

**CHILD PARTICIPATION\***

**1. GOALS**

1. To promote within the family, community, schools and institutions, as well as in judicial and administrative proceedings, respect for the views of all children, including the views of the most marginalised, especially girls and facilitate their participation in all matters affecting them in accordance to their age and maturity.
2. To make all children aware of their rights and provide them with opportunities to develop skills to form and express their views, build self-esteem, acquire knowledge, form aspirations, build competencies in decision-making and communication, and gain confidence which will empower them to become actively involved in their own development and in all matters concerning and affecting them.
3. To empower all children as citizens by promoting their participation in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of their families and communities and the larger society in which they live.

**2. OBJECTIVES**

The above goals will be achieved through the following objectives:

1. To ensure all families and programme planners, administrators in Government and NGOs and other civil society organisations are aware of child rights and respect the views of children and integrate opportunities for participation in accordance with their age, in programmes and services being planned for them.
2. To ensure that all professionals working with children i.e. judges, lawyers, police, persons working in institutions and places of care, observation and detention homes for children, teachers, health personnel, including psychologists and social workers have the knowledge of child rights and the skills to make services and proceedings child-friendly, inclusive and participatory in nature.
3. To ensure information on child rights, laws and policies are made available in a way that children belonging to all classes and in different situations have access to them and are in a position to internalise their importance and understand them as their right.
4. To ensure informed participation of children in decision-making by

\* Child Rights as per the National Plan of Action for Children-2005

providing access to information that aims at the promotion of their well-being, health, development, protection and participation.

5. To ensure that all institutions and structures created for planning, co-ordination, monitoring and safeguarding of the rights of children provide access to children and provide the space and opportunity for listening to their views, according to their age and maturity.

6. To develop strategic partnerships with families and local communities, administrative and social structures including school management, village councils, local governance committees, etc. to address the traditional constraints to children's participation and create the enabling environment and spaces for participation in the daily lives of children.

7. To regularly review the extent to which children's views are taken into consideration, including their impact on relevant policies and programmes.

### **3. STRATEGIES**

The above objectives will be achieved by the following strategies:

1. Advocate for child participation, especially for the girl child participation, at all levels.

2. Promote good governance in public institutions and civil society organisations and make the provisions and principles of child rights widely understood by decision-makers.

3. Promote access to parents, families, legal guardians, care-givers to a full range of information and services to promote child survival, development, protection and participation.

4. Use public media, print and electronic, to disseminate information on child rights, constitutional commitments and all child-related legislations so that all children are made aware of their rights and protection available to them.

5. Strengthen the capacity of NGOs and children's organisations towards facilitating child participation and providing children with opportunities to advocate with adult institutions for greater respect for their rights.

6. Produce literature on policies, plans, legislations and programmes in a language and format that all children can understand, i.e. produce child-friendly versions, including one of the National Plan of Action for Children-2005.

7. Include information on child rights and children's participation in all training programmes and literature on parenting and for professionals dealing with children.

8. Strengthen children's capabilities for advocacy and participation by supporting their own organisations, building networks by dissemination of rights information and training, helping them access local, national and global processes and policy-making forums.

9. Train children and equip them with

life skills, develop their leadership skills and skills to participate effectively in all situations in their daily life along with adults.

10. Undertake legal and policy reforms to guarantee that children in difficult situations, get full access to information and to ensure that they are heard and their views are taken into account.

11. Ensure that children have appropriate access to effective complaints procedures in relation to family-life, including ill-treatment, alternative care of all kinds, schools and educational services, health services and institutional services, all forms of detention, all aspects of the juvenile justice system, environmental, planning, housing and transport issues and other services affecting children.

12. Encourage establishment of children's groups, councils, associations, and forums and projects in order to create environments in which children are invited to participate and feel comfortable participating.

13. Establish a child-friendly education system that enables effective development and participation of children, encourages democratic, gender-sensitive curriculum, teaching methods, eliminates corporal punishment and incorporates the principle of involving children in designing and managing effective, safe and protective learning environments.

14. Develop capacity of media

personnel and children to produce programmes for and by children and establish monitoring mechanisms to assess the impact of child-centred public information and media services.

15. Engage with children's forums/groups in order to regularly assess and review children's needs, encourage them to speak out on issues, expose abuse and exploitation, make complaints of services, ask questions, raise awareness of problems, press for change in policy, etc.

16. Undertake research to document best practices on child participation. Research on participation in early childhood and middle childhood is important in addition to the traditional focus on adolescence.

17. Undertake special measures to ensure that children in difficult circumstances, particularly in situations of conflict and natural disasters, have opportunities to have their views heard and considered in matters affecting them.

18. Ensure that all programmes are assessed for their impact on children along with indicators developed by children themselves and including their views.

19. Take measures to enable participation of children in the monitoring of the NPA and preparation of the CRC report by supporting local, state and national consultations with children and young.