

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM
CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS

About Centre for Child Rights (CCR)

1. Establishment of Centre for Child Rights (CCR) was approved by Executive Council of NLU, Assam in its meeting held on 19 January 2015 for specialized research, study and teaching (including capacity building of various stakeholders) of issues relating to child rights. The Centre was formally inaugurated on 14th March, 2015.

Human Resources

2. Consequent upon inauguration of CCR, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor detailed the following staff to work in Centre for Child Rights in the month of May 2015:
 - Dr. Vijay P Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law – as Head of the Centre
 - Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law
 - Ms. Monmi Gohain, Research Associate
 - Ms. Jimani Goswami, Accountant
 - Mr. Mukut Deka, Jr Adm Asst.

MoUs

3. In order to augment the activities of the CCR, NLU, Assam signed following MoUs:-
 - (a) National Law University, Assam signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF, Assam Field Office, which came into effect on 01 June 2015 under which UNICEF would provide technical and financial support to the activities of CCR particularly programmes relating to child rights such as capacity building of various state stakeholders; organizing conferences/workshops on issues relating to child rights; undertaking research on issues relating to child rights, developing courses on child related laws, advocacy of child rights and any other work, which is mutually agreed by CCR and UNICEF.
 - (b) National Law University, Assam signed another Memorandum of Understanding with National Law School of India University, Bangalore on 16 October 2015 to for mutual academic benefits in general and strengthening CCR activities in particular.

Activities Since 01 May 2016

4. CCR organized its first programme on 16th May 2015. It was a discussion on 'Let the Juvenile be Juvenile'. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar who spoke about various rights of the children and concluded that the decision of the government to reduce the age of juvenile from 18 to 16 years is just an example of 'Justice hurried, is justice buried'. He maintained that India must honour its international obligation. Ms. Shannu Narayan, Faculty of Law opened the floor for discussion by the legalities of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Amendment Bill, 2014. This was followed by a presentation by Ms. Preeti Priyam Sharma, Assistant Professor of Sociology. She discussed various aspects of sociological needs of protecting

children and advocated against the reduction of age. In this discussion more than 20 students presented the papers covering various themes, which invited intense discussion amongst faculty members and students, who were present in large number. In the end, Dr. Vijay P Tiwari, Head, Centre for Child Rights thanked everyone for their active participation and support.

Feedback of the programme: CCR opened a new window for expression of opinion and practice to speak and advocate one's point. This was highly appreciated by students and teachers all alike. The programme was very successful.

5. CCR organized its 2nd programme on 01 August 2015. This was also a discussion on 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam – His love for children'. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar who presented a beautiful life sketch of Dr. Kalam, his commitment for his mission and love for children. He quoted beautiful quotes of Dr. Kalam, which were meant for children and students. In this discussion more than 25 students presented papers covering various aspects of life and work of Dr. Kalam. The programme was attended by more than 80 students and faculty members. In the end, Dr. Vijay P Tiwari, Head, Centre for Child Rights thanked everyone for their active participation and support.

Feedback of the programme: The programme was very successful and was liked by all.

6. The third programme organized by CCR in collaboration with UNICEF, Assam Field Office, was a 'Two day Capacity Building of Police Officers on Child related Laws', which was held on 21-22 August 2015. Mr. Khagen Sarma, IPS, Director General of Police, Assam and Ms. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights adorned inaugural session as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, NLU Assam; Dr. Tushar Rane, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, Assam were also present in the inaugural session. This programme was attended by 70 Officers comprising of Additional SPs, DSPs, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors coming from 19 districts of Assam. The two day session included topics such as 'Child psychology and development, based on life cycle approach' covered by Ms. Sangeeta Goswami, President, MIND India; Understanding the Juvenile Justice System, POCSO Act, Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 etc. They were also given group task of making charge sheet, etc. in order to assess their level of understanding of law and helping them in solving practical problems. Mr. Mukesh Sahay, ADGP (CID) took a session as resource person besides being Chief Guest of Valedictory session. Mr. Mukesh Agarwal, Commissioner of Police of Guwahati also addressed the participants as a Guest of Honour in the benign presence of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor. Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law and Head, Centre for Child Rights and Co-ordinator of the Programme presented vote of thanks in both, Inaugural as well as Valedictory Sessions besides being a resource person. Important resource persons included Ms. Nupur Pande, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF and Ms. Lalita Deba, State consultant- ICPS, Assam; Ms. Sangeeta Goswami, President, Mind India and Ms. Preeti Priyam Sharma, Assistant Professor of Sociology, NLU, Assam; Mr. Raaj Mangal, Technical Resource Person, New Delhi and Dr. Diptimoni Barua, Associate Professor of Law NLU, Assam, Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law, Centre for Child Rights (CCR), NLU, Assam; Mr. Himangshu Ranjan Nath, Assistant Professor of Law, NLU, Assam; Ms. Nikita Barooah, Advocate, Gauhati High Court, Guest Faculty of Law, NLU, Assam, Mr. Mukesh Sahay IPS, Addl. Director General of Police, CID, Assam and Ms. Monmi Gohain, Faculty of Law and Research Associate, NLU, Assam.

Feedback of the Programme – DGP, Assam Police; Chairperson, ASCPCR, ADGP (CID); Commissioner of Police, Guwahati and all participants appreciated this programme and desired that this should be organized for all other officers also.

7. The fourth programme titled ‘State Level Consultation on POCSO Act, 2012’ was organized by CCR in collaboration with Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and UNICEF Assam Field Office on 04-05 September 2015. Hon’ble Mr. Justice N Chaudhury, Judge, Gauhati High Court and Ms. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights adorned inaugural session as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Shri Vedprakash Gautam, Child Protection Specialist, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Assam were also present in the inaugural session. This programme was attended by 68 participants comprising of Additional SPs, DSPs, Chairpersons of CWCs, Doctors and District Child Protection Officers from all over Assam. The first day was aimed at orienting the participants on impact of sexual abuse on child psychology and important provisions of POCSO Act, 2012, POCSO Rules, Guidelines issued under section 39 of POCSO Act, Criminal Law Amendment Act etc. Important resource persons for this session were Prof. (Dr.) Ved Kumari from University of Delhi, Prof. (Dr.) Nishtha Jaswal, Professor of Law of University of Panjab and Member Chandigarh State Child Protection Commission, Dr. Sangeeta Datta, (MD) Consultant Psychiatrist and Mr. Sachin Sharma, Assistant Professor of Law, NLU, Assam. The second day was devoted for group discussion to find out the level of understanding of the participants of roles and responsibilities and also to underpin the bottlenecks in the implementation of the Act. The presentation of this was given by the representatives of the Groups before Mr. Mukesh Sahay, Director General (Home Guard), Assam Police, Ms. Kavyashree Mahanta, Deputy Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Dr. R. Sarma, Joint Director, Health Services, Government of Assam. Shri V.K. Pipersenia, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam was present in the Valedictory session as Chief Guest before whom Ms. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, ASCPCR and Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law presented the findings and recommendations of this consultation for effective implementation of POCSO Act, 2012 and requested him for remedial action. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor also addressed the participants, both during inaugural and valedictory sessions and highlighted the importance of POCSO Act and roles of participants in its implementation. Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law and Head, Centre for Child Rights and Co-ordinator of the Programme presented vote of thanks in both, Inaugural as well as Valedictory Sessions besides being a resource person. Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law and Ms. Monmi Gohain, Faculty and Research Associate were actively involved as organizer, resource persons and moderators.

Feedback of the Programme – The initiative was highly appreciated by Mr. Justice N Chaudhury, Judge, Gauhati High Court; Shri VK Pipersenia, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam; Ms. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, ASCPCR and all other government officials and participants.

8. The fifth programme organized by CCR in collaboration with UNICEF, Assam Field Office, was a 'Two day Capacity Building of Police Officers on Child related Laws', which was held on 18-19 September 2015. Ms. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, NLU Assam was present in the inaugural session. This programme was attended by 37 Officers comprising of Additional SPs, DSPs, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors coming from 27 districts of Assam. The two day session included topics such as 'Child psychology and development, based on life cycle approach' covered by Dr. Sangeeta Datta, (MD) Consultant Psychiatrist, Down Town Hospital & Nemcare Hospital, Guwahati; Communication with Children by Ms. Aparajita D. Hazarika, Asst. Prof. of English NLUA; Understanding the Juvenile Justice System, POCSO Act, 2012; Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 etc. They were also given group task of making charge sheet etc. in order to assess their level of understanding of law and helping them in solving practical problems. Mr. Mukesh Sahay, DG (Home Guard) took a session as resource person besides being Chief Guest of Valedictory session. Dr. Tushar Rane Chief, Field Office, UNICEF Assam was also present as Special Guest of Honour. Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law and Head, Centre for Child Rights and Co-ordinator of the Programme presented vote of thanks in both, Inaugural as well as Valedictory Sessions besides being a resource person. Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law and Ms. Monmi Gohain, Faculty and Research Associate were actively involved as organizer, resource person and conducted various sessions.

Feedback of the programme: The programme was very successful and was liked by all.

9. The sixth programme organized by CCR in collaboration with UNICEF Assam Field Office, was a 'Two day Capacity Building of Police Officers on Child related Laws', which was held on 26-27 September 2015. Shri Pradeep Kumar, IPS, ADGP (Training), Assam Police was the Chief Guest and Shri N.M.A.S.F. Haque, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police, Guwahati was Special Guest of Honour. This programme was attended by 27 Officers comprising of Additional SPs, DSPs, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors coming from 19 districts of Assam. The two day session included topics such as 'Child psychology and development, based on life cycle approach' covered by Ms. Sangeeta Goswami, President, MIND India; Communication with Children by Ms. Aparajita D. Hazarika, Asst. Prof. NLUA; Understanding the Juvenile Justice System by Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law and Mr. Fr. Lukose Cheruvalel Founder and Director, Snehalaya Chairman, CWC Guwahati Metro; Understanding POCSO Act and Criminal Law (Amendment) Act by Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law. They were also given practical task to be completed in group in order to assess the effectiveness of capacity building programme. Mr. Mukesh Sahay, DG (Homeguard) took a session as resource person besides being Chief Guest of Valedictory session. Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law and Head, Centre for Child Rights and Co-ordinator of the Programme presented vote of thanks in both, Inaugural as well as Valedictory Sessions besides being a resource person. Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law and Ms. Monmi Gohain, Faculty and Research Associate were actively involved as organizer, resource persons and moderators.

Feedback of the programme: The programme was very successful and was liked by all.

10. The seventh programme, in the form of ‘An International Conference on Protection of Child Rights in Tea Plantations of India, with a particular reference to the implementation of The Plantation Labour Act, 1951’ was organized by Centre for Child Rights, National Law University, Assam in collaboration with: Department of Labour and Employment, Government of Assam Supported by: UNICEF, Office for Assam and Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP) Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati, Assam November 14-15, 2015. Mrs. Ajanta Neog, Hon’ble Minister, Planning Development, Judicial, Legislative, Law and Public Works (Roads, Buildings, National Highway) was the Chief Guest in the Inaugural Session and Mr. V.K. Pipersenia, IAS, Chief Secretary to Govt. of Assam was Chief Guest in the valedictory session. Prof. Dr. Mool Chand Sharma Former Member, Law Commission of India, New Delhi was Special Guest of Honour and delivered Keynote speech. Ms. Henriette Ahrens Deputy Representative Programmes UNICEF India, Ms. Laya Madduri, IAS OSD to Chief Minister of Assam Govt. of Assam, Mr. Debasish Choudhury Deputy Director General, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India, Mr. Soumen Ray PPE Officer, UNICEF Assam also addressed the delegates as Special Guest of Honour. The inaugural session was started with the welcome address of Prof. Dr. Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, NLU Assam and special address of Dr. Tushar Rane, Chief of Field Office UNICEF Assam. The conference was attended by more than 150 delegates from Assam, West Bengal and Tripura. Due to some unavoidable reasons, the participants from Tamil Nadu and Kerala could not come. First session on “Overview of the status of implementation of Plantation Labour Act 1951 across the tea growing states of India” was chaired by Dr. Himanshu Pandey, Registrar, NLU, Assam besides presenting vote of thanks in Valedictory Session. Mr. Vedprakash Gautam, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF, Assam Field Office and Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law presented the recommendations emerging from the conference. Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law and Head, Centre for Child Rights and Co-ordinator of the Programme presented vote of thanks in both, Inaugural Sessions besides presenting ‘Way Forward’ in Valedictory session. Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law and Ms. Monmi Gohain, Faculty and Research Associate were actively involved as organizer, resource persons and moderators.

The deliberations were very fruitful and the report together with recommendations would be submitted to The Chief Secretary, Government of Assam and Government of India.

11. CCR organized its seventh programme of Capacity Building of Police Officers (GRP) on Child related Laws on December 10-11, 2015 wherein 37 personnel (Inspectors, SIs and ASIs) participated. Shri Mukesh Sahay, IPS, Director General of Assam Police was Chief Guest in Inaugural Session and Shri Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta, IPS, ADGP (Trg), Assam Police was Guest of Honour. Professor Dr. Vijender Kumar, NLU Assam welcomed the guests. The Chief Guest in valedictory session was Smt. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, ASCPCR, and Guest of Honour was Shri Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta, IPS, ADGP (Trg). Important resource persons were Ms. Neelakshi Sarma and Ms. Lalita Deka, Consultants, UNICEF; Ms. Sangeeta Datta, MD, Consultant Neuro Psychiatrist; Ms. Aparajita D. Hazarika, Assistant Professor of English, NLUA; Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law; Mr. Himangshu Ranjan Nath, Assistant Professor of Law; Mr.

Fr. Lukose Cheruvalel, Founder and Director, Snehalaya, Chairman, CWC Guwahati Metro; Shri Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta, IPS, ADGP (Trg); Ms. Preeti Priyam Sharma, Assistant Professor of Sociology; Adv Nikita Baruah. Dr Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law and Head, Centre for Child Rights and Co-ordinator of the Programme presented vote of thanks in both, Inaugural as well as Valedictory Sessions besides being a resource person. Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law, Ms. Preeti Priyam Sharma, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Mr. Himangshu Ranjan Nath, Assistant Professor of Law and Ms. Monmi Gohain, Faculty and Research Associate were actively involved as organizer, resource persons and moderators.

Feedback of the programme: The programme was very successful and was liked by all.

12. CCR organized its eighth programme of Capacity Building of Police Officers (GRP) on Child related Laws on December 10-11, 2015 wherein 38 personnel (Inspectors, SIs and ASIs) participated. Shri Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.C. Upadhyay, Director, Judicial Academy, Assam was Chief Guest in Inaugural Session and Shri Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta, IPS, ADGP (Trg), Assam Police and Shri Prasanta J. Baruah, Executive Editor, The Assam Tribune were Guest of Honour. Dr. Himanshu Pandey, Registrar, NLU Assam welcomed the guests and vote of thanks was given by Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law, Head, Centre for Child Rights. The Chief Guest in Valedictory Session was Shri R Chandranathan, IPS, ADGP (CID), Shri Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta, IPS, ADGP (Trg) and Professor Yugal Kishore were Guest of Honour. Important resource persons were Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law, NLU, Assam, Mr. Himangshu Ranjan Nath, Assistant Professor of Law, Ms. Neelakshi Sarma and Ms. Lalita Deka, Consultants, UNICEF; Smt. Meenakshi Barthakur, Consultant Psychologist; Ms. Aparajita D. Hazarika, Assistant Professor of English, NLUA; Mr. Fr. Lukose Cheruvalel, Founder and Director, Snehalaya, Chairman, CWC Guwahati Metro; Shri Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta, IPS, ADGP (Trg). Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law and Head, Centre for Child Rights and Co-ordinator of the Programme presented vote of thanks in both, Inaugural as well as Valedictory Sessions besides being a resource person. Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Law, Ms. Preeti Priyam Sharma, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Mr. Himangshu Ranjan Nath, Assistant Professor of Law, and Ms. Monmi Gohain, Faculty and Research Associate were actively involved as organizer, resource persons and moderators.

Feedback of the programme: The programme was very successful and was liked by all.

13. Besides above, the CCR has represented in the following events:
 - a. Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice Chancellor, NLU Assam and Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Head, CCR visited NLSIU Bangalore on 16 July 2015 for discussion on collaboration and signing of MoU.
 - b. Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Head, CCR addressed Chairpersons and Members of Child Welfare Committees in a training programme organized by SCPS, Assam held on 23-24 July 2015 at Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship.

- c. CCR team consisting of Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh and Ms. Monmi Gohain participated in 3 day residential orientation workshop on child protection and education from 6th to 8th September 2015 at Guwahati.
- d. Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Head, CCR participated in Regional Consultation on Strengthening Restoration and Rehabilitation of Children under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 on 12-13 September 2015, at: High Court Sesquicentennial Hall, Kolkata.
- e. Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Head, CCR delivered lecture in a Training of Panel Lawyers for Advancing Lawyering Skills, A Programme by NSLSA On 22- 23 September, 2015 (topic - Women and Law, Child Rights Vis-A-Vis Role of Stakeholders and Juvenile Justice System).
- f. Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Head, CCR, NLU, Assam and Ms. Gitanjali Ghosh, Member CCR, NLU, Assam participated and addressed the delegates as a resource persons in two day National Consultation on Child Rights, Media Ethics and Participation of Children in the Media organized by UNICEF (Assam Field Office) in partnership with ASCPCR at Kaziranga on 31st October and 1st November 2015.
- g. Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Head, CCR, NLU, Assam participated and addressed the delegates as Guest of Honour in the Inaugural Session of Regional Round Table Conference of SCPCRs To Strengthen SCPCRs of North East and Sikkim & Celebration of International Child Rights Day: 20 November, 2015 Guwahati: Assam organized by Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights in association with National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and UNICEF, Assam Field Office.
- h. Professor Dr. Vijender Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of National Law University, Assam and Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Head, CCR, NLU, Assam participated in the deliberations as special invitee in State Level Monitoring Committee on State Convergent Plan of Action on Child Labour in Assam on 21st November 2015 in the Conference Hall of Chief Secretary, Government of Assam.
- i. Professor Dr. Vijender Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of National Law University, Assam and Dr Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Head, CCR, NLU, Assam held meetings with Shri Shankar Agarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India and Shri Dheeraj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment on November 26, 2015 and discussed various issues regarding child protection and handed over recommendation of National Conference on PLA Act held on November 14-15, 2015. They also met Chairperson and Member Secretary of NCPCR and discussed various issues on child protection.

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