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## **Integrated child protection scheme: A case study of Kashmir division of Jammu and Kashmir**

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### **Abstract**

Gender inequality started creeping in to the society and slowly the status of girl child degraded to such an extent that they were not given the freedom, education, basic rights, and right to education. The children of lower class section were deprived of with the basic rights like, education, freedom, marriage, shelters. As the government taken the command and our constitution providing equality to the all sections of the society the situation of the children started improving. In the welfare of children Indian government launched so many programs and scheme in order to improve the status of the children. From the study it can be concluded that health status of the children were not good. Children suffering from the mal nutrition and health problems. Government of India has provided various legislations for the children also in order to uplift their status but it's ironical that their state remains unchanged. The evils like child labour, child abuse, child marriage still prevails in India. The existing law on child labour that allows children to work in occupations that were not part of the schedule of occupations that are considered harmful to children contradicts the right of every child to free and compulsory education and yet no attempt was made to resolve the contradiction. The government of India launched so many policies and programs to stop child abuse, child labour, child trafficking, and child sexual abuse and to uplift the status of the vulnerable children. With the implementation of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme by the Government. All the protection services are provided under an umbrella to the children. Through the study conducted in the J&K it could be concluded that the protection services to the children were enhanced and status of the children has been uplifted. Jammu and Kashmir administration engaged in the monitoring of all kind of protection services to the children as well as NGO's of the union territory. During the field study it was found that NGO's were effectively engaged in the child protection services.

**Keywords:** integrated child protection scheme, case study, Kashmir division, child labour etc.

### **Introduction**

The integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is a governmental program implemented by the Government of India to help secure the safety of children, with a special emphasis on children in need of care and protection, juveniles in conflict or contact with the law and other vulnerable children. Its primary purpose is to create a central structure to provide oversight and standardization for pre-existing and evolving child protection schemes in India. Proposed in 2006 and implemented in 2009, the ICPS is administered at the state level by state child protection committees and societies and at the district level by district child protection societies, among other institutions. In our society children play a significant role in the building of community and family. As they are the key of the development like, economic, social and political. Children are the future human resource of country. Children in every society have always participated in economics activities; children assist their families at home, in shops or in livelihood services. A child is an invaluable asset of any society and has a definite role to play in the development of the nation (Barooh, 1992, p.14)<sup>[2]</sup>. The future citizens of the country. Children in the age group 0-6 years constitute around 158 million of the population of India. These children are the future human resource of the country. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering various schemes for the welfare, development and protection of children. There are so many initiatives and programmes run by the Government of India to stop the child abuse and child labour practices. The ministry of Women and Child Development is also providing health facilities, shelter homes and education facilities etc.

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**Child labour**

The Indian Scenario According to the UN study, about 150 million children in the age group of 5-14 years are working in various industries in India. They are found working in road side restaurants, tea stalls and shops, at construction sites and in factories. Girls suffer labour exploitation to such a degree that millions of girls die before they reach the age of 15. They are paid a pittance which is as low as Rs. 20 per day and many live in shops or work places where they are subjected to various forms of Exploitation. Besides the work they are abused physically, mentally and sexually by the masters.

India has the largest number of working children after Tanzania and Thailand. The World Bank Report in January 2000 has revealed that there are 6 crore working children in India, which is the largest in terms of any country in the world, More than 50% child workers in India are from Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan.

**National policies and programmes for children**

The national policies and programs for children are implementing a number of child centric policies, addressing the issues of child protection, child survival and child development. The important ones have been stated as follows: (Children in India, 2012).

**Integrated child protection scheme (ICPS) in India**

The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) has significantly contributed to the realization of Government/State responsibility for creating a system that will efficiently and effectively protect children. Based on the cardinal principles of "protection of child rights" and "best interest of the child", ICPS is achieving its objectives to contribute to the improvements in the wellbeing of children in difficult circumstances, as well as to the reduction of vulnerabilities to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children from their families (Sinha, 2013, p.11) <sup>[10]</sup>.

**Specific objectives of the scheme ICPS**

1. To institutionalize essential services and strengthen structures for emergency outreach, institutional care, family and community based care, counseling and support services at the national, regional, state and district levels.
2. To enhance capacities at all levels, of all functionaries including, administrators and service providers, members of allied systems including, local bodies, police, judiciary and other concerned departments of State Governments to undertake responsibilities under the ICPS;
3. To create database and knowledge base for child protection services, including MIS and child tracking system in the country for effective implementation and monitoring of child protection services;
4. Undertake research and documentation.
5. To strengthen child protection at family and community level, create and promote preventive measures to protect children from situations of vulnerability, risk and abuse.
6. To ensure appropriate inter-sectoral response at all levels, coordinate and network with all allied systems.
7. To raise public awareness, educate public on child

rights and protection on situation and vulnerabilities of children and families, on available child protection services, schemes and structures at all levels.

**Department of social welfare Jammu and Kashmir**

The Social Welfare Department plays an important role in addressing the problems of the weaker and vulnerable sections of the Society, like old aged persons, women in distress, children in distress, Physically Challenged People, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and other socially & economically weaker sections. The department is also in the forefront to empower women and for the overall development of the children, especially between the age group of 0-6 years through ICDS. Social Welfare Department administers Central and State Sponsored welfare schemes in the areas of Women and Child Development, Social Justice and Empowerment, Social Security, Minority Development, Rehabilitation of Militancy Victims and Educational upliftment of SC, ST, PSP and OBC students. It provides direct benefits to the target groups, through various schemes like, scholarship & Hostel facilities, reimbursement of examination fee, old aged pension, widow pension etc.

**Integrated child development services scheme integrated**

Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) launched in 1975, is a unique early childhood development programme addressing health, nutrition and the development needs of young children, pregnant and nursing mothers. It is designed to promote holistic development of children under 06 years, through strengthening capacity of care givers and communities and improve access to basic services at the community level. It provides the convergent interface/platform between communities and system such as primary health care, education, water and sanitation among others. The flagship scheme of Ministry of Women and Child Development, GOI under which Anganwari Centres are established in villages/hamlets in rural as well as in urban areas for the target groups. The Scheme aims to provide nutrition to the children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years, pregnant/ lactating mothers and adolescent girls. Besides this, immunization and referral services are also provided. There are 141 ICDS Projects and 29599 Anganwari Centres functioning in the State. Anganwari centers also provide non-formal pre-school education and get periodic health checkups of the beneficiaries. The scheme has two component viz. Supplemental Nutrition and Non-Nutrition (ICDS General).9 Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna has been launched on pilot basis in district Anantnag & Kathua with the aim to improve the health and nutritional status of pregnant, lactating women and their young infants. The scheme was introduced in the State during 2011-12 with 100% funding from the Ministry of women and Child Development, Government of India. The funding pattern of the scheme has been changed by GOI from existing 100% CS to 90:10 between Centre and State w.e.f. 01-04-2015.

**Jammu and Kashmir juvenile justice (care and protection of children) act, 2013**

The State has enacted an act to consolidate and amend the law relating to Juveniles in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection by providing for proper care

protection and treatment by catering to their development needs and for the adjudication and disposition of matters in the best interest of the children and for their ultimate rehabilitation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto called Jammu and Kashmir Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2013.

3. [http://www.jk.nic.in/dept\\_social.htm](http://www.jk.nic.in/dept_social.htm).
4. <http://www.jkyateemtrust.com>
5. <http://www.peaceinsight.org.com>
6. <http://jkswdj.jk.gov.in>

### Conclusion

Child protection is a subject of government and the civil society partnership. Without the people participation government cannot implement their policies and programmes. As in the study the role of NGO's and government involved and analyzed in different perspective. The ICPS scheme has ensured that there should be shelter homes for the destitute children in the each district or locality. According to the scheme it was found that there were children homes ran by the government and the NGO's Study concluded that all the rights of children were protected by the government through welfare schemes and policies. It was found that at the country level there is lack of strong laws to stop the child labour and human resource. Child labour is widespread and bad for the development of individual child, society and economy in which child lives. Child labour has been considered as a hurdle in the growth of child health as well as society. It is the biggest reason of poor health of child and their physical abuse. Over 200 million children "between" 5-14 year of age are working worldwide. India has the largest number of working children. After India then come Tanzania and Thailand. The World Bank report in January 2000 has revealed that there are 6 crore working children Indian.

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