



National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam

Course:

BL107-B - Child Rights Law and Policy Governance

Child Rights Law and Policy Governance

This multidisciplinary course explores the complex interplay of law, policy, and governance in protecting child rights. Designed for a diverse audience, it equips you with a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework, policy landscape, and governance challenges surrounding children's rights.

Course Objectives:

- Gain a thorough understanding of the core principles and international instruments that define child rights.
- Analyze the legal framework for child rights protection in national and international contexts.
- Critically evaluate child rights policies and their effectiveness in achieving positive outcomes for children.
- Examine the role of various governance actors in promoting and protecting child rights.
- Develop strategies for strengthening child rights law, policy, and governance mechanisms.

Course Structure:

The course will delve into the following key areas:

Module 1: Foundations of Child Rights

- **Defining the Child:** Exploring the concept of "child" under international law and national legislation.
- **Evolution of Child Rights:** Tracing the historical development of child rights law and policy.

- **Core Principles of Child Rights:** Examining the fundamental principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), including non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, survival, development, and participation.
- **International Child Rights Framework:** Analyzing key international instruments such as the CRC and its Optional Protocols, and their impact on national child rights frameworks.

Module 2: Child Rights Law

- **National Legal Framework:** Examining key domestic legislation protecting child rights in your specific jurisdiction (e.g., Juvenile Justice Act, POCSO Act, Right to Education Act).
- **Landmark Cases:** Critically analyzing key court judgments on child rights and their impact on legal interpretation and child rights jurisprudence.
- **Emerging Issues in Child Rights Law:** Exploring contemporary legal challenges, such as children's rights in the digital age, children with disabilities and the law, and the legal response to child trafficking.

Module 3: Child Rights Policy

- **Policy Analysis Frameworks:** Developing skills to critically analyze child rights policies, assessing their coherence with international standards and effectiveness in achieving child rights outcomes.
- **National Child Rights Policy:** Examining your country's national child rights policy and its key priorities.
- **Sectoral Policies and Child Rights:** Exploring how child rights are addressed in sectoral policies related to education, health, and social protection.

Module 4: Child Rights Governance

- **Governance Actors:** Identifying and analyzing the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in child rights governance, including national governments, local authorities, civil society organizations, and international bodies.
- **Monitoring and Implementation Mechanisms:** Evaluating mechanisms for monitoring child rights implementation and addressing gaps in accountability.
- **Participation of Children:** Exploring strategies for promoting the meaningful participation of children in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Module 5: Challenges and the Way Forward

- **Challenges in Implementing Child Rights:** Identifying challenges in translating legal principles and policies into practical action, such as resource constraints, lack of awareness, and weak implementation mechanisms.

- **The Role of Civil Society and NGOs:** Examining the role of civil society organizations and NGOs in advocating for child rights, promoting policy change, and holding duty-bearers accountable.
- **Best Practices and Innovative Approaches:** Exploring promising practices and innovative approaches in child rights governance from around the world.
- **The Future of Child Rights:** Discussing strategies for strengthening child rights law, policy, and governance mechanisms to ensure the full realization of children's rights.

Additional Resources:

- A comprehensive reading list will be provided, including relevant legislation, case studies, scholarly articles, reports by governmental and non-governmental organizations, and policy documents.
- Guest lectures from experts in the field of child rights law, policy, governance, and social work may be invited.
- Opportunities for engagement with child rights organizations or government agencies working on child rights issues may be offered.

This course content provides a framework for a comprehensive exploration of child rights law and policy governance. By integrating legal analysis with policy and governance perspectives, the course aims to empower you to become a critical thinker and advocate for effective child rights protection strategies.