal made was the State to address and prevent child abuse and end violence against children. It was also shared that the campaign theme for the state would go as 'It Takes Jammu &

Kashmir to End Child Sexual Abuse'. A brief introduction on landscape / status of Child Sexual Abuse in India based on 2007 survey was shared.

A similar district level consultation was also held.

The discussion raised during the consultation are ICPS structure is in infant stage and POCSO related legislation are very recent as per ordinance, strengthening of child protection policy and convergence in all departments needed and capacity building of 7000 teachers is needed. **The carrot and stick approach victimize**

the children with conflict of law should be banned. The district consultation emphasized the sensitization plans and counselling at all levels and number of reach also to be increased. Both the consultation came up with recommendation and suggestions and both are listed at the end of the document.



Children & Youth Consultation:

Children consultation was held followed by the stakeholder consultation and the children identified some key issues. The first was that there were no children's groups or platforms. Children feel unsafe and insecure. Additionally, there are issues of illegal detention and children are beaten up and harassed.



Police behavior prevents children from approaching police stations and there are no child

protection mechanisms in place. There is a lack of awareness on child abuse and child labor. There is no awareness on CWC or juvenile bench too. This is a major drawback in addressing these issues. There are no safe spaces and there's a lack of psycho social support as well. One child said "No place is safe in Kashmir." Suggestions to improve this situation include creating a CP center in each village and raise awareness on these issues. Anjana used the ERRC tool to elicit information from all the children who were present during the consultation. The findings are as follows:



ERRC Srinagar.docx

Further analysis would be done to convert into a programming resource.

A youth consultation was also done with 15 Youths (Boy and Girl). Their main aspiration is a tangible Change in Kashmir valley. They are frustrated of the situation around them. They would like to see Kashmir to be peaceful and well developed with opportunities for them to live in dignity.

They need freedom in a better way which is about having opportunities for higher studies, open debates, scholarly work. You can engage in global interaction so that they do not lag behind.

They also need more financial opportunities so that their attention is diverted towards well being of life and development than lagging behind.

Community Level Engagement

The adult consultation took place in the village of Adder in Anantnag, Kashmir.

There were mixed community members, including the village head. There is overall changes in the community in the last three years and lots of changes which includes the technology boom, higher competency



in careers and society becoming more liberal. The increased use of technology also resulted in the change of morals in children as well. Additionally, parental negligence and increased confidence levels among children were also observed.

There were seven children's issues identified in the community: child militancy, child labor, rampant stone pelting issues, substance abuse, child sexual abuse, children vulnerable to

environmental disasters and insecurity of children. Children caught in child labor work at places such as saw mills, automobile shops and brick kilns. They also work in agricultural labor and sand collection.

The root causes of these issues include parental negligence and lack of parental care as well as poverty, political unrest and corruption. Unemployment is one of the main reasons behind children becoming militants.

There are also discrimination and atrocities carried out by the armed forces and police force. The lack of peaceful educational and recreational opportunities for children is also an issue. Currently there are a few existing child protection systems in place such as the child help line (1098), the police and village level committees (VLC). However, there is no awareness on child protection laws and policies.



Primary assessment
report_Kashmir_15Jl

To fix this, the community gave a number of recommendations.

These include implementing children's clubs, community centers, self-help groups, vocational training and parental awareness programmes. They also recommended building a flood shelter and a playground. The community also expressed a need to have a medical dispensary nearby since it's hard for children to go far when they fall ill.

FGD with Teachers - Service Providers

In the session with service providers, such as teachers, five key issues related to children's education was identified.

1. First was children's academic performance, attendance is low and only a few children are doing well in school.
2. Second is the lack of parental involvement and the root cause of which is poverty and lack of livelihood. Economically weaker families usually send children to government schools. However, teachers are not active in government schools while private schools have strict administrative rules and discipline.



3. There are also many cases of child labor. Children not in school work in the brick kiln area where abuse is prevalent. The root cause is child protection systems not being in place. For example, the child line is not effective and only in two districts. Ineffective laws and systems, with the main case in point being Asifa's..
4. Additionally, there are not enough activities geared towards children. Only sports events are conducted but no other activities. Even six-year olds are only associated with grenades and guns resulting in many children have their childhood snatched away from them.
5. Also, there needs to be age appropriate awareness on good and bad touch. Besides Child Line, there are no other child protection mechanisms in place.

There are a few NGOs and government organizations that work on child protection. These agencies work on education, issues relating to orphaned children, religion and moral education. The Srinagar Municipal Corporation looks into improving school infrastructure, quality of education and the health issues of children.

Recommendations/ suggestion by Partners:

- 1 We have no dearth of policies and legislations and effective implementation is what we need to lobby and reporting mechanism to be strengthened.
- 2 Sex education at school to be introduced as age appropriate
- 3 Convergence at district and state level
- 4 ICPS/Teachers capacity building need to be done
- 5 Child line to be operational in all districts (22)
- 6 Kashmir University – training of PGMSW- counselling is needed.
- 7 Judiciary need to be strengthened to respond.
- 8 Grassroot approach, stigma to be addressed and awareness to be focussed
- 9 Moral education at schools and counselling centers in all districts to be linked.
- 10 Mothers need to be more friendly and educated to address the issue.
- 11 IEC materials much needed at all places.
- 12 Focus on health services
- 13 Involving and educating children
- 14 Response & support to children having conflict with law
- 15 IEC material on prevention messages (safe-unsafe touch)
- 16 Capacity building plans for various departments (police/ teachers/paramilitary)
- 17 Round table discussions/workshops for paramilitary forces; CRPF, ARMY.

- 18 Proposed a workshop ASAP. (within a month) was a request
- 19 Invest in quality education and extracurricular activities.
- 20 Counselling for adolescents & youth
- 21 Awareness programs for community as a whole.
- 22 Need of programs to engage children & youth productively and give platforms to ventilate.

Suggestions recommendation to improve the situation:

1. Include awareness programs for children and parents,
2. Inclusion of child protection education in the school curriculum and media awareness.
3. Teachers and volunteers to be trained on child protection.
4. Besides education, reward and incentive systems for children and parents should be implemented too.

Opportunities and Challenges:

- Presence of Child line 2 districts.
- NGOs working on Child Protection.
- CSOs interest on the issue of child protection.
- **The Youth and the Children aspires for a Change**
- Child Militancy
- Child Labour
- Unsafe situation
- Non availability of data
- Conflict Scenario

Way forward / Priorities:

- **Children consultation – 28 & 29 Aug 2018. / 5 & 6 Sep 2018**
- **State campaign launch - 28 & 29 Aug 2018. / 5 & 6 Sep 2018**
- School level engagements on child protection.
- Community capacity building.
- Capacity building of security force (Police, CRPF & BSF)
- Duty bearers training (ICPS & School teachers, doctors, health workers)
- **One Integrated Youth Development project in Srinagar**

Photo Gallery:



Youth Group



FGD with Community



Online with District Commissioners

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