

Concept Note

National Level consultation on "Promotion of Non Institutional Alternative Care (NIAC) for Children" in Rajasthan

Background

Throughout India, approximately thirty-one million children have been orphaned or abandoned because of poverty, disability, and parental abuse or neglect (UNCIEF, 2009). Institutional care, including conventional orphanages, group homes and juvenile justice homes through various government schemes (Khan, 1991, p. 250), currently comprise the predominant system of care available to orphaned and abandoned children. The burden on these facilities to accommodate growing numbers of children has often become unmanageable, at times, leaving children to live in extremely overcrowded institutions. Numerous international studies (Bode, 2012; Catillo & C. M., 2012; Lassi & S.M., 2011; Maclean, 2003) have found significant adverse effects on children who spend long periods of time in institutional care.

The stage is now set for planning and implementing systemic NIAC including kinship, social relative, foster care, aftercare, etc. Several organizations, such as the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD), Department for Child Rights- GoR, Social Justice & Empowerment Department (SJ&E)-GoR and the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) form the core of this opportunity. In a recent annual report, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (2012) has called on non-governmental organizations and voluntary organizations to participate in the construction of a more robust child protection system, which has particular focus on NIAC. Further, recently newly appointed WCD Honorable Minister Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi called the country to join hands in a push for family-based care.

Rationale

Rajasthan has strong forward movement towards NIAC. In Rajasthan state, there are two main schemes (Palanhar Yojana and Mukhya Mantri Hunar Vikas Yojana) that are working towards NIAC. The aim of Palanhar scheme is to provide NIAC services as financial assistance for children and their education of orphaned children, children of widows/ disabled/ abandoned mothers/ HIV-AIDS affected families/ leprosy /divorce women /remarriage /life imprisonment parents through financial assistance. Approx 1,04,214 children's received benefits in the year 2013-14 from this scheme.

The second scheme is called Mukhyamantri Hunar Vikas Yojana (MHVY) in line of After Care Programme. The aim of this scheme to provide financial assistant as vocational and professional education for Palanhar & resident of children home (who have completed 17 years of age and not more than 21 years) for preparing the care-leavers for independent

living and improving their capacity to contribute to society. Approx 61 children's received benefits in the year 2013-14 from this scheme.

These two schemes provide the financial support to family or children but do not provide social integration, family counseling, parenting, loving care, caregiver training, monitoring, evaluation, regular follow up and streamlining of children to adapt themselves to society and to encourage them to move away from institution based life.

Existing data and status of children in Rajasthan

According to the 2011 Indian Government Census, Rajasthan has population of 6.86 Crores, an increase from figure of 5.65 Crore in 2001 census. The total population of Rajasthan as per 2011 census is 68,548,437 of which male and female are 35,550,997 and 32,997,440 respectively.

Lacking are evidence-based data on the number of children in need of care and protection, Health data and trends are increasingly available in the state, however, child protection figures lack behind. Further, we are unsure about the number of youth and their outcomes after their age out of institutions. Among other agendas, this consultation will stress the importance of collection of evidence based data on which to found government- civil society partnerships and programs as the push for NIAC continues in the state.

Possible opportunities in Rajasthan:

In a country where systemic child protection is still a new concept, Rajasthan has put policy and legislation into action for the good of children. Yojanas such as Aapki Beti Yojana, Palanhar Yojana and Mukhya Mantri Hunar Vikash Yojana are designed specifically with the well-being of children and families in mind. In fact, Rajasthan has been conducting such schemes for almost one decade. However, as with many initiatives at a policy level, the implementation of intended programs is sometimes difficult to ensure. Systemic design tools such as implementation since will help stakeholders at civil society and government levels realize and strengthen these schemes into robust child protection mechanisms.

In India, there are four legal mechanisms allotted in national and state law for child protection: Foster Care, Sponsorship, Adoption and Institutionalization. This workshop will help Rajasthan action a plan to turn the idea of family-based care (i.e foster care (relative and non-relative), family preservation/ gate keeping, sponsorship and adoption into a sustainable reality. The program will use evidence-based research on social change to help inform the creation of sustainable programs that build from the strengths of existing systems and honor their capabilities. The question arises then, why do the existing provided child protection mechanisms need strengthening? The answer is clear, the

systems are only the beginning of NIAC but not the full realization of the UNCRC, JJ Act, and ICPS intended NIAC.

Through this consultation, Rajasthan is positioned to take concrete steps to map together change makers who can champion the cause of NIAC in Rajasthan.

Objective of National Level Consultation

Considering the above situations and status of vulnerability of children, Foster Care India will organize a two-day "National Level Consultation on Promoting Non Institutional Alternative Care" with the support of UNICEF. The overall objective of this consultation is to share experiences, knowledge, barriers, gaps and scope in developing the best model for NIAC in Rajasthan.

Specific objectives

- To recognize and sharing of best practices on 'Non Institutional Alternative Care' in other states.
- To discuss challenges, opportunities and mode of risk management of the best practices.
- To recognize Rajasthan's perspective on the best model of NIAC.
- To develop an action plan for Non Institutional Alternative Care in Rajasthan.

Process tools

1. Call for papers-

- Proposals are expected for presentations from all over India. Consultation presentation should be done in English. However submission of paper must be both in Hindi and English Language. Paper must include overall scenario, best model, barriers, opportunities, gaps and scope of a particular topic.
- Topics for presentation are as follows:
 1. Foster Care
 2. Kinship Care
 3. Adoption
 4. Sponsorship
 5. After Care

Note- Scholars have the freedom to choose any one topic for the presentation.

2. Screening and Presentation- Screening & selection of top five papers along with presentation slide on the basis of formulated indicator for sharing of best practices. Research paper should not be more than 10-12 pages and presentation slide should be 10 slides for presentation. Detailed CV, testimonials and experience of scholar should be attached with the paper. Top 5 scholars will be presented their paper on best practices.

3. Interaction and Discussion- Organizing two days consultation in the capital of Rajasthan with NIAC experts, selected participants from topic presentation, Government officials, National & International Donor Agencies/ Non Government Organization, Police, Health department etc.

4. Inauguration of booklets: Inauguration of booklets entitled “Institutional to Non Institutional Care”, “Foster Child” and “Foster Parent” for information dissemination.

5. Reporting and Documentation: A summation report as well as suggestions to the government will be prepared.

Submission Time: Papers should be submitted by June 27th to Foster Care India through their Executive Director at ianforberpratt@gmail.com. On 4th July, 2014, 5 submitters will be notified on the acceptance of their paper. Those accepted will be invited during workshop for present their paper and Foster Care India will be reimbursed TA/DA and Accommodation according to norms of Foster Care India.

Date &Duration: The two day national consultation program will be held in the capital city of the Rajasthan on 16 & 17 July, 2014.

Venue: T.B.A – Jaipur, Rajasthan

Participants

At State Level- Inside State participants will be expected to participates from Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Department for Child Rights, Rajasthan State Child Protection Society, State Adoption Resource Agency, Specialized Adoption Agency, Civil Society Organization, Child Welfare Committee, Government and Non Government run Institutions, Health department, Save the Children, Plan International, UNICEF, Labour Department, Education Department etc.

At National Level: Outside state participants will be expected to participated from National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Save the Children, Plan International, Expert of NIAC, scholar, UNICEF, Ministry of Women & Child Development, CARA and Central Project Support Unit and Government and Non Government run Institutional.

Outcomes:

- Documentation on best practices on Non Institutional Alternative Care in other states of the Nation.
- Recommendation document for State of Rajasthan on acceptable and sustainable approaches of NIAC.

- Documentation of state level consultation for dissemination to general audiences and stakeholders.
- Action plan and involvement of government in the “forward-steps” from the consultation

For more details contact to-

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State Level Consultation Program On: Strengthening Non Institutional Alternative Care for children in Rajasthan

Foster Care India in collaboration with the UNICEF (Rajasthan)

Programme Schedule

Day 1:

16th July 2014

| Responsibility | Sessions | Time |
|-------------------|---|------------------|
| Foster Care India | Welcome and Introduction Objective and rationale Sharing agenda | 10:00AM- 10:30AM |
| UNICEF | Overview of alternative care of children such as foster care, Kinship care, sponsorship and adoption and Current situation of NIAC in Rajasthan | 10.30-11.15 Am |
| | Tea break | 11:15AM-11:30AM |
| Scholar 1 | Presentation Best Practices on NIAC in the State (Overview, Challenges, Opportunity and Scope for Rajasthan) | 11:30AM-12:15PM |
| Scholar 2 | Presentation Best Practices on NIAC in the State (Overview, Challenges, Opportunity and Scope for Rajasthan) | 12.15- 1.00 PM |
| UNICEF and FCI | Open Discussion | 1.00-1.30 PM |

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| | Lunch Break | 1.30- 2.15 PM |
| NIAC expert | Presentation Ways to promote NIAC in Rajasthan Role of NGO and government departments in implementation of NIAC | 2.15-2.30 |
| Scholar 3 | Presentation Best Practices on NIAC in the State (Overview, Challenges, Opportunity and Scope for Rajasthan) | 2.30-3.15 |
| Scholar 4 | Presentation Best Practices on NIAC in the State (Overview, Challenges, Opportunity and Scope for Rajasthan) | 3.15-4.00 |
| | Tea Break | 4:00PM- 4:15PM |
| Scholar 5 | Presentation Best Practices on NIAC in the State (Overview, Challenges, Opportunity and Scope for Rajasthan) | 4.15-5.00 |
| UNICEF | UNICEF'S efforts on promoting alternative care | 5:00PM- 5:30PM |
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Day 2:

17th July 2014

| Responsibility | Sessions | Time |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Foster Care India | Welcome and agenda of the day | 10:00AM-10:15AM |
| Foster Care India | Recap | 10:15AM-10:30AM |
| UNICEF and Foster Care India | Launching of three booklets and one training module on NIAC | 10.30-10.45 AM |
| Tea and snacks | | 10:45AM- 11:00AM |
| Expert 5 (Name of organization) | Existing schemes related to NIC running in Rajasthan Palanhar Scheme Mukhyamantrihunarvikasyojana | 11:00AM- 11:30PM |
| Foster Care India | Interactive session, voices of youth on family based care | 11:30 PM-12:00 PM |
| Expert panel (1 person) | Group Activity- Participants divided into 4 groups. Groups will present their views on: Group1- Challenges and future of | 12:00PM- 1:00PM |

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| | <p>adoption</p> <p>Group2- Challenges, future and acceptability of foster care(unrelated families)</p> <p>Group3- Challenges, future and acceptability of kinship care (related families)</p> <p>Group 4-Challenges, future and ways to implement sponsorship</p> | |
| UNICEF Foster Care India | Recommendations and calls to action – changing the way Rajasthan cares and protects children: strengthening NIAC in Rajasthan state | 1:00PM- 1:45PM |
| Foster Care India | Vote of thanks | 1:45PM- 2:00PM |
| Lunch | | 2:00PM- 3:00PM |

Note- Programme Schedule should be modified during National Level Consultation.