



# Inaugural Newsletter COMMEMORATING 18 YEARS

Centre for Child and the Law, National Law School of India University, Bangalore

[Vol 1 & 2, Issue I, II, III] [January 2013-June 2014]

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Citation: Commemorating 18 years, Inaugural Newsletter,  
Center for the Child and the Law, NLSIU, 2014, [Vol 1 & 2, Issue I, II and III]





Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

It delights me that the Centre for Child and the Law, National Law School of India University has released its Inaugural Newsletter.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the remarkable work that is being done by CCL on significant issues of education, juvenile justice, child protection and food security among others, with a focus on law and legal processes as instruments of social change.

I congratulate Prof. Dr. Ashok R. Patil, the Faculty Coordinator, the Programme Heads and the rest of the CCL team for the good work that is being carried out and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

I wish the readers an enriching and informative reading experience and the Centre for Child and the Law, a great journey ahead!



Prof. (Dr.) O. V. Nandimath

## MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR

I would like to congratulate the Centre for Child and the Law for the commendable work being done in the area of Child Rights Law.

The consistent and meticulous hard work by the Programme heads and their respective teams at the Centre is captured well in this Inaugural Newsletter.

Access to justice has always been a matter of great concern. I believe that with the kind of remarkable work being carried out, CCL will reach great heights in time to come.

I wish the Faculty Coordinator; Prof. Dr. Ashok R. Patil and the CCL team every success in their endeavours.



Prof. (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil

## MESSAGE FROM THE FACULTY COORDINATOR

It gives me immense pleasure to announce that the Centre for Child and the Law, one of the oldest research centres at NLSIU, completed 18 years of work on issues concerning children, since its establishment on April 1, 1996. CCL is publishing its Inaugural Newsletter to commemorate this occasion.

At the outset, I would like to thank Prof. (Dr.) Madhav Menon the founder Director of NLSIU, for the special interest he had taken on child rights in the early years of NLSIU's existence, having also been instrumental in establishing the Centre. I would like to also express my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Babu Mathew, who, as founder Faculty Co-ordinator of CCL spent more than eight years, nurturing and strengthening it into a unique multi-disciplinary research centre, drawing from his own rich expertise and experience in the field.

One of the earliest activities on child rights law undertaken at NLSIU was a National consultation on the UN CRC and the Legal Framework, with support from UNICEF in 1995-'96. The Centre for Child and the Law has over the years built on this early work, having evolved and expanded work in areas such as Juvenile Justice, Child Labor, Right to Equitable Quality Education, Child Sexual Abuse, Food Security and Child Marriage among others. CCL adopts a human rights and multi-disciplinary approach to address issues concerning children and the law, and engages in a constructive and yet critical collaboration with the state.

CCL is unique among the other research centres at NLSIU, in that it not only undertakes research, teaching, knowledge generation/ dissemination, training, networking, lobbying and advocacy on a range of issues, but more significantly, engages in direct field action through grass root work undertaken in the community, in order to ensure grounded participatory and



bottom up engagement with policy and law that impacts children - our most vulnerable and valuable citizens. Over the years, CCL has done laudable work on various issues and has received much acclaim. I am glad to say that the Centre is now engaging in efforts to support and strengthen similar centres/cells in other Universities across India as part of its planned activities supported by the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust.

It is a matter of great pride that CCL has built confidence in external donors who see this unique research centre as a national resource. Creditably, CCL had not only attracted donor partnerships such as UNICEF and others but a decade long partnership with HIVOS, a partnership with Child

Rights and You that enabled the building of an entire wing on the first floor of the academic block from which CCL now operates, and more recently a massive external grant from the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust – one that is larger than any other received by a Research Centre at NLSIU in the past 25 years. Funds are also being generated from publications and the pioneering one year Post Graduate Diploma in Child Rights Law.

I sincerely appreciate the everlasting dedication and hard work shown by the Programme Heads; Dr. Niranjana Aradhya, Ms. Arlene Manoharan and Dr. Neetu Sharma and their respective teams and the commendable work that they have been doing for all these years.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

### **Arlene Manoharan**

*Fellow, Programme Head – Juvenile Justice*

Looking back down the memory lane, I can say that for me, the challenge of striding the worlds of academia and grass root activism, of social work and law, of children and adults, of local and national, and of engagement with civil society and the state has definitely been daunting, but also extremely rewarding. I realized that by providing NGO services to children (which I had done for nine years prior to joining CCL), one could indeed make a qualitative difference to children in the organization's target group, but by working at CCL, one could also contribute to knowledge generation, capacity building, policy and law, thereby impacting the lives of millions of children around the country. In fact, memories of my first day at CCL is imprinted clearly on my mind – the day when Ms. Maneka Gandhi, the then Minister of Women and Child Development had come to NLSIU, to discuss the Juvenile Justice Bill that was being drafted by NLSIU on her request. And now ironically, more than fifteen years later, I have a sense of déjà vu, with the very same Ms. Gandhi now back in the very same chair, proposing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill 2014.

I have seen how the lived experience of one tormented child discharged from the JJ system was fed into our research and the notified JJ rules, and remember then experiencing the palpable thrill of witnessing the written letter of the law being fertilized and formulated, emerging directly from the seed of rich field experience reflected in the voice of vulnerable children for whom the law is intended. The contribution made to NLSIU's academic programmes on child rights

law reflects the value of striding these worlds, helping to demonstrate that the *raison de etre* of a Law University is not only to teach law, but to enable access to justice, and to creatively contribute to the formulation/reform of people centric progressive policy/law through constructive inter-disciplinary inclusive dialogue, research and praxis, while informing teaching and generation/dissemination of knowledge.

The most poignant moment I experienced at NLSIU was the sight of children from remote villages of Ramanagaram and government run statutory homes walking through its hallowed portals to participate in CCL's commemoration of International Human Rights Day (10<sup>th</sup> December 2009), each little face expressing the awe and thrill of being somehow associated with this premier institution. The melting of hearts and the breaking of conventional barriers/mindsets that I observed in the NLSIU community on that day touched me even more.

### **Dr. Niranjana Aradhya V.P**

*Fellow, Programme Head – Right to Education*

I joined CCL in March 2000. At that time, CCL was functioning from a small room on the first floor, normally allocated to a single Faculty member. I was assigned to take up a small research project on mapping the magnitude of child labour in Bangalore Urban.

Since then, CCL has grown in leaps and bounds, both in terms of physical space and its work related to children and the law. I would like to say that I have also grown professionally along with the organization during this period

I can say with confidence that CCL and its work meant everything for me in my life during the past fourteen years, as I had dedicated almost all my time and energy to the work I have been doing on Right to Education during this time. I feel content that I have tried my level best to accomplish the social agenda of the National Law School of India University both at the State and National level. It is not an exaggeration to say that many people in Karnataka, particularly teachers, members of the School Development and Monitoring Committees and elected representatives at different levels recognize NLSIU through CCL's outstanding contribution in the area of Right to Quality Education.

My experience of having successfully lobbied with bureaucrats and elected representatives on issues related to laws, policies and programmes on universalization of school education has encouraged me to continue striving to work on this issue along with the organization. I happily cherish the memory of drafting the model bye-laws with Ms. Aruna Kashyap (an NLSIU student volunteer) to integrate School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs) within Panchayat Raj Institutions in order to avoid political interference in the constitution of these SDMCs. I am glad to share that these bye-laws were finally notified on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2006 *in toto*. This is one of the outstanding achievements in my professional life at CCL, of course with the unstinted support of NLSIU and my colleagues. I believe there are more challenges and hurdles in the journey ahead and that there is still a long way to go to build a society where children can live a dignified and quality life. However, I have faith in the anthem that was used during the African-American Civil Rights Movement; *We Shall Overcome, We Shall Overcome, We Shall Overcome Someday!*.

### Dr. Neetu Sharma

*Fellow and Programme Head – Right to Food*

It was indeed a life changing experience for me to start working with CCL more than eight years ago, not only because of the fact that the organisational culture was very different from the places where I had worked before, but also because work at CCL also entailed my having to relocate from North to South India, with a different preferred language of communication, and new colleagues and friends. At CCL, the journey from the role of a research consultant, research officer and subsequently Projects Manager was full of learning experiences as well as challenges that have certainly made me evolve into a stronger person.

Interest in the issue and the desire to do something path breaking on the issues concerning food security never died down. Also, having worked for many years on issues concerning right to food and prior to that on child rights, it was an obvious choice for me to work on the issue of right to food and nutrition for children at CCL. The decision to switch from a quasi admin role to core programme role was a difficult one, and the transition from the role of a Projects Manager to that of driving a programme was even more challenging. However, at the individual level, I also do cherish the moments when I experienced of success accomplishments some of which have achieved in a rather short period.

The stress of managing too many things singlehandedly has come down with more hands and brains joining me; and with their support I am sure this journey is going to be even more interesting and accomplishing

## Brief Introduction to the Centre for Child and the Law

The Centre for Child and the Law (CCL) was established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1996, as a specialized multi-disciplinary Research Centre of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) Bangalore. There are three Programmes – one on Right to Universal Equitable Quality Education (which includes work on addressing issues related to Child Labour), one on Juvenile Justice (which also includes activities on Child Protection, Child Sexual Abuse, Commissions for Protection of Child Rights), and the third on Right to Food. Work is also underway on Preventing Child Marriage. Cross Cutting Programmes that involve persons from all the three programmes include work on promoting

and strengthening similar Centres/Cells on Children and Law in other Universities around the country, Legal Literacy material and Awareness programmes etc. Work related to teaching and training on child law involves teaching the Post Graduate Diploma on Child Rights Law, developing and offering optional as well as seminar courses on various child rights issues, informing the building of curriculum on child rights law in other professional courses such as social work, training modules for various functionaries etc.

The specific aim of CCL is to ensure social justice, human rights and quality of life for all children in India, with special

focus on equitable quality education, care, protection and justice for marginalized and excluded children. CCL aims to empower and enable increased assertion from children as right holders at the grass root level, and also to positively impact policy, law, legal education and professional practice on issues concerning children and law at the macro level. CCL's core functional areas include research, teaching, knowledge generation/dissemination, direct engagement with children and communities, lobbying, advocacy, networking, training.

There are two field extension outreach programmes. The first one is part of the Education Programme, and is located at Bidadi in a rural village -Bannikuppe, 35 km outside Bangalore. The second outreach programme is part of the Juvenile Justice Programme, and is located in a space provided by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka, at Madivala, within the campus housing the state run Observation Home under the Juvenile Justice Act – the result of a unique constructive and yet critical collaboration between CCL NLSIU and the state that has grown over the years, in the interest of children

### Centre Coordinators of CCL, NLSIU since inception

1.	Prof. Babu Mathew	1 <sup>st</sup> April 1996 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2004
2.	Prof. (Dr.) S. Japhet	1st April 2004 – 31st March 2009
3.	Ms. Arlene Manoharan	1st April 2009 – 1st May 2011
4.	Dr. Neetu Sharma	2nd May 2011 – 2nd March 2014
5.	Prof. (Dr) Ashok R Patil	3rd March 2014 – till date

### Programme on Juvenile Justice (JJ)

The JJ Programme was initiated in 1996-'97. The first National Consultation on JJ in the country was organized by CCL in 1998, and another National Consultation again organized in November 1999 to discuss the draft of the JJ Bill. Both these consultations were supported by UNICEF and were a major milestone in the history of policy and law concerning JJ in India. The programme has since evolved (and continues to evolve), drawing from multi-disciplinary bottom up praxis fed by professionals from the field of law and related disciplines. It is currently being implemented by legal researchers as well as practicing advocates, social

workers and counselors - all of who adopt an integrated, rights based and action research model of engaging with children and law. The team strategically adopts a constructive and yet critical collaborative approach of engaging with the state in the interest of children, working from within the juvenile justice system itself operating from space recently provided by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka.

The JJ Programme has over the past 18 years, included a range of activities and projects that cover not just issues concerning juveniles alleged/found to be in conflict with law. The phrase 'justice to children' would perhaps be more apt – considering that activities have focused on broad areas such as child rights; the multi-disciplinary approach; legal aid, lawyering and children; and children's courts; - as well as work on specific thematic issues such as juvenile justice, child protection, human rights institutions and children, child sexual abuse, right to mental health for children in the JJ system, etc.

A special feature of the JJ programme is the multi-disciplinary outreach activities undertaken with children and families who are in contact with the law or in need of intervention by the state. This dimension helps to ensure that the research, teaching, training, lobbying and advocacy is grounded in and informed by the team's close engagement with the realities of children's lives, as well as in the direct interface with the state and civil society in attempting to access and ensure justice to children. A team of practitioners (advocates, social workers and counselors) therefore offer direct services to approximately 30 children and families per year who are entitled to care, protection and justice by the state, through work with the courts, the Juvenile Justice Boards, Child Welfare Committees, and the Commissions for Children. The current focus is largely on work with juveniles alleged to be in conflict with law.



Ms. Shruthi Ramakrishnan, Ms. Arlene Manoharan, Ms. Kalpana Purushothaman, Ms. Swagata Raha and Mr. Sangappa Vaggar



There have been some significant achievements over the years which include the impact on policies and law on juvenile justice, child protection, commissions for children, and child sexual abuse. Activities involving building the capacities of government functionaries, Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards, advocates empanelled by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (in collaboration with the KSLSA) have also been undertaken, with team members also being invited as resource persons across the country, including the National and State Judicial Academies. The team has also recently successfully engaged with litigation on issues concerning children in the High Court of Karnataka as well as the Supreme Court.

The programme is led by Arlene Manoharan, Fellow and Programme Head

### Programme on Right to Education

The Education Programme at the Centre for Child and the Law, NLSIU started at the time of its inception - way back in 1996. In the beginning, the focus was on the abolition of child labour and to ensure education to all children upto the age of 14 years. Since then CCL has engaged in some serious research and has also been playing a significant role and has contributed enormously to the Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL). Gradually, the demand for making education a fundamental right by bringing suitable amendment to the Constitution based on the Unnikrishnan judgment grew as a national campaign. CCL became the founder member of the National Alliance for Fundamental Right to Education (NAFRE) that was initiated by CRY. CCL subsequently organized the first National level Consultation on *“Right to Education: A strategy to Eliminate Child Labour”* in 1998 with the support of UNICEF. CCL has significantly contributed to the discourse on making education a fundamental right and played a decisive role in the civil society campaign to bring in the 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act 2002 in order to make education a Fundamental Right under the Constitution.

CCL subsequently continued to play a major role in the formulation of central legislation as specified in Article 21A, in order to operationalize the Constitutional 86<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act. In the meanwhile, bearing in mind the limitations of the 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, CCL raised the need to bring in the Common School System based on the principle of ‘neighborhood school’ as part of Right to Education discourse both at the state and national levels. CCL was one of the founder members of Peoples Campaign for Common



(L-R) Ms. Shruthi Raman, Ms. Krithika B.S, Mr. Prakash A.G, Dr. Niranjana Radhya V.P, Mr. Kumaraswamy, Ms. Sakamma, Ms. Prathima, Ms. Shashikala, Mr. Ananth Raju

School System at the national level.

Currently, the programme on Universalising Equitable Quality School Education at the Centre for Child and Law, National Law School of India University, has been working in close collaboration with the state and the civil society groups including grass root level people’s movements, in order to help realize the fundamental right to equitable quality education.

The Education Programme adopts a multi-pronged strategy to ensure effective implementation of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act (2009) and believes that the RTE Act should be used as a tool to achieve the larger goal of building a national system of education, based on the principle of accessible neighbourhood schools in order to create a Common Schooling System as envisaged in the earlier national policies of 1968, 1986 and 1992 (revised). A unique rural based outreach programme is a distinguishing feature of the Education Programme at CCL, one that aims at working in partnership with children and rural communities in order to claim their right to universal, quality, equitable school education.

The programme is led by Dr. Niranjana Radhya V. P., Fellow and Programme Head

### Programme on Right to Food



(L-R) Ms. Neenu Suresh, Dr. Neetu Sharma, Ms. Anjali Shivanand

The work on right to food at the Centre for Child and the Law, National Law School of India University received its impetus with the discussions around the law on food security in the country. The programme on Right to Food at CCL strives to contribute to law making and reforms on the basis of research and empirical studies that could inform the law and policy. The programme adopts a holistic approach in

as much as it looks at the right to food for children within the larger framework of household food security, while also focusing on the right to food for children in difficult circumstances and in institutions.

The Programme is led by Dr. Neetu Sharma, Fellow and Programme Head

## CCL NLSIU'S ENGAGEMENT WITH POLICY AND LAW RELATED TO CHILDREN

The main purpose of the Centre for Child and the Law is to positively impact policy and law on matters concerning children in India, particularly those children who are marginalized and excluded. The Centre employs multiple means and strategies to achieve this goal, be it in the formulation or reform of these policies/laws or to help ensure their effective implementation in the interest of children.

The Juvenile Justice Programme has consistently engaged with research, networking, lobbying and advocacy in order to inform both the formulation/reform as well as the effective implementation of law on juvenile justice at both the State as well as the National level. Engagement with formulation of policy and law on this issue took place from way back in 1999, again in 2005 in order to inform the Amendment Act 2006, and subsequently again in 2011, on having been appointed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development as a member of the expert committee to review Amendments to the JJ Act. An almost parallel engagement has taken place at the level of formulation of delegated legislation, given that Arlene Manoharan was appointed member of the Rule Drafting Committees of some states such as Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, and the team had undertaken comparative research which has positively impacted not only State rules in approximately 6-7 states, but also the 2007 Model Rules under the 2006 Amendment Act itself.

Early work undertaken on the Commission for Children Bill (in 1999) at the request of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, gradually led to more consistent engagement with the Bill that was finally brought out in 2005, as well as with the notified Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, and the State Rules under the same. A smaller team within the JJ Programme, implemented a two year project with support from UNICEF – India, involving intensive research on human rights

institutions, related international standards, publishing of Frequently Asked Questions, a Handbook for CPCRs and also developed guidelines for selection of Chairperson and Members of these CPCRs with a view to ensure a transparent, fair and objective process. These guidelines were sent to the Ministry of Women and Child Development and also presented to several State Governments for their consideration with very positive results. Recommendations for amendments to the CPCr Act, NCPCR Rules, and State Rules have also been submitted to the concerned state governments. The team has conducted Round Tables with State SCPCRs, State Governments and civil society organizations aimed at strengthening the promotion, protection and monitoring of child rights at the state level. Training on Access to Justice was also conducted in six states around the country.

Members of the JJ team have also engaged closely in research on child sexual abuse, and subsequently in the formulation of policy and law on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (as a member of a Committee set up by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights).

The direct engagement with children, government functionaries responsible for implementing the law, the concerned authorities, be it through actually representing juveniles before the Juvenile Justice Boards, providing expert assistance to Child Welfare Committees or Commissions for Children, by conducting capacity building programmes, initiating/supporting campaigns or litigation in the courts, conducting awareness programmes to enable access to justice, etc., enables the JJ team to work closely with all stakeholders in order to help ensure effective implementation of these laws, and while doing so to draw from these experiences in order to feed into subsequent efforts to reform policy and law.

### ***The Juvenile Justice Team's campaign against the proposed treatment of juveniles as adults***

In January 2013, the JJ team spearheaded a major campaign opposing the proposal to lower the age of the juvenile in conflict with law under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 (JJAct), in light of the Delhi gang rape case. CCL wrote a position paper on why the age of a juvenile should not be lowered and submitted it to the Justice J.S Verma Committee. In March 2013, Arlene Manoharan and Swagata Raha also authored a paper on *The Juvenile Justice System in India and Children who commit serious offences – Reflections on the Way Forward* that was presented at an International Colloquium on Juvenile Justice, organized by HAQ Centre for Child Rights and others at New Delhi. These papers and the research done by the CCL team paved the way for a national campaign on this issue. CCL has engaged and continues to engage with different stakeholders on this campaign such as:

**The Government:** In June 2013, an appeal was circulated to academicians, practitioners and experts from within India and abroad attracting 76 high profile endorsements and this was submitted to the Minister of Women and Child Development, and the Home Ministry on 5th July 2013. In June 2014, the BJP government announced its intention to revise the law and invited comments from the public. The proposed Bill provided for the transfer of juveniles who commit rape, murder, and certain other specified crimes to the adult system. CCL made a joint submission with the Department of Adolescent and Child Psychiatry (DCAP) at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) on why the transfer system should not be adopted in India. CCL also submitted testimonies of two young persons who had journeyed through the JJ system and had been provided legal and psycho-social services by the CCL team on why the law should not be changed.

**Supreme Court:** In 2013, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had been considering several petitions challenging the constitutional validity of provisions of the JJ Act in the aftermath of the Delhi gang rape. CCL's Position Paper (available at [www.nls.ac.in/ccl](http://www.nls.ac.in/ccl)) on this very issue, submitted to the Justice J.S. Verma Committee, was submitted to the Supreme Court by the advocate representing HAQ Centre for Child Rights, a NGO which had intervened in *Salil Bali v. Union of India*, W.P. (C) 10/ 2013). On 17 July 2013, the Court dismissed all the petitions and upheld the validity of the provisions of the JJ Act. Despite the above ruling of the

Supreme Court, the issue was once again brought before the Supreme Court by Dr. Subramanian Swamy who filed a Special Leave Petition seeking a reinterpretation of the JJ Act such that a juvenile above 16 years of age alleged to have committed a serious offence could be brought before the adult criminal court. CCL NLSIU took the lead in the matter and along with HAQ Centre for Child Rights, Jagori, Aangan Trust, TISS, and Dr. Shantha Sinha, intervened in the Supreme Court. A three judge bench of the Supreme Court upheld the validity of the JJ Act on the basis of the rich jurisprudence of child rights, international standards and the scientific basis of the JJ Act.

**National Consultation on Juvenile Justice:** The JJ team organized a National Consultation on –'Juveniles and 'Serious Crime' under the JJ Act' on 30 Nov and 1 Dec 2013 in collaboration with the National Law University Delhi (NLU) and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) supported by SDTT, CRY and UNICEF. It was attended by leading child rights experts, lawyers, and academicians from the country. The Conference Statement was submitted to the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and select Cabinet Members appealing against introducing an amendment to allow the transfer of juveniles to the adult system. Participants also formed delegations and met with the Secretary, MWCD and the Law Commission of India. CCL is also an active member of 'Pro-child' a network of child rights organisations, academicians, researchers, and others

**Media:** Very early on, the JJ team at CCL realized the need to influence public opinion by writing journalistic pieces as well as providing data and information to ensure sensitive and informed reporting. Members of the team authored articles that were carried by The Hindu, Hindustan Times, and Yahoo News

**Children:** The JJ team strongly feels that the voices of children especially those within the JJ system need to be heard by policy makers. The team facilitated the recording of testimonies by two young people who made a powerful submission on why children should not be denied rehabilitative opportunities under the JJ Act by being transferred to the adult system as proposed in the JJ Bill 2014, which were submitted to the Ministry of Women and Child Development. We continue in our resolve to ensure that children are given an opportunity to voice their opinions, particularly on a law that is going to impact them adversely.



### ***The Right to Education's recent engagement with the Law***

The Education Team has been working on issues related to Universalization of Equitable Quality Education since inception. The team significantly contributed towards translating the free and compulsory education as a fundamental right in the last one and a half decade. The team engaged with the primary stakeholders and civil society organizations through participatory research, networking, lobbying and advocacy to realize its envisioned goal and mission. The team also contributed significantly on the issue of developing replicable model in the area of community participation to aid the process of universalizing school education. The Karnataka Gram Panchayats School Development and Monitoring Committees (model bye-laws) drafted by CCL as part of delegated legislation was notified *in toto* by the Government of Karnataka. Later, while drafting the right of children to free and compulsory education bill, the central government adopted the core principles that underlie the School Development and Monitoring Committees, which were in place in Karnataka.

The Education team has been continuously engaging with the state to bring necessary changes in the laws, policies and programmes to ensure equitable quality education to all children. As part of field extension programme, CCL undertook participatory research to assess the status of current education system to propose systemic changes and brought out a document called *Sama Samajakkagi Samana Shala Shikshana* (Common School System for egalitarian society) in Kannada for a larger debate in the state with the foreword from the renowned scholar late Prof. U.R.Ananthamurthy and blurb from Dr.Chandrashekar Kambar in February 2013.

Based on the document, the Education team met the new Primary and Secondary Education Minister Mr. Kimmane Ratnakar on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013 and submitted a proposal on 'Gram Panchayat/ Ward Public School 'based on the policy research. Honourable Minister was very happy with the proposal and promised the team that he would send a detailed letter to all officials in the state to seek their opinion and comments on the proposal before arriving at any conclusion. CCL feels it is a major breakthrough towards initiating a debate on larger systemic changes to ensure equitable quality education to all children.

### ***The Right to Food's recent engagement with the Law***

The Right to Food team took the initiative to examine the role and potential of law towards realization of the right to food and facilitated several consultative processes involving activists, experts in the area of nutrition, child rights, medicine and law. Based on this, recommendations were made and submitted to the Standing Committee on Food, Public Distribution and Civil Supplies.

After the law on food security was notified as the National Food Security (NFS) Ordinance, the team engaged in advocacy with Members of Parliament in order to ensure that certain desired amendments were made before it was passed. Such efforts did yield very encouraging results. The team is currently engaged in the process of rulemaking in the state of Karnataka and in other parts of the country.

The research undertaken for the State Rules in Karnataka is also meant to influence the similar processes in other states. The outputs from these state level processes have already begun feeding into the process of rulemaking under the NFS 2013 at central level.

## **Voice of a Child**

### ***On the proposed legislative move to enable transfer of juveniles alleged to have committed serious crime to the adult criminal justice system***

*G was 16 years when she was found guilty of kidnapping a 12 year old girl and selling her into commercial sex work. A victim of trafficking herself, she journeyed through the juvenile justice system with support from the Juvenile Justice team at CCL and DCAP-NIMHANS, and government functionaries. Today she is a confident*

*20 year old looking forward to love and life in the community and here is her message for policy makers:*

I made a horrible mistake of taking a young girl who was my friend to a bad person like S Aunty. I really didn't know what I was doing then; I was so caught up in my own problems and miseries in life that I did not think that her life would be spoilt by my foolish act. I felt really sorry for what I had done and even asked Sunita (the girl she trafficked) for forgiveness when she came to the Juvenile Justice Board. I often pray that Sunita should be healthy and happy wherever she is, I feel like

telling her that I want to help you if you are ever in any trouble, but I don't know how I can do it.

I strongly believe that this new law should never be passed. If every young girl who has committed an offence like the one I had committed also gets the kind of support I have got, gets good advice and guidance from good people, I believe 100% that they will surely become a good person. I am not a bad person; I did a bad thing, because I didn't understand that my action can cause bad things to happen to Sunita. Please give me a chance to live a better life than what my family and society have given me, please give me a chance to do something for other 'Sunitas' by becoming a good mother, a good teacher and a good woman. My own family and village had no place for me and did not want

me back, so where would I have gone other than back to the brothel from where the police caught me? If you had sent me to jail, I would have become a criminal seeing only the bad things of bad people around me. I would have probably become another S Aunty. By sending me to the reception centre, JJB, the NGO - 'X', and this hostel and by giving me a chance to meet so many good people and learn so many good things from them, I have today become a good person and not a criminal.

Please give young people a chance and we will also show you what good we can do for this country. Please do not kill our spirit and hopes by sending us to jail. Help us, guide us, advise us, support us and show us the right path – don't condemn us to a life in jail.<sup>32</sup>

## Voice of Children - Children Vigilance Committee

Children have their own unique perspective on issues which affect their lives. They are able to convey their thoughts, aspirations and demands if they are given the support and enabling environment that they need to articulate their deeper concerns. With reference to the Right to Education, a few children were asked what they thought about changes they may have seen in their school after the enforcement of the Right of Children to

Free and Compulsory Education Act and whether a public examination is required as a mode of evaluation for standards 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. These views were expressed during the Children Vigilance Committee monthly meeting facilitated by the Education team of CCL at its Field Extension Office on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014 as part of discussing strategies for the effective and active implementation of RTE Act.

The children responded that with the implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, facilities like Computers, Inverters (UPS), Scholarships, Uniforms, Books, Pure Drinking water, Toilets etc. are made available. Also children who had dropped out from school or who had not attended

schools have gotten themselves admitted and are attending schools regularly. With the implementation of the Act, instances of corporal punishment have decreased and the children felt it to be a good sign. A few children stated that even with the implementation of the RTE Act, teachers for a few subjects are not appointed.

Children felt that evaluation of 5<sup>th</sup> standard must not be made through a Public examination as at that age, the children do not have an expert hold on the subject and their confidence level decreases if they obtain less marks or fail in the examination. The children pointed out that with lack of confidence, the rate of school drop-outs will increase substantially. They also opined that teachers are not available for all the subjects and the students will find it difficult to attempt such an examination with insufficient knowledge. It also leads to immoral practices such as copying and bribing the concerned teacher for question papers and answers which is not a good form of education. They felt that children should not be forced to compete with their counterparts from cities who have all the required facilities.

## CAPACITY BUILDING of STAKEHOLDERS

CCL NLSIU has contributed to building the capacities of a wide range of stakeholders over the years. Brief highlights of the contributions made to programmes conducted by teams within CCL, or by others for which CCL representatives were resource persons from January 2013 – end June 2014 are as follows:

### JJ Programme

• **Commissions for Protection of Child Rights:** A team consisting of Arlene Manoharan, Dr. Archana Mehendale, Swagata Raha and Geeta Sajjanashetty have provided technical assistance and conducted capacity building workshops for the State Commissions of Bihar, Karnataka, West Bengal, and Kerala.

• **Staff and employees under the ICPS Scheme:** The JJ teams comprising Arlene Manoharan, Anuroopa Giliyal, Geeta Sajjanashetty, and Swagata Raha have conducted several sessions on the JJ Act and the POCSO Act for the staff and employees in Karnataka under the ICPS Scheme.

• **Caregivers and staff of JJ Institutions working with juveniles in conflict with law:** As part of CCL's commitment and efforts to build skills and capacities amongst various stakeholders entrusted with child protection, a half day workshop on "Mental Illness amongst children in custodial care – how to identify the hidden epidemic" was organized on the 23rd of April, 2014. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Satyanarayana Chandragiri, an eminent psychiatrist practicing in Oregon, USA, who has a rich experience of working with children under various custodial set-ups.

• **Judges and Prosecutors:** Swagata Raha made a presentation on 'Ensuring Child-friendly Children's Courts and Special Courts: Issues and Concerns' at a State Consultation on Children's Court and Special Court in Assam on 22-23 March 2014, organized by UNICEF - Assam and NLUD, attended by Sessions Court judges, prosecutors, SCPCR, CWCs, SJPU, and others. She also spoke on 'Compensation and Sentencing under the POCSO Act' at the Southern Regional Conference (for States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu) on POCSO Act, on 16-17 Nov 2013, Chennai organized by the TN Judicial Academy for judicial officers, public prosecutors, CWC and JJB members, police, etc.

• **Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees:** Arlene Manoharan took a number of lectures at the National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development (NIPCCD) – Southern Regional Office, for JJBs and CWCs in the Southern states during this period, She also delivered a lecture at the National Judicial Academy in August 2013 at a National Seminar on Juvenile Justice.

• **Superintendents of Child-care institutions:** On 18 Feb, Arlene Manoharan presented an overview of JJ Act and Amendments and Institutional and Non-institutional services for Children for 30 Superintendents of Child Care Institutions at the NIPCCD Southern Regional Centre.

### Education Programme

• **Capacity building for SDMC members:** Capacity building for SDMC members at the village level was conducted from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June -2014. Training was given to all parents of children in schools. A total of 221 members in which 51 male and 170 female members attended the training programme.

• **Personality Development Training:** One day Personality Development Training for the Field Extension staff was organized on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at the field extension office. Around 20 members including the Core staff and Volunteers participated in the training programme. Mr. Jayaprakash Koglekere and Mr. Krishnamurthy Facilitated the training programme. The objective of the training programme is to bring about personality development with regard to the different behavioral dimensions that have far reaching significance in the direction of organizational effectiveness.

• **Capacity building for SDMC Members:** Capacity building for School Development and Monitoring Committee Members in all the school based villages in the working Panchayat was conducted in the month of December 2013. Around 132 participants were present in which 85 male and 47 female SDMC elected members participated in the training programme

• **Gram Panchayats:** Dr. Niranjanaradhya V.P. participated as a key resource person at the District level workshop for 50 Gram Panchayat Presidents, Vice-presidents and senior members on "the role of Gram Panchayat in the effective implementation of RTE Act" organized by RLHP, Mysore on February 27, 2013.



• **Child Rights Monitoring Committee (CRMC):** Dr. Niranjanaradhya V.P. participated as a key resource person at the Divisional level training for 75 members of CRMC on “ the role of CRMC members in the protection and promotion of child rights organized by Rural Literacy and Health Programme (RLHP), Mysore on February 13, 2013.

• **Members of PRIs:** Dr. Niranjanaradhya V.P. participated as a key resource person at the State level workshop of 250 elected members of Gram Panchayat/Taluk Panchayat /Zilla Panchayat to orient them about their role of PRIs in the implementation of RTE Act at Shikshakara Sadana organized by the Department of Education on January 22, 2013.

## INNOVATIONS UNDERWAY of STAKEHOLDERS

### **Multi-disciplinary Pre-Hearing Case Conferences - pilot programme**

The JJ Team at CCL NLSIU has pro-actively engaged with the Multi-Disciplinary Approach since the last few years. Innovative research on the Multi-disciplinary Pre-Hearing Case Conference tool was initiated in May 2009, and is aimed at deepening inter-disciplinary research, promoting best interest based orders by the Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards and other Courts hearing cases of children, influencing the discourse on child rights law, promoting convergence among actors and stakeholders in cases involving children and the judiciary as well as in related disciplines, and contributing to enhancing the quality of policy, law and professional practice with children. The research and collaborative has strengthened the institutional linkages between CCL NLSIU and the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, (DCAP) NIMHANS, who made an official decision to institutionalize these MDCC consultations as an integral and mandatory part of the DM Degree in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Programme at NIMHANS, possibly leading to this becoming a replicable model for multi-disciplinary research and teaching in Institutions of Higher Education, be it in the field of Psychiatry, Social Work, or Law in the future. More recently, officials from the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka have also affirmed and recognized the potential for this to be a valuable tool for building the capacities of functionaries under the JJ Act, particularly given the need for clarity in roles, in dealing with ethical and other dilemmas, and in working with cases of children who require inter-disciplinary dialogue.

### **Measuring food security**

Measuring the extent of food security or insecurity can lend useful insights into the process of devising strategies for addressing the problem at various levels. There has been a lot of research worldwide to define food security and

insecurity; however, the efforts made to measure the same have been really scant. Many countries including Brazil and the US, have developed measurable indicators to determine the levels of food insecurity among the poor, and several others have made progress towards adapting the same after necessary modifications. The team working in the Right to Food Programme at CCL NLSIU has been making efforts in this direction, which involve examining and reviewing scales being used to measure food insecurity, developing tools that are suitable in the Indian context and pilot testing them .

### **Nanna Jaga Nanna Kalike (My Space-My Learning)**

The CCL education programme has been working on different strategies to ensure quality education to children through its field extension programme in a Panchayat. While working with schools and children, the team found that children in the panchayat lack basic facilities and a child friendly environment as well as a child friendly facilitator who could help them to continue their learning in their respective homes after school hours. Majority of the poor families in the Panchayat face acute shortage of electricity, , lack of separate space for reading and illiterate /semi-literate parents who are in disadvantageous position to help children to continue their learning after school hours. The CCL education team had a discussion with the members of the Children Vigilance Committee and the wider community about the possibility of opening “Community Learning Centres” within the school based villages to provide a conducive environment for continuity in learning. The children and parents were very positive about the proposal, after which CCL initiated a new programme called “Nanna Jaga - Nanna Kalike” conceived from the point of children to provide a unique space for them to continue their learning with the members of their own peer group and more importantly in their own pace during evenings. The programme was inaugurated in October 2010. The education volunteers identified in the

same village are facilitating the 'Nanna Jaga - Nanna Kalike' Centres in 10 school based villages within the Panchayat. The programme has been receiving amazing support from the community and has already made a substantial impact on children learning.

As per the secondary data gathered by assistant village education coordinators, the attendance has significantly improved in all 14 schools. In fact we are monitoring the

attendance regularly as part of planned activity under SDTT proposal. Secondly, the performance of children and active participation in the teaching learning process has also improved significantly. This is evident from the performance of children in the midterm examination and also interaction with teachers by our assistant village education coordinators. There is growing demand from parents to send their kids to NJNK centres.

## RECENT NATIONAL AND STATE LEVEL CONSULTATIONS



From R - L: Kushal Singh - Chairperson - NCPCR, Prof. Dr. Krishnadeva Rao - Registrar NLU and Arlene Manoharan - CCL NLSIU at the National Conference on Juveniles and 'Serious' Crime 2013

• On 30 November-1 December 2013, the JJ team at CCL NLSIU brought together a group of experts from across the country working on juvenile justice for a National-level Consultation on '**Juveniles and 'Serious Crime' under the JJ Act**', which was organized in collaboration with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), National Law University (NLU-Delhi) with the support of CRY, UNICEF, and SDTT. This consultation brought together academics, practitioners, government functionaries and NGOs from varied disciplines such as law, social work, psychology, and psychiatry and reputed organisations and institutions such as Tata Institute of Social Sciences - Mumbai, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry NIMHANS - Bangalore, , HAQ Centre for Child Rights - Delhi, Aangan Trust -Mumbai, etc The delegates unanimously arrived at the position that any proposal to reclassify and consequently discriminate between children by singling out the 16 - 18 year old child for exclusion from the beneficial juvenile justice jurisdiction or identification of juveniles on the basis of extreme nature of the behaviour alone will violate the guarantees under the Indian Constitution, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and international instruments.

• The Department of Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Karnataka had enlisted the support of CCL in order to contribute to the process of drafting the State Rules under the National Food Security Act, 2013. Thereafter, CCL in collaboration with Child Rights and You (CRY) and the Department of Food, Public Distribution and Civil Supplies, Government of Karnataka organized a consultative meeting, at the International Training Centre, NLSIU, on May 12<sup>th</sup> 2014, to discuss the issues pertaining to the issues in drafting of State Rules in Karnataka under the National Food Security Act, 2013.

The purpose of the Consultation was to discuss the methodology and process being followed for rule making, receive feedback on the pros and cons of various alternatives and methods under consideration and thereby strengthen and inform the rule making process for State Rules under this Act.. Members from civil society organizations such as CRY, Right to Food Campaign- Karnataka, Child Rights Trust, Sneha Jeevi Samasthe, Samajik Parivarthan Janandolan, Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN), Eco Foundation for Sustainable Alternatives, academicians and former bureaucrats attended the consultation. The deliberations on various pertinent issues concerning the







provisions of the Act highlighted the need to creatively expand the entitlements and other provisions mentioned therein. Suggestions were also put forward on the need for strong implementation, vigilance and monitoring mechanisms required for effective realization of this new legislation.

- CCL Education team in Collaboration with School Development and Monitoring Committee Coordination Forum (SDMCCF) and Karnataka State Primary School Teachers Association had organized a Mammoth **State Level Convention of SDMC Members** on the thematic slogan “ Save and Strengthen Public Education” at Public Play Ground ,Channapattana on March 16,2013.The Public Rally before the convention was inaugurated by Prof (Dr).R.Venkata Rao, Vice-Chancellor, National Law School of India University from spun silk playground. The State level mammoth convention was inaugurated by Honourable Justice H.N.Nagamohan Das, Judge, High Court, Karnataka.

- A book authored by Dr.Niranjanaradhya.V.P., titled “**Common School System for Egalitarian Society**” (Sama Samajakkagi Samana Shala Shikshna) was released by Kumar.G.Naik, IAS, Principal Secretary, Primary and Secondary Education, Government of Karnataka.



More than 10000 people from different parts of the state attended the mammoth convention. A charter prepared by SDMC Coordination Forum to strengthen was submitted to Secretary on behalf State SDMC

- The CCL Education team has facilitated the state level stock taking convention on the implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act in the State after three years of its implementation in the state. All team members participated in the programme. The programme head of the education programme delivered key note address at the state level Stock taking meeting. The convention was organized by People’s Alliance for Fundamental Right to Education (PAFRE) at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bangalore on March 30, 2013. Around 150 members from all over the state participated in the convention



- The Programme Head of Education team has Participated and Contributed at **the National Strategic Meeting of the Right to Education Forum** to discuss the strategies for effective implementation of RTE Act in the nation organized by National Right to Education Forum at India International Centre, New Delhi on May 27-28, 2013. Around 30 members from 16 states participated in the meeting

- The education team at CCL in collaboration with the School Development and Monitoring Committee Coordination Forum observed the ‘**SDMC Foundation Day**’ on 14<sup>th</sup> June





2013 at Channapattana. The Programme was inaugurated by Dr. Niranjanradhya and presided over by Shri. Ramarao, Director of State Education, Research and Training, GoK. School Development and Monitoring Committee Coordination Forum office bearers from all 33 Panchayats in the block attended the programme

- The Centre for Child and the Law coordinated the visit of Honourable Education Minister from Haryana, Mrs. Geeta Bhukkal on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The Minister had discussion with the Vice-Chancellor and Faculty at the campus. The purpose of the visit was to explore the possibility of academic collaboration with NLSIU to strengthen the recently established Jindal Global Law School at Haryana. Many issues related to academic collaboration were discussed during the meeting which lasted for more than two hours. Later she was taken around for a campus visit by honourable Vice -Chancellor Prof (Dr). R.Venkata Rao. The visit was facilitated and coordinated by Dr. Niranjanradhya.V.P, Centre for Child and the Law in collaboration with Directorate of State Education, Research and Training (DSERT). Senior officials from the education department were also present during the visit.

- The CCL –NLSIU in collaboration with **Sarva Shikshana Abhiyana and Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights** had organized a two day workshop on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> February-2014 at International Training Centre, NLSIU Bangalore on the RTE Act and Rules for senior functionaries of the Education Department.



- Several civil society groups, under the banner of the People’s Alliance for Fundamental Right to Education (PAFRE), in association with the Department of Development Studies, Kannada University, Hampi; the Centre for Child and the Law, National Law School of India University (CCL-NLSIU) and the Campaign Against Child Labour – Karnataka (CACL-K), had organized a **One Day State Level Stock Taking Convention on RTE Implementation** in Bengaluru,

at the NGO Hall, Bengaluru on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014. More than 120 representatives of various NGOs, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMC), research organisations, networks, support agencies and academia took part in this stock taking exercise.



- Glaring discrepancies in the implementation of the Right to Education Act across Karnataka were discussed at a **State level meet** convened here on Saturday by the People Alliance for Right to Education (PAFRE). Each district representative prepared a brief note about the ground realities of the RTE and its implementation at the workshop attended by members of PAFRE, teachers, women groups, Dalit groups and various non-governmental organizations that work in the field of primary education.

- V.P. Niranjanradhya, one of the key facilitators of PAFRE, said apart from the 25 per cent quota for disadvantaged children, there are several other issues that are not being addressed at all. Issues of donations being collected, teachers being burdened with non-teaching work and rampant corporal punishment are some of the major concerns. We do not have a proper redressal mechanism in place either. The Act is not being implemented in letter and spirit

- CCL, in collaboration with the student’s Legal Services Clinic (LSC) of NLSIU had organized Legal literacy programme on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 at the Field extension Office. Vice Chancellor Prof (Dr).R. Venkata Rao, CCL- Faculty Co-coordinator Dr. Ashok Patil, Dr. Niranjanradhya V.P., Ms. Arlene Manoharan and members of LSC participated in the programme. Students conducted awareness programmes on issues like right to education, child marriage etc.

A State level enrolment campaign to admit children to government school was jointly organized by CCL-NLSIU, Karnataka State Primary school Teachers Association



and School Development and Monitoring Committee Coordination Forum. The Programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Education Minister. Symbolically books, uniforms, school bags, shoes etc. were distributed to children joining class I. The thematic slogan was **“Save, Strengthen and Transform Government Schools into Neighbourhood Common Schools”**. Two children who left private school and joined government school were received by the minister.

## Outreach programmes for Children and Families- Juvenile Justice Field Extension Programme

- Awareness programme on Women’s Day: The JJ team commemorated this day on 8th March 2013 by organizing a unique sensitization programme for juveniles alleged to be in conflict with law at the Observation Home, Bangalore about issues concerning women. The programme began with a soulful music programme by visually impaired folk artistes – Mr. Lakshmikant Hiremath, Mr. Channayya, and Mr. Lakshman. This was followed by children singing songs and sharing poems/personal narratives/paintings about the significant women and girls in their lives – all of which generated poignant moments of self-reflection and solidarity among all who participated in the programme – including the staff, NGO invitees and the CCL team itself. A majority of these young boys were either yearning for a mother’s love or were missing the comfort of their grandmothers at home; having spent months in detention with little or no counselling, social work interventions or legal aid, leave alone the nurturing affection of women in the family. For some juveniles who may have been involved in crimes against women/girls, this time of reflection, singing and sharing must have been even more thought provoking. However, given that these young boys are still under inquiry,



the focus of the event was to sensitize all participants to the rights of women and girls, and to honour them for the positive role they play in our lives.

- Yes – I Can – a unique program for juveniles alleged to be in conflict with law: “

A 10 session pilot program for children alleged to be in conflict with the law at the Observation Home, Madivala, Bangalore – Urban and Rural called , ‘Yes I can’ was launched in May,2014 in collaboration with the DWCD, GoK and the Department of Paediatrics, St. John’s Hospital and Medical College, Bangalore. The program is designed drawing the insights gleaned from research done by the team in order to inform submissions to the Supreme Court, on ‘what works’ models of rehabilitation and therapy for juveniles, the team’s own experience of having worked with children in conflict with the law closely for last few years, from principles and methods of counseling, group therapy, life skills, behavior modification techniques and some promising practices being implemented in other countries. It was particularly inspired by ‘Last Chance in Texas’, a book that documented the program run at the Giddings State School for juveniles who had committed





serious offences. The objectives of the program were to build capacity of institutional staff, especially counselors, social workers and Probationary Officers in constructively engaging children in conflict with the law during their stay at the Observation Home, and to create the space and opportunity for children alleged to be in conflict with the law to reflect on their life experiences, experience empathy and have meaningful learning experiences in a group setting. The methodology included role plays, circle time,

conceptual inputs on mutually agreed / pre decided themes, interactive dialogue, reflective exercises, life skills based group games etc, specifically on themes of self-awareness, empathy and responsibility. A total of 14 boys successfully completed this program and were awarded certificates in a ceremony held in the presence of the Observation Home staff, senior officials from the Department of Women and Child Development, families of the juveniles and the CCL team.

## Field Extension Programme- Education (Bidadi)

- A weekend long “Door to Door School Admission Campaign “was conducted from 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014 to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014 by the Education Programme’s Field Extension Staff to motivate parents to admit their children to government schools. All 14 school based villages in Bannikuppe Panchayat were covered through the Programme. Handbills were distributed in all habitations within the Panchayat.



- Around 16 students of the Williams and Mary College, USA visited one of the villages of the Field Extension Programme (Muthurayanagudipalya) as part of their exposure programme on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

- The Panchayat level SDMC Coordination Forum was constituted on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Bannikuppe School. 16 members in which 7 were male and 9 were female attended the forum meeting. Five office-bearers were elected from the 16 member’s executive committee. The roles and responsibilities of SDMCs were explained during the meeting. The forum was created to link the SDMCs with the Panchayat and other panchayat and block level institutions as effective redressal mechanism to address issues related to school through SDMCs.

- Panchayat level BVS coordination forum was constituted on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Bannikuppe School. 19 female nominated members attended the forum meeting. Five office-bearers were elected from the 19 member’s executive committee. The roles and responsibilities of BVS were explained during the meeting. The forum was created to link the AWCs with the Panchayat and other panchayat and block level institutions to create effective redressal mechanism to address issues related to Anganwadis through BVS.

- A meeting of Children Vigilance Committee (CVC) has been facilitated since January 2014. Issues related to effective implementation of RTE Act and other child rights are discussed in the meeting. Children are encouraged to take up the matters related to them with various authorities to address them effectively. children are coming together to create effective pressure group to ensure effective implementation of their rights within the panchayat



- As part of the field exposure, all the Children’s Vigilance Committee members were taken for a one day visit to the Visweswaraiyah Industrial and Technological Museum, Cubbon Park and the Jawaharlal Nehru planetarium.



## THE CCL NLSIU TEAM



Standing 4th row L-R: Mr. Kumaraswamy, Mr. Sangappa Vaggar, Ms. Prathima

Standing third row (L-R): Ms. Shashikala, Ms. Sakamma, Ms. Shruthi Raman, Ms. Neenu Suresh, Ms. Krithika B.S.,

Standing second row (L-R): Mr. Ananth Raju, Mr. Prakash A.G, Ms. Reema Govil, Ms. Anjali Shivanand,  
Ms. Shruthi Ramakrishnan, Ms. Swagata Raha, Mr. Samuel SathyaSeelan, Mr. Nisar Ahemed

Seated (L-R): Ms. Arlene Manoharan, Dr. Niranjana Radhya V.P., Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao, Prof. Dr. Ashok R. Patil,  
Dr. Neetu Sharma, Pushpa N.

### Faculty Coordinator

Prof. (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil  
Professor of Law and Chair Professor  
(Consumer Law and Protection)  
Faculty Coordinator, Centre for Child and the Law  
Faculty Advisor for Legal Services Clinic

### Programme Heads

#### Programme on Juvenile Justice

Ms. Arlene Manoharan, Fellow

#### Programme on Universalization of Quality, Equitable School Education

Dr. Niranjana Radhya V. P., Fellow

#### Programme on Right to Food

Dr. Neetu Sharma, Fellow

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Assistant Project Coordinator

Ms. Anuroopa Giliyal,  
Research Officer-Legal

Mr. Ananth Raju,  
Project Coordinator (Field)

Mr. Prakash A.G,  
Village Education Coordinator (Field)

Ms. Prathima,  
Village Education Coordinator (Field)

Ms. Shashikala,  
Asst. Village Education Coordinator (Field)

Ms. Sakamma,  
Asst. Village Education Coordinator (Field)

### Administrative Staff

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Ms. N. Pushpa, Administrative-in-Charge

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Ms. Kalpana Purushothaman,  
Senior Counsellor & Researcher

Mr. Sangappa Vaggar, Junior Social Worker

Ms. Krithika B.S., Research Assistant

Ms. Shruthi Raman-Research Assistant

Ms. Neenu Suresh-Research Assistant

Ms. Anjali Shivanand-Research Assistant

Ms. Shruthi Ramakrishnan-Legal Researcher

## List of Articles and Priced Publications Centre for Child and the Law, National Law School of India University, Bangalore

### Articles Published from January 2013 – June 2014

1.	Column on the issue of RTE Act is further weakened, (Kannada) - (Attashtu durbalavada RTE Kayde), Vijay Karnataka 25th June 2014, <a href="http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=6035&amp;boxid=142754">http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=6035&amp;boxid=142754</a>
2.	Column on the issue of protecting children from all hazards – (Kannada) - (Avaghadagalinda makkala rakshaneya savalu), Vijay Karnataka 31st May 2014, <a href="http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=13615&amp;boxid=54919562">http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=13615&amp;boxid=54919562</a>
3.	Column on the issue of discrimination in schools (Kannada) - (Shalegalalli innu ulida taratamya), Vijay Karnataka, 5th May 2014, <a href="http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=12980&amp;boxid=2553393">http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=12980&amp;boxid=2553393</a>
4.	Column on the issue of education and development (Kannada), - (Abhivruddhiya Aacheye Ulida Shikshana), Vijay Karnataka 21st April 2014, <a href="http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=12706&amp;boxid=32813983">http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=12706&amp;boxid=32813983</a>
5.	Column on the need to include Education as the prime agenda in the election manifesto (Kannada - (Smart Jana Pranalikeya Sadhyathegalu)), Vijay Karnataka, 22nd March 2014, <a href="http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=11942&amp;boxid=43741568">http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=11942&amp;boxid=43741568</a>
6.	Column on issues relate to RTE (Kannada) - (KusmaPatra RTE ya Ali Tappisuva Hunnara), Vijay Karnataka 3rd March 2014, <a href="http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=11485&amp;boxid=1221193">http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=11485&amp;boxid=1221193</a>
7.	Column on the issue of inadequate provision for education in the Budget (Kannada) - (Shikshana Kshetrada Samasyegala Nivaranega Manassu Madada Bajet), Vijay Karnataka, 17th February 2014, <a href="http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.spx?id=11106&amp;boxid=25922256">http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.spx?id=11106&amp;boxid=25922256</a>
8.	Column on the issue of Legislature's apathy on Education related issues(Kannada), (Adhiveshana Mugiyitu Samasye Uliyitu), Vijay Karnataka 3rd February 2014, <a href="http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=10712&amp;boxid=33313664">http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=10712&amp;boxid=33313664</a>

9.	Column on the issue of medium of Education (Kannada) - (Shikshana Madhyama mattu Rajakeeya Icchashakthi), Vijay Karnataka, 24th January 2014, <a href="http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=10414&amp;boxid=2283484">http://www.vijaykarnatakaepaper.com/Details.aspx?id=10414&amp;boxid=2283484</a>
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**Compilation by:** Reema Govil and Samuel SathyaSeelan

**Published by**

Centre for Child and the Law, National Law School of India University

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