

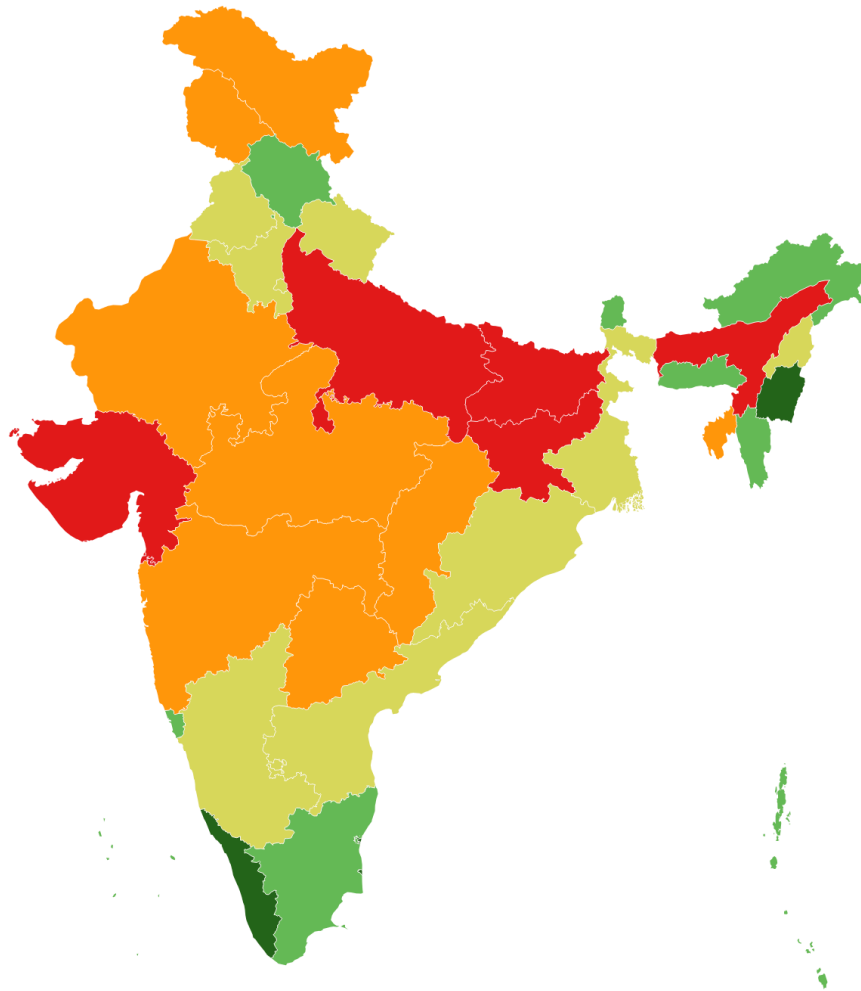
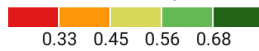


CENTRE FOR CHILD AND THE LAW - NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY

February 4, 2025

Nutrition and Health indicators in Children under five years of age

Total score (Based on
standardised scores)



*Map of the India Child Rights Index launched by CCL.

A standardized score closer to 0 indicates poor performance whereas a score closer to 1 indicates better performance.

Newsletter

July - December, 2024

EDITORIAL

Over the past few months, we have witnessed extremely crucial strides in our work. New partnerships, revived direct community engagement, and exploration of novel ways to strengthen evidence based advocacy for child rights kept us engaged during the second half of 2024. We deepened our engagement with ground level functionaries and also renewed emphasis on the rights and wellbeing of young children. We are looking at the new year with a hope to continue to contribute our bit towards child rights advocacy in the country.

Beginning of 2025 is a time to revisit some of these and use learnings for our work in this year. As we continue to support children in conflict with law through our direct engagement and representation of children in the justice system, we are glad to share our learnings and resources in the form of manuals and tool kits for functionaries in juvenile justice systems and NGOs working with children.

Launch of our project 'Demonstrating a rights based nutrition governance model based on NFSA compliance' in Ramanagara district in Karnataka has opened up an opportunity for testing all our learnings from the research being done on State Rules under the law. Through another project that engages with strengthening implementation of food security law that entered into a new phase, we are looking forward to expanding our work in 12 states across the country.

We hope you enjoy reading this update from the CCL team and continue to support us and to share your thoughts with us.

Happy reading!

Neetu Sharma
Co-Director, CCL NLSIU

CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

Capacity Building Workshop for Social Workers, Legal-cum-Proabtion Officers and Counselors working in the Juvenile Justice System

CCL organised a two day training on “Unpacking Social Investigation Reports (SIRs) for Children in Conflict with the Law”. The training was designed for Social Workers, Legal-cum-Proabtion Officers and Counselors working in the Juvenile Justice System. The sessions were conducted at the Training Centre, NLSIU on the 4th and 5th of July 2024 and saw the participation of 56 practitioners preparing Social Investigation Reports (SIRs) for Children in Conflict with the Law and Children in Need of Care and Protection as per the mandate of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (i.e. the JJ Act). Resource persons for the training included former Juvenile Justice Board members and experts from NIMHANS who covered topics such as working with at-risk adolescents, Child Rights, Adverse Childhood Experiences and available Government Schemes under Mission Vatsalya. At the end of the two day session the participants left with a better understanding of child rights and how to fill an effective SIR in the best interest of the child.



District-Level Capacity-Building Workshop for Gram Panchayat Members, Ramanagara District

A one-day capacity-building workshop was conducted for Gram Panchayat members in Ramanagara District on 18th June, 2024 to enhance their understanding of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 and its associated schemes. The workshop provided an in-depth overview of the NFSA, focusing on its role in ensuring food security and addressing malnutrition at the grassroots level.

Participants gained insights into the Act's legislative framework, key provisions, and objectives, which aim to promote social equity and improve public health. Discussions covered the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Experts detailed the operational mechanisms, eligibility criteria, and benefits of these schemes, with a focus on their impact on vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant and lactating mothers, and economically disadvantaged families.

Interactive sessions encouraged knowledge sharing, allowing participants to exchange experiences, challenges, and best practices. The workshop concluded with an open dialogue, where members shared concerns, sought clarifications, and suggested ways to improve the implementation of the NFSA 2013 and its related schemes. This collaborative approach highlighted the importance of community participation and participatory governance in achieving food security goals.



Capacity Building of Social Work Students and the Community on NFSA 2013 at the MSW Social Work Camp

As part of the MSW Social Work Camp 2024, held in Kampsagar, Hitnal Gram Panchayat, Koppal Taluk a two-day session on NFSA 2013 was organized by Bangalore University, PG Centre, Ramanagara on 31st July and 1st August, 2024. The focus was to build the capacity of social work students and the community on their rights and entitlements under NFSA 2013. The sessions covered key provisions of the Act, including entitlements for priority households, the role of fair price shops, and the grievance redressal mechanisms available for addressing food distribution issues. Participants shared their challenges, including difficulties in accessing food grains and the impact of eKYC linking, in an open dialogue.



Discussions emphasized the importance of strengthening community participation in monitoring and ensuring accountability in the Act's implementation. The session also highlighted the critical role of local stakeholders in safeguarding their rights and fostering collective action to achieve food security at the grassroots level.

District-Level Capacity-Building Workshop for School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs)

A district-level capacity-building workshop for School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs) was organized on 13th September, 2024 in collaboration with the Block Education Officer (BEO) to address the implementation of the Mid-Day Meal scheme under NFSA 2013.

Around 50 SDMC members participated, sharing concerns about increasing prices and insufficient funding for the scheme. Discussions focused on the roles and responsibilities of SDMCs in ensuring the effective delivery of mid-day meals in schools. The BEO assured participants that their concerns would be escalated to higher authorities. This session emphasized the importance of collective advocacy and the role of SDMCs in promoting accountability and improving the quality of the mid-day meal scheme for the benefit of school children.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NETWORKING

Police and Community Engagement Program



Centre for Child and the Law (CCL) and Association for Promoting Social Action (APSA), on the 13th of December, 2024, collaboratively organised a community engagement programme at APSA Dream School, Vimanapura, Bengaluru. The programme was organised as a first step towards initiating a continued engagement between the Police and the children/community. The aim of the programme was for both the children and the police to know each other beyond the realms of 'fear' and 'stigma'.

Police personnel from Jeevan Bhima Nagar Police Station and HAL Police Station attended the event and engaged with the children on key issues such as cyber safety, the importance of reading, and staying informed about contemporary affairs. They encouraged the children to aspire beyond the challenges they face and grow into responsible adults. The program featured cultural performances by children from APSA and an interactive session fostering dialogue between the police and the children. The 'Apprehension and First Production Toolkit', a publication of CCL was also released during the program.



Justicemakers Mela in Bhopal conducted by Agami



Agami, a non profit organisation, in the social justice space that works towards identifying innovative ideas, reframing problems, curating leaders, and catalysing collaborative action, organised a Justicemakers Mela in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on the 29th and 30th of November, 2024. Jova Rachel Joseph and Parvathi R Nair from the Child Protection Team attended the two day mela. The purpose of the Mela was to nurture a diverse community of actors that can work together to reimagine the future of key justice experiences and systems such as dispute resolution, legal services and legal aid, legal literacy, legal education and environmental justice through AI, art, discussions, collaborations and education. The event brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including civil servants, representatives from CSOs, retired and sitting judges, students, and community leaders to discuss and create pathways that serve justice.



KARNATAKA FORCES - FORUM FOR CRÈCHE AND CHILDCARE SERVICES

Online Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop on ECCE by National FORCES

Two participants from Karnataka FORCES attended the online ToT workshop jointly organized by National FORCES and Public Health Resource Network (PHRN) on 6th September 2024. The workshop focused on enhancing knowledge and capacity on Child Nutrition and covered key topics like 'Introduction to the "First 1000 Days": Understanding its significance in child development', 'Nutrition Basics: Overview of food groups, nutrients, and their roles; nutritional requirements during pregnancy and early childhood (IYCF)'. 'Malnutrition: Causes, signs, symptoms, and methods for identifying malnutrition in children' and 'Government Schemes and Policies: Detailed discussion on nutrition-related schemes and their relevance'. The session equipped participants with tools and insights to address nutrition challenges and implement solutions effectively

Karnataka FORCES Meeting and Workshop on ECCE & NFSA

A day-long engagement was jointly organized by Karnataka FORCES and CCL on 17th September, 2024, featuring two key components.

The first component was a Workshop on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) & National Food Security Act 2013 facilitated by Ms. Sudha Reddy and Ms. Sajas, who shared insights from their ToT training conducted by National FORCES. Discussions focused on two critical dimensions: (i) Policy, programmatic, and institutional frameworks governing child nutrition, care, and development and (ii) the linkages between the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 and ECCE, highlighting the Act's role in advancing the right to food and nutrition for children.



The key issues discussed were:

- The need for age-appropriate curricula, adequate budget allocation, and improved quality of education.
- Challenges like the excessive burden on functionaries and lack of departmental convergence.
- Leveraging state-specific schemes to enhance nutrition, education, and care at the grassroots level.

Network members shared field insights, including Fr. Teyol from CNFE, who presented key findings from the study, "Study of Anganwadis in Five Districts of Karnataka, India." The report was circulated among members for further discussion and deliberation.

The second component was a Network Partners' Meeting, which included a review of deliverables from the previous meeting held on May 17, 2024. During the discussion, four priority focus areas were identified, with clear timelines and deliverables set for the next three months to ensure accountability and measurable progress.

Online ToT Workshop on "Integration of Childcare Agenda in GPDP" by National FORCES

Two representatives from Karnataka FORCES participated in the 3rd online ToT session organized by National FORCES. The session focused on integrating the childcare agenda into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) as part of an ongoing campaign. The objective was to guide partners on planning activities to ensure that the childcare agenda is prioritized within GPDP processes. This training emphasized the critical role of decentralized governance in advancing children's rights and well-being at the local level.

CONSULTATIONS

Multi-Stakeholder Consultation: Protecting the Rights of Children living with Disability with focus on Children in Conflict with the Law and Children in Need of Care and Protection



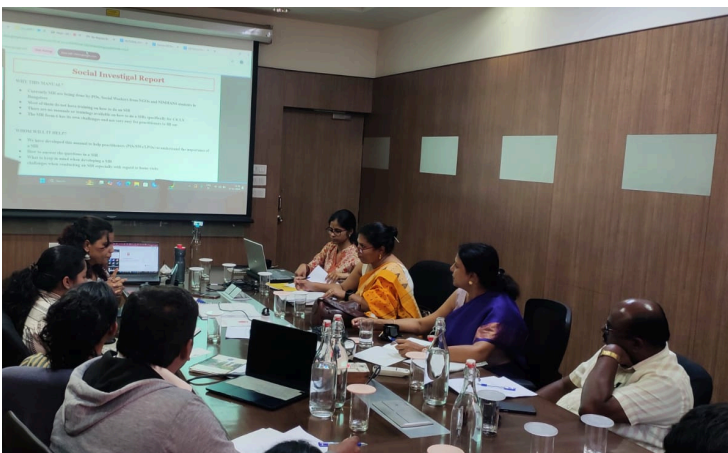
On the 12th of August 2025, CCL was invited to be part of the State consultation organised by Juvenile Justice and POCSO Committee, Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka. The CCL team supported in organising the event at the Judicial Academy, Karnataka and also presented stories of children from the field. The consultation which included 300 plus stakeholders across Karnataka, was inaugurated by the Chief Justice of Karnataka, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V Anjaria and was presided over by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Siddappa Sunil Dutt Yadav, Chairperson - Juvenile Justice and POCSO Committee.

Consultation on Support Persons in POCSO cases

On the 20th of August 2024, CCL in collaboration with ENFOLD Proactive Trust hosted a national consultation on the importance of support persons for POCSO cases. The consultation saw the participation of stakeholders in the child rights space from across India. The sessions included meaningful discussions on the need, challenges and best practices of support persons in POCSO cases from various states.



Social Investigation Report Manual Consultation



An Expert's Consultation was held on the 27th of November, 2024 at NLSIU, to discuss the Draft Social Investigation Report (SIR) Manual prepared by CCL. Practitioners and academics in the field of psychology, social work and child rights law were invited to review the Draft SIR Manual. Valuable insights, comments and suggestions on the draft, were put forth by the experts and were incorporated in the publication.

Multi-stakeholder dialogue on building resilient food systems through food governance

CCL team co-organised a multi-stakeholder dialogue "Building Resilient Food Systems through Food Governance: Practices and Learnings" on 3rd and 4th of September 2024. The dialogue, organised at the India Habitat Centre, Delhi, brought together experts, policymakers, and practitioners from twelve states to reimagine food systems through the lens of governance and marginalized communities.



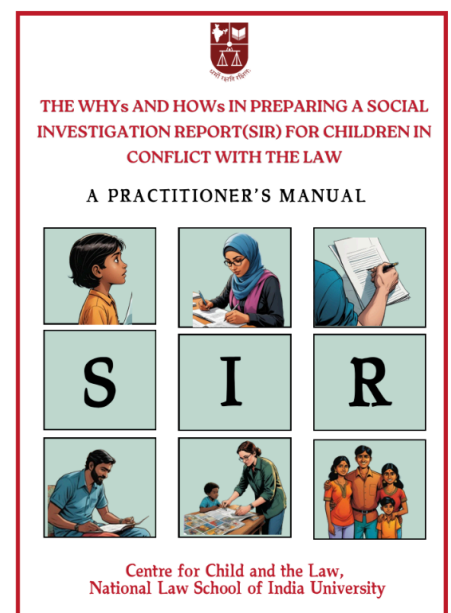
Key discussions centered on climate justice, local governance, gender-responsive approaches, and the critical need for a multi-sectoral, collaborative approach that is sustainable, viable, and accessible for all. The call to action was clear: foster nutrition-conscious decision-making at all levels, leveraging innovative practices from states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, and Odisha. It also facilitated more focused discussions on the role of delegated legislation in advancing food systems. While emphasising the need for a robust governance framework to achieve convergence, promote participation, ensure transparency, monitoring and facilitate grievance redressal, the sessions enabled participants to streamline and articulate action points, commitments and timelines.

RESEARCH

Social Investigation Report (SIR) Manual

CCL released 'The Whys and Hows in Preparing a Social Investigation Report for Children in Conflict with the Law: A Practitioner's Manual'. This Manual has been designed for social workers and Probation Officers (practitioners) who work within the Juvenile Justice System and are primary stakeholders who file the Social Investigation Report (SIR) for a child in conflict with the law. The SIR is a very crucial document that is used by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) to understand the social, economic, educational background of the child. This Manual can be used as a guide to an effective preparation of an SIR for a CiCL, and shall be used by practitioners and researchers in the field of juvenile justice system, in India.

The Manual can be accessed [here](#).



Brief Report on the Working of the Juvenile Justice System in North East Karnataka

The study was designed to understand the Juvenile Justice System from the vantage point of the functioning and limitations of JJBs and OHs in North East Karnataka (NEK). The 6 districts in North-East Karnataka belong to Kalaburgi Revenue Division. Three districts have OHs in them (Kalaburgi, Raichur and Bellary) and three districts have no OHs present (Bidar, Yadgir and Koppal). The study which was conducted over a period of three months from November 2022 to January 2023 was designed as a Baseline-Audit hybrid : the baseline was to examine practices of the Juvenile Justice Boards in the district(s) and the audit to map the existing infrastructure in the Observation Homes against the requirements in the legal framework. The study was submitted to the Juvenile Justice and POCSO Committee of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka and to the Directorate of Women and Child Development to take necessary action to support the enhancement of services provided to children in conflict with the law.

NEW PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

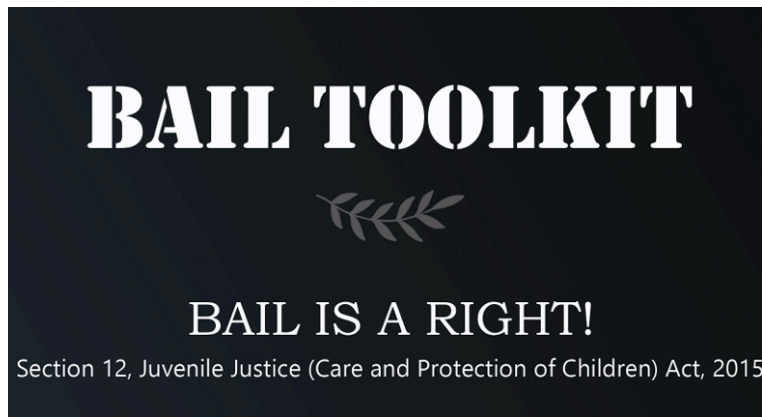
Help Desk at the Observation Home in Madiwala

CCL has established a Help Desk at the Observation Home in Madiwala to offer legal and psychosocial services to children and their families as part of the project "Enabling Access to Justice to Children in the Juvenile Justice System." To enhance the mental and physical well being of the children, two new initiatives were started: Group Therapy Dance sessions and Physical fitness sessions. Ms. Shruthi Ramesh conducts group dance workshops that incorporate dance and mind-body connection exercises. The physical fitness sessions conducted by Ms. Priyanka Lal includes team building activities, action songs, basic yoga and exercises.



Bail Toolkit, Apprehension and First Production Toolkit, POCSO Toolkit and JJ Act Toolkit

In 2023, CCL launched a Bail Toolkit, which was well-received and marked a significant success. Building on this momentum, we also developed and released another toolkit focused on First Production and Apprehension, in an illustrative format that aims to provide information to children and their families about their rights at the time of apprehension and production before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and also discusses the procedure to be followed by stakeholders such as the SJPU, OH staff and the JJB members during apprehension and first production. This toolkit was released during the capacity-building program that CCL conducted in collaboration with the Association for Promoting Social Action (APSA) and two police stations: HAL Police Station and Jeevan Bhima Nagar Police Station.



CCL was asked by the Juvenile Justice Committee of the High Court of Karnataka and the Karnataka Judicial Academy (KJA) to create two more specialised toolkits—one on the Juvenile Justice Act and the other on POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act. These toolkits are specifically designed for high school students in government schools to help them understand their legal rights, duties and child protection mechanisms under the law. To ensure they reach a wider audience and are accessible to more students, the toolkits will also be translated into Kannada.

RTF team launches a new project Demonstrating a Rights Based Model of Nutrition Governance through NFSA, 2013 Compliance

The Centre for Child and the Law, National Law School of India University is launching a new project titled “Demonstrating a Rights Based Model of Nutrition Governance through NFSA, 2013 compliance” in Akkuru and Doddaganganwadi Grama Panchayats in Ramanagara Taluk, Karnataka. This project is supported by Child Rights and You (CRY), for a period of three years (2024-2027).

The project encompasses a comprehensive outline of strategies including ground level systems strengthening, engagement with district and state level systems, capacity building and awareness generation and policy interventions. Some of the objectives that steer this project include demonstrating the model of nutrition governance based on the components and principles of Rights Based Approach, leveraging from existing legal provisions towards improved nutrition of children, women, and marginalised families and advocating for the adoption of a model nutrition governance system as per the National Food Security Act 2013. With the final phase of the project, the project is expected to result in evidence based and robust rights based model that is compliant with NFSA. It will be available for further replication across other districts and states. Further, research based recommendations for State Rules under NFSA will eventually lead to strengthened governance systems under the law and subsequently improved nutrition for children.

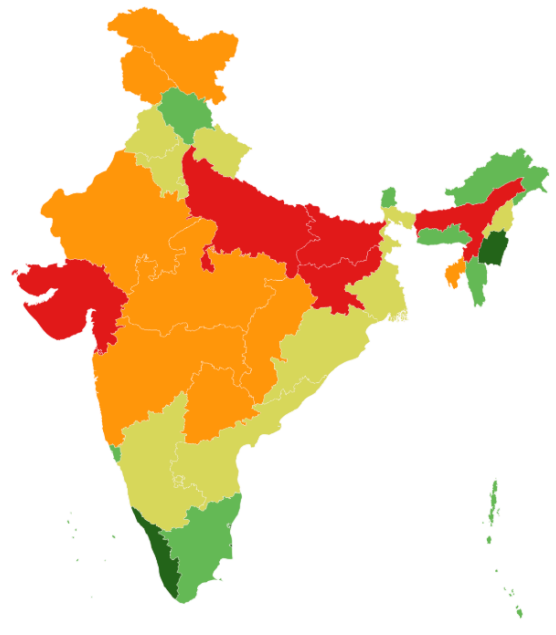
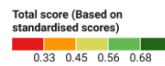
Launch of India Child Rights Index

CCL launched the India Child Rights Index in November 2024. The India Child Rights Index (ICRI) is a tool to understand the comparative status of children in all States and union territories of India in three domains: Nutrition and Health; Education and Protection. The Index is developed based on 60 indicators across these three domains. The index categorises groups of States based on their performance across these indicators, and also ranks them domain wise. A comprehensive index on child rights serves the purpose of drawing attention of the policy makers and other stakeholders towards the gravity of the situation and challenges in comparative terms, while reflecting on the root causes and overarching issues. Most importantly, ICRI is useful in identifying sector wise priorities for each of the States and identifying key data gaps pertaining to child rights.

Explore ICRI at <https://ccl.nls.ac.in/centre-for-child-and-the-law-launches-the-india-child-rights-index-icri/>

Total score (Based on standardised scores)

Nutrition and Health indicators in Children under five years of age



Map: Centre for Child and the Law (CCL), National Law School of India University • Source: National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 (2019-21) • Map data: © OSM • Created with Datawrapper

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