CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL PERSPECTIVE

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Sustainable Development Goal Perspective

PREFACE

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have laid down an unprecedented ambition to address a myriad of problems faced by the world such as poverty, gender discrimination, entitlements and issues faced by children. India achieved certain milestones under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to poverty alleviation, quality education, child malnutrition, gender inequality, sanitation and prevention of open defecation and environmental degradation. However, challenges are mounting especially with respect to child protection and gender inequality and these require urgent attention, and quick and pragmatic action. India is home to the largest number of children in the world, hence, growing concerns about protection and well-being of children, including girls, need to be addressed as a top priority.

Plan India has been active in taking the cause of children forward, especially girls, who are deprived of their basic rights to quality education, health care, sustainable employment. Violence against girls and women, cases of abuse along with child trafficking and sexual exploitation, child labour and the issue of missing children are on the rise that not only affect India's economy and aggravate poverty but also contribute to degeneration of the socio-cultural milieu at large. It has, therefore, taken on the cause of children and especially girls, with all seriousness. Plan India, through its 'Plan for Every Child' initiative has organised state and regional consultations that culminate in a national conference on Children in Difficult Circumstances (CIDC), with a view to developing a national platform that will ultimately bring about change in the lives of these children.

The salient objectives of the initiative are as below:

a) Provide a national platform to foster dialogue and develop sustainable and innovative ideas to address the core issues of CIDC based on the understanding and awareness about the causes and consequences of CIDC.

b) Review government policies, address glaring gaps, advocate and mobilise support and develop knowledge management systems to ensure effectiveness of relevant programmes.

c) Bring the voices of the most vulnerable in society, to the forefront, by engaging relevant stakeholders.

This report is a compendium of current issues pertaining to CIDC, specifically on Child Marriage, Child Trafficking, Child Labour and Children Affected by AIDS (CABA). In this report, Plan India has also outlined an SDG Tracker to measure progress on solutions for CIDC.

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ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
BBBP	BetiBachaoBetiPadhao
BE	Budget Estimates
BSS	Behavioural Surveillance Survey
CABA	Children Affected by AIDS
CIDC	Children in Difficult Circumstances
CLPRA	Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act
CRS	Civil Registration System
CSR	Child Sex Ratio
CVM	Condom Vending Machine
DLHS	District Level Household and Facility Survey
HBNC	Home-Based Newborn Care
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme
IMNCI	Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
IPC	Indian Penal Code
ITPA	Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act
KGBV	Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalaya
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDM	Mid-Day Meal
NACO	National AIDS Control Organisation
NACP	National AIDS Control Programme
NBCS	New Born Care Scheme
NCPCR	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NCRB	National Crime Records Bureau
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
NITI (Aayog)	National Institution for Transforming India

NPEGEL	National Programme for the Education of Girls at the Elementary Level
NREGS	National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
NSSO	National Sample Survey Organisation
PLHIV	Persons Living with HIV
RE	Revised Estimates
SBA	Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SGSY	Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
SSA	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
U5MR	Under Five Mortality Ratio
U-DISE	Unified-District Information System For Education
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WPR	Work Participation Rate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Children constitute over 39 per cent of India's population—the highest such percentage in the world. The Constitution of India mandates that the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring "that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment". India is also a signatory to various international covenants that promote human rights and make commitments to the rights of boys and girls. To honour this promise, the Government of India has, over the years, made several efforts through its policies, laws and programmes, to ensure all its children, their rights to survival, protection, development and participation. Yet, there remain millions of children who continue to be denied their basic rights and entitlements owing to their situation and the inability of government structures to reach them.

Children are in especially difficult circumstances when their basic needs for food, shelter, education, medical care, or protectionand security are not met. Such children are at great risk of suffering from malnutrition, disease and even death. Unless their own situation changes, their condition of gross disadvantage will extend to their children in turn, who may suffer even greater misery and suffering. Disruptive social change underlined by extreme poverty is a principal cause of the growing numbers of children in difficult circumstances in India. This is further extenuated by a lackadaisical approach towards the implementation of programmes and policies.

The year 2015 marks an end of the era of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which drove the global development agenda since the new millennium.

The MDGs have paved the way for more robust and inclusive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the world will strive to achieve over the next fifteen years beginning from the year 2016. It is an opportune moment to reflect upon the successes of and the lessons learnt from the MDGs and the possible way forward for achieving the ambitious and inclusive agenda of SDGs.

The SDGs are hailed for taking as their starting point the exclusions in MDG, such as focusing on the most deprived and excluded sections of society. The SDGs also have a special focus on children in several important ways. The entire agenda is important for children, given the impact all the goals will collectively have on today's children. These goals will also have a lasting impact on them as adults due the cohesive nature of the goals and their specific commitments. Whilst many welcome SDGs for their comprehensive nature, universal applicability and breadth of ambition, there are still various categories of Children in Difficult Circumstances (CIDC) which need to be adequately addressed.

This context provides an opportunity for a new conversation that places children at the heart of India's national vision. Despite the fact that India has had the fastest rate of economic growth in the last 15 years, the situation of children in the country has not changed much, which makes it imperative that to achieve the transformative agenda, we keep special focus on children.

Plan India, through this report, has made an attempt to understand the situation of children with respect to relevant SDGs. The report also advocates for the development of an SDG tracker for the most vulnerable section of children or the CIDC, to understand how India scores on the development agenda targets and what the possible challenges of achieving these targets are.

The key Highlights of the report are:

Though 10 out 17 SDGS goals are currently influencing the CIDC, in specific only 28 out of 169 sub goals have influence over the CIDC; hence more inclusive programming in other goals is required.

In Child Labour[1], over the years there has been a decline in the numbers observed at the national level (12666377 in 2001 to 11720724, which is a 7.5% decline) ; but there has been an increase within the states , especially states like UP (1927997 in 2001 to 2540375 in 2011 , 31% increase) , Goa (4138 in 2001 to 11322 in 2011, more than 100% above increase) , Uttarakhand(70183 in 2001 to 91436 in 2011 , 30% increase) , Kerala (26156 in 2001 to 57602 in 2011) and Himachal Pradesh . Hence a deeper study to be carried out with respect to child

[1] Child Labour is the practice of having children (5–14 age group) engage in economic activity, on part- or full-time basis.

poverty in order to see the correlation between increasing child labour and other factors like tourism, natural disasters etc.

There needs to be a comprehensive campaign on the reporting of crimes against children and also a multi-faceted data monitoring system for crimes against children , as currently NCRB data is the only source of such data, and there is often a mismatch between data reported and the actual on-field findings.

Plan India In this report proposes an SDG Tracker for CIDC with a twin objective of understanding the existing statistical capacity in the country and simultaneously highlighting the challenges, gaps and opportunities to track the SDGs and exploring the extent to which existing Indian indicators are aligned with global requirements. This tracker can be used by other CSO in the development spectrum.

Finally, there has to be a conscious policy focus on children and redistribution of expenditure to reach the targets. As the time frame set out for achieving the SDGs has started, it is fitting to take stock of the present status and plan for the distance that is yet to be traversed; to take bold and corrective measures; and to secure the country's future with inclusive and sustainable development.

INTRODUCTION

The child population in India constitutes 39 per cent of the population of children[2] in the world. India is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child[3]. It requires from its signatories a commitment that the last child should come first and all the entitlements of all children must be met.

The Constitution of India mandates that the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring "that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment". Yet, there remain millions of children who continue to be denied their basic rights and entitlements owing to their situation and the inability of government structures to reach them. In India, there are challenges such as extreme poverty, illiteracy, uncontrolled growth of families and the like, and with this the number of children needing care and protection increases. There are also various difficulties like working in exploitative situations, living away from biological parents or living with adopted families, survivors of armed conflict, sexual abuse/exploitation, trafficking and child labour. Additionally, problems like HIV/AIDS and different epidemics further increase the extent of the problem. Disruptive social change is the principal cause of the growing number of children in difficult circumstances in India. Therefore the need to protect some children is certainly greater than anything else, due to their specific socio-economic and political circumstances and geographical location. They are more vulnerable in terms of the risks to their right to survival, development, protection and participation.

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[2] Census 2011 – Children of age below 18 years

[3] http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx

The Government of India in the National Plan of Action following the National Policy for Children in 2013 aims at 'Putting the Last Child First'. The Government of India's draft National Plan of Action for Children 2016 also recognises the country's commitment to safeguard and protect the rights of its children. In this context, the Children in Difficult Circumstances (CIDC) are the prime focus and it ranges from children who are victims of child rights violation as well as children deprived of their basic survival, education, health and protection needs.

The children in especially difficult circumstances can be categorised in the following way:

"Children in especially difficult circumstances (CIDC) are those children who are for shorter or longer periods in their lives, exposed to intense multiple risks to their physical and mental health. A common characteristic of these children is that they lack proper adult care and protection and that they lead their lives outside mainstream society"- UNESCAP (2008)

Various categories of Children in Difficult Circumstances	
A. Place of Stay (shelter)	• Children living in slums • Migrant Children • Children of Nomads • Children of Prisoners • Street Children
B. Children living in poverty	• Abandoned and homeless children • Begging children • Child labor • Children in severe poverty
C. Children affected by natural calamities/disasters	• Children affected by natural disasters • Children affected by violence
D. Children subjected to abuse	• Children in prostitution • Children of prostitutes • Sexually abused children • Sexually exploited children
E. Children affected by AIDS	
F. Children working in hazardous occupations	
G. Missing and trafficked children	
H. Children affected by social customs like child marriage	
I. Juvenile offenders	
J. Drug addict children	
K. Children and disability	
L. Orphan children	
M. Children born as eunuchs	

As far as India is concerned, the issue of CIDC is fairly large, especially because of its considerable child population. Poverty in rural India coerces its children to live in difficult conditions. In urban establishments unsettling societal changes occurring with rapid urbanisation is a major cause of increasing numbers of CIDC. The swift pace of development and inequitable income distribution have instigated changes that have negative implications on the concept of family and its traditional role as a support system, thus weakening the organizational structure of the community. The pursuit of a better life is pushing uneducated parents to migrate to cities and hunt for difficult or even non-existent jobs resulting in people ending up being poorer, with their children living in overcrowded slums and streets making them vulnerable to difficult conditions.

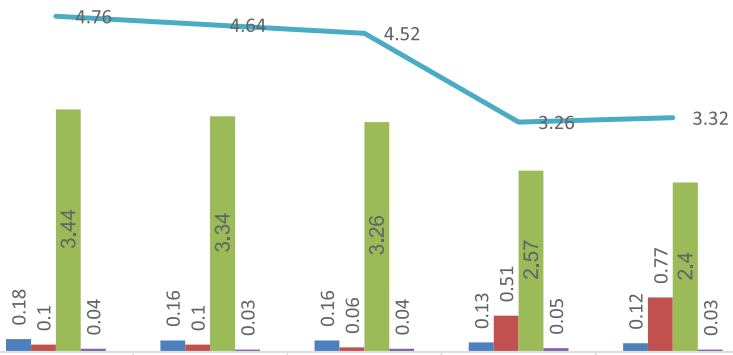
Children are also vulnerable to crimes such as commercial and sexual trafficking and natural calamities. Addiction to illicit drugs among children below 18 is also a growing trend in India affecting the social, financial and mental health of a large number of families[4]. Children affected by AIDS (CABA) need special mention and attention. Children from these and other difficult circumstances are vulnerable to multiple risks related to their mental and physical health. Children from these groups are in immediate need of interventions and support through government and non-government institutions/organizations/bodies. To cater to the needs of the children the government has initiated various schemes and programs like Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), BetiBachaoBetiPadhao Campaign, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, SABLA, SAKSHAM, and suchlike. It is important to protect children from any perceived or real danger or risk to their lives, their personhood and their precious childhood. Protection is every child's right and some children are more vulnerable than others and require more attention and care. In addition to providing a safe environment for these children, there is a need to ensure that all other children also remain protected. The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is one such scheme which significantly contributes to the realization of Government/State responsibility for creating a system that will efficiently and effectively protect children.

- According to the 264th Report [5]of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, the percentage

[4] Substance use and addiction research in India, P. Murthy, 2010.

[5] [Parliament of India, Rajya Sabha (February 2015), Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, Two Hundred Sixty Fourth Report, The Juvenile Justice (Care And Protection Of Children) Bill, 2014, Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 25th February 2015 and Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 25th February 2015, p 39. Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi. Available on: www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Juvenile%20Justice/SC%20report-%20Juvenile%20justice.pdf]

Budget Expenditure Related to Children (in per cent)



	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Health BE	0.18	0.16	0.16	0.13	0.12
Development BE	0.1	0.1	0.06	0.51	0.77
Education BE	3.44	3.34	3.26	2.57	2.4
Protection BE	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.03
Share of Children in Union Budget	4.76	4.64	4.52	3.26	3.32

share of children's budget within the Union Budget has been reduced from 4.76% in 2012-13 to 4.64% in 2013-14 [para 3.44, pg.39]. Budget for Children analysis undertaken by HAQ: Centre for Child Rights in India also reveals a consistent decline in children's budget in the last few years, going down from 4.52% in 2014-15 to 3.26% in 2015-16. The dip in the financial year 2015-16 is huge and there are no answers as to how this will improve the children's condition.

- Inadequacy in public spending on child protection and juvenile justice is reflected in the fact that on an average, in the last ten years, child protection received only 3 paise out of every 100 rupees spent by the Union of India. Analysis of flagship programmes like the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, which is the vehicle for implementing juvenile justice and child protection, shows poor financial planning, abysmal funding and huge under-spending. The report further highlights that of all sectors, the budget for child protection has always been the lowest and in 2015-16 it is only 0.04% of the total union budget. This covers juvenile justice systems, child labour and provisions for orphan and street children. Further, the report says, "These low investments result in different financial outlays in different states. The training support is not uniform and the secretariat support to CWC and JJB is limited and most importantly the investment into developing infrastructure is negligible."
- The share for children in the Union Budget 2016-17 goes up to 3.32%, a slight increase from 3.26% in the year 2015-16. Although this small increase

is welcome after the drastic decrease of almost 30% which we saw last year, it still does not compensate for the falling share for children in the budget over the years.

- Share of children in all sectors except child development has decreased both in the Union Budget and within the Budget for Children (BfC). As always, health and protection remain the most under-resourced sectors.
- There has been a significant decrease of 14.39% in the share of allocations this year as against an increase of 26.57% in child protection allocations last year. This is particularly worrying that this cut in budget is made despite the increase in crimes against children as well as the increase in the number of children coming in conflict with the law. Even as a proportion in the Union Budget, it has declined from 0.05% in 2015-16 to 0.03% in 2016-17, going back to the situation that existed in 2013-14. This reflects the very low priority accorded to the protection of children despite all the lip service from legislators and members of the government. At a time when there is need for increased investment in child protection, a decline is bound to give a major setback to the most vulnerable and unprotected children of India. It also amounts to ignoring the various Supreme Court directions for strengthening the child protection system.

- Statement 22 (a separate budget statement on children related scheme) of 2015-16 Union Budget, explained “the heavy cuts towards children specific Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) on account of enhanced devolution of Union Taxes to States as recommended by the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) and to keep the Budget for such programmes unchanged, States are to contribute from their enhanced resources” . The Fourteenth Finance Commission recommended that the share of the states in the divisible pool of taxes should be increased to 42% from 32%.
- As a proportion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the expenditure on education was reported in the Economic Survey of 2015-16 to be hovering around 3 per cent between 2008- 09 and 2014-15. This, despite an age-old goal of reaching at least 6% of GDP.
- Not only does the child protection sector remain the most under-resourced, the 2016-17 budget clearly does not offer much solace with the allocation for Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) down by 1.3%. The allocation for ICPS scheme for Financial Year 2015 – 2016, was 402 crore compared to 397 crores, the allocation for Financial Year 2016- 2017 which shows a straight dip by 1.25%

The government of India has reiterated its commitment towards the welfare of children but the allocation of financial resources for social security programmes and programmes related to children in particular does not seem to confirm these assurances of commitment. There have been drastic cuts in the budget expenditures for children in the national budget. In the Union Budget, allocation for the health of the child has seen a consistent decline over the last five years, going down from 0.18% in 2012-13 to 0.12% in 2016-17, showing the low priority actually accorded to this sector over the years.

Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), for example requires additional funds with the newly enacted JJ Act, 2016; there are mandates of bringing on board experts, psychologists, and counsellors, for proper rehabilitation and repatriation of children in difficult circumstances. It must be noted that these facilities do not exist in India. Unless the financial provisions are made for facilitating these mandates and these establishments in the upcoming budget for children related schemes, the ICPS will be quite ineffective. In addition to this, there is also a need to strengthen the implementation modalities of the various schemes for children. For example, several civil societies have mentioned thatthe child marriage prohibition officers needs to have capacity-building programmes for strengthening their roles and responsibilities. There is scope for improvement for similar initiatives to ensure that the intended purposes of the schemes reache the actual beneficiaries.[6]

[6] CIDC Regional Consultation , Vijayawada , Andhra Pradesh

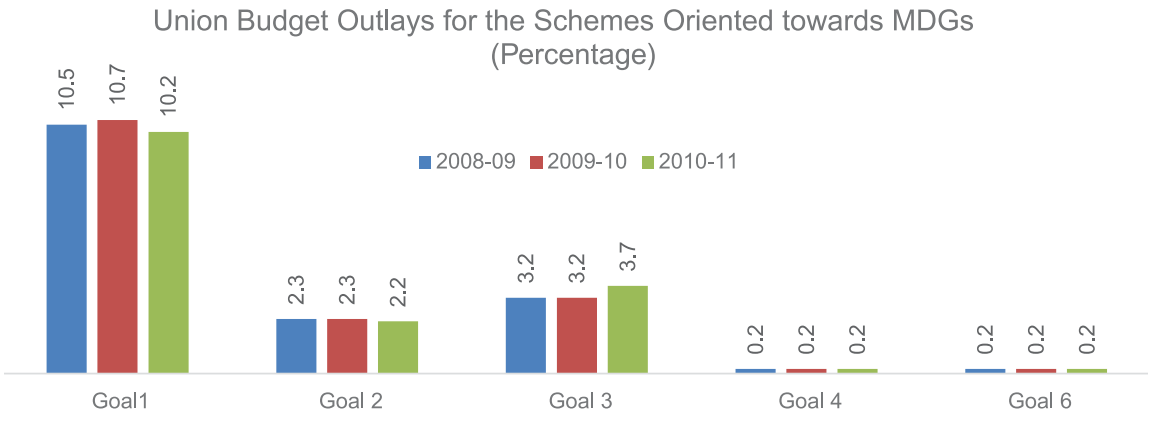
CIDC AND MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL PERSPECTIVE

As our civilization embarked upon the 21st century, leaders across the world committed their nations to a new global partnership setting a series of targets and related indicators to build a safer, more prosperous and equitable world. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight important targets that all 189 UN member states agreed to attempt achieving by the year 2015. The United Nations Millennium Declaration, signed in September 2000 committed global chiefs to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. In a major push to accelerate progress on human development, developing and developed countries across the world pledged resources over fifteen years of validity of these goals.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the world's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. They are also basic human rights, the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter, and security as pledged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The goals were set with an aim to ensure that 350 million fewer people, who were without safe drinking water, and 650 million fewer people, living without the benefits of basic sanitation, would lead healthier and more prosperous lives. Hundreds of millions more women and girls would go to school, access economic and political opportunity, and have greater security and safety. Behind these large numbers are the lives and hopes of people seeking new opportunities to end the burden of grinding poverty and contribute to economic growth and renewal.

India too was a signatory to the Millennium Declaration adopted at the United Nations General Assembly, 2000, and has constantly restated its pledge towards the eight development goals. It included all the eight goals with 12 (Targets 1 to 11 & 18) out of 18 targets which were relevant to India.

The expenditure from the union budget over the years accounted for more than half the budgetary requirements in the country. Rest came from the exchequer of the states. Interventions relevant from the perspective of the MDGs are in the form of development programmes / schemes. The budget allocated to the schemes, in line with attaining MDGs, has been 10000 crores every year since 2011. Devotion of 18.7 per cent of the Union budget towards schemes for the attainment of MDGs was a serious effort by the government in the direction of social welfare. However, apparently, the problem was in reaching the target population. The table below provides a glimpse into the budget outlays for MDGS for three years. The budget outlays have been given for the relevant schemes against each goal. The schemes are mentioned in the table providing the status of MDGs. It can be seen from the table that the budget outlays have decreased from 2011 to 2013 with respect to a few goals whereas, for others, the budget outlays remained somewhat constant. This indicates the lack of commitment on part of government in achieving the targets.



Union Budget Outlays for the Schemes Oriented towards MDGs						
MDG Goals	2008-09 RE		2009-10 RE		2010-11 RE	
	Union Budget Outlays for the Schemes Oriented towards the Goal (in RsCrore)	**As a Proportion of Total Outlay from the Union Budget (in %)**	**Union Budget Outlays for the Schemes Oriented towards the Goal (in RsCrore)**	**As a Proportion of Total Outlay from the Union Budget (in %)**	**Union Budget Outlays for the Schemes Oriented towards the Goal (in RsCrore)**	**As a Proportion of Total Outlay from the Union Budget (in %)**
Goal1	94526	10.5	109129	10.7	112747	10.2
Goal 2	20310	2.3	20459	2.3	24440	2.2
Goal 3	28874	3.2	33015	3.2	40818	3.7
Goal 4	1438	0.2	1935	0.2	1914	0.2
Goal 6	1978	0.2	1820	0.2	2341	0.2
Source: http://www.cbgaindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/MDGs-Union-Budget.pdf						

Status of MDGS in Context of CIDC

CIDC require government intervention and support to achieve better social standing. With the advent of MDGs, the efforts received a push in the right direction. The following table recalls the present status of specific indicators linked to precise targets which conclude the goals applicable to the CIDC and the budget assigned to them.

The MDGs were pivotal in providing a case for mutual collaboration between nations to achieve common targets. They also helped in bringing out a much needed focus and pressure on basic issues faced by children in these countries, which in turn led the governments at national and sub-national levels to plan better and implement more thorough policies and programmes. The goals to alleviate the conditions affecting the CIDC, though not comprehensive and inclusive, were practical and easy to communicate, with a clear quantifiable and conclusion-based mechanism. However, there was no central or empirical monitoring system in place which could be used for statistical tracking of the MDGs. In absence of such a system it is very difficult to arrive at any status report. of MDGs.

GOAL	TARGET	INDICATOR	STATUS	SCHEMES
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	Prevalence of underweight children under 3 years of age	The National Family Health Survey (2015-2016) shows that, the proportion of under-weight children below 3 years of age declined from 43% in 1998-99 to 40% in 2005-06. Although, the rate of decline saw a surge after2005-06 and the proportion of underweight children below 3 years of age reduced to 33% by 2015, still India finds itself far away from the target.	Targeted Public Distribution Scheme, Mid-Day Meals , Antyodaya Anna Yojana, NREGS, Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Indira Awaas Yojana
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education	Ensure that by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary education	Net enrolment ratio in primary education. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men	The Net Enrolment Rate (NER) in primary education (age 6-10 years) was estimated at 84.5 per cent in 2005-06 (U-DISE) and the NER increased to 88.08 per cent in 2013-14 (U-DISE), The results from DISE report 2011-12, shows a steady increasing trend over the years in the estimate of the indicator 'ratio of enrolment of Grade V to Grade I' from 78.08 per cent in 2009-10 to 86.05 per cent in 2011-12. The youth (15-24 years) literacy rate has increased from 61.9% to 86.14 per cent during the period 1991-2011 and the trend shows that India reached the mark of 93.38% which is very near the target of 100% youth literacy by 2015.	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid Day Meal (MDM), Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh, District Primary Education Programme

3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women	Eliminate gender disparity in primary, secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education, no later than 2015	Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education.	At present, in primary education the enrolment is favorable to girls and women as Gender Parity Index (GPI) of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) was 1.03 in 2013-14. In Secondary education also gender parity has achieved GPI of GER and was 1 in 2013-14 and in tertiary level of education, the GPI of GER was 0.89 in 2012-13.	NREGS and Swarnajayanti Gram SwarozgarYojana (SGSY),National Programme for the Education of Girls at the Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalaya (KGBV), MahilaSamakhya, Swa-shakti, Swayamsiddha, SwaslambanProgramme
4. Reduce Child Mortality	Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five Mortality Rate	Under-five mortality rate Infant mortality rate Proportion of 1 year-old children immunised against measles	Under Five Mortality Ratio (U5MR) was estimated at 125 deaths per 1000 live births in 1990. As per Sample Registration System 2013, the U5MR has come down considerably to 49 deaths per 1000 live births. In India, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) was estimated at 80 per 1,000 live births in 1990. As per SRS 2013, the IMR is at 40 and as per the historical trend; it attained a value of 39 in 2015, against the target of 27 infant deaths per 1000 live births by 2015. India achieved about 89% coverage by 2015 thereby falling short of universal coverage.	Pulse Polio Immunisation, Routine Immunisation, Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI), Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC), New Born Care Scheme (NBCS)

5. Combat HIV/ AIDS, Malaria & other diseases	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/ AIDS	HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years Condom use at last high-risk sex. Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS	The prevalence of HIV among pregnant women aged 15-24 years is showing a declining trend, falling from 0.89 % in 2005 to 0.32% in 2012-13. As per the 'Condom Promotion Impact Survey 2010', the national estimate for condom use at last high-risk sex is 74% According to Behavioural Surveillance Survey (BSS), the national estimate for proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct Knowledge of HIV/AIDS (%) in 2006 was 32.9% reporting betterment from 2001 (22.2%).	National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), Condom Vending Machine (CVM) Project

Having said that, the goals have had a major impact on policies related to children in many developing nations, but there were things in the composition of MDGs which limited their scope in targeting holistic social development. MDGs were formulated to achieve societal growth on desirable social outcomes on the basis of parameters such as health, removal of poverty and hunger, education. But, MDGs failed to emphasize the importance of factors like growth, dynamic of population and environment, climate change, and human rights in an adequate way. Besides, as they are global aims, it is sometimes difficult to translate them into national endeavour and into national action programmes.

CIDC IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MDGs, which were instrumental in bringing out an intensive, holistic and much-needed focus on development issues across the globe at national and sub-national levels, have not been realized completely. Within the 2000 to 2015, many goals and sub-goals were variably realized across countries but, with respect to more than 50 per cent of the goals the progress was disappointing. Another major drawback was that the MDGs focused on achieving specific quantifiable targets, without necessarily focusing on the progress of the most deprived and excluded, or specifying the conditions to be put in place towards achieving lasting results—such as investments in health and education systems. To that extent, the MDGs failed to articulate or address the drivers of some of these challenges that are rooted in political economy, governance, and social structures.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with their agenda valid till 2030, take as their starting point some of the exclusions in the MDG approach by acknowledging issues such as multidimensional aspects of poverty, decent work for young people, social protection and labour rights for all. They call for inclusive and sustainable cities, infrastructure and industrialization. They underscore the need for strengthening effective, accountable, participatory and inclusive governance; for free expression, information, and association; for fair justice systems; and for peaceful societies and personal security for all. These assertions provide hope that the SDGs can offer a robust framework for national dialogue on shared vision and commitments and can carry forward the momentum generated by MDGs in the course of making this world a place that is more sustainable for everyone.

A key aspect of SDGs to transform the world is an emphasis on inclusive and participatory development, with the aim of bringing sustainable change for people,

future generations.

society, governance, and the environment. When it comes to putting the SDGs into practice, however, there is no one solution which can address the varied political, societal, and environmental contexts across countries. Therefore, SDGs recognize that strategies and targets in individual countries should be locally owned and anchored in individual country realities and priorities. While achieving the SDGs will be no easy task, there are strong foundations in place to help facilitate and accelerate their progress. The SDGs are not the beginning of the global sustainable development story—they are a continuation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) —and thus represent the beginning of a new age of progress which is informed by lessons from the past.

Global Participation	Inclusion of voices of various stakeholders in the process of creating the agenda and seeking their efforts towards its effective implementation.
Transformational Governance	Inclusion of all forms of political, corporate and civil governance to step up effective leadership commitments to achieve SDGs.
Leaving No One Behind	Inclusion of people in the development process especially from the ones placed at the last milepost.

The United Nations General Assembly on September 25, 2015, adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which guides global action over the next 15 years. It consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets, focussing on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. SDGs are an opportunity to advocate for positive change aiming at an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for the people and their planet.

Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising on the needs of the future generations.

The SDGs are universal and are equally applicable to all countries with challenging targets for rich as well as poor countries. They can be used to advocate for more equitable development based on tackling the root causes of poverty and unsustainable development. The SDGs attempt to balance and integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions. There is a stronger sense of ownership and participation involved in SDG which makes it a more effective tool.

SDGs and India

India has, over the years, prioritized employment, economic growth, poverty alleviation, disaster resilience, etc. in order to develop in a sustainable fashion. However, emerging challenges of climate change impacts, increasing inequities, and lagging human development indices, which are also important factors for development, have not received the attention they seek. The UN Sustainable Development Agenda integrates these efforts to meet both national and global aspirations. In India NITI Aayog is entrusted to co-ordinate 'transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.

India has its own national goals targeting poverty eradication; gender equality; affordable and reliable energy; inclusive, safe and resilient cities; and sustainable management of water and waste . These goals are aligned with the SDGs. India's three priority programmes focusing on water and sanitation, gender equality and empowerment of girls and women, and building safe and sustainable cities are the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'and the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'initiative.

The 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' aims to provide basic sanitation and clean water to all by the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in October 2019. It is a pan-India cleanliness drive meant to accomplish sanitation for all and is a policy driver to practise sustainable solid waste management and eliminate open defecation.

'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' focuses on the issue of the girl child and the declining child sex ratio (CSR). The initiative aims to improve the present low CSR of 918:1000. The scheme also focuses on increasing access to education as a means towards empowering the girl child. The scheme targets increasing enrolment at the secondary level from 73 per cent to 76 per cent and reducing drop-out rates at the upper primary and secondary level.

SDGs in context with CIDC

Sustainable Development Goals provide an integrated response to challenges in the society, the economy, the environment and in governance that directly and disproportionately affect children. Children's rights and sustainable development are interdependent.

The following are the SDGs along with the targets which recognise, address and protect children in difficult circumstances:

Targets of SDG with respect to CIDC

Out of the 17 SDGs, the following are directly linked to Children in Difficult Circumstances:

Goal No.	Goal	Target
1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, wherein poverty is measured as a condition in which people are living on less than $1.25 a day.
		Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.
		By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.
		Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.

Goal No.	Goal	Target
2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
		By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons.
3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
		By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.
		By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.
		By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.
		Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.
		By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.
		Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small-island developing states.

Goal No.	Goal	Target
4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.
		By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early-childhood development, care, and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.
		Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.
		By 2020, substantially expand the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing states and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information, and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries. This is to be implemented globally.
5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
		Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
		Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.
		By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

Goal No.	Goal	Target
8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.
		Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.
11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, to women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.
		By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact	Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.
16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.	By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

Source: NITI Aayog

The SDGs also have a special focus on children in several important ways. The entire agenda is important for children, given the impact all the goals will collectively have on today's children. These goals will also have a lasting impact on them as adults due the cohesive nature of the goals and specific commitments. These include ending preventable deaths, ending hunger and ensuring children's access to the nutrition that will help them thrive; promoting learning and educational outcomes for all children and ensuring children live without fear of violence, through efforts to end all forms of violence and promote peaceful and just societies.

For India's children, the challenges are several. Despite some important progress in outcomes for children, there is still a long way to go. Challenges remain in several areas such as immunization coverage, birth registration and adolescent health, especially for girls, and universal completion of secondary schooling with appropriate learning outcomes. Service coverage and access for maternal health still requires a crucial last mile effort.

Central to any progress for children are approaches and policies that see the child as a focal point and not just a variety of 'sections' for whom piecemeal strategies that target some aspects of their lives are formulated. For example, analysis of the available data shows that apart from the top 10 per cent (in income terms) of households in diversely situated villages, the rest of the population had similar deprivations. Poor public services affects the majority of children in this country and undermines economic aspirations. Improving quality, affordability and accessibility of services in health, nutrition, pre-schooling and education has to be at the heart of India's development strategy. This would also help bridge social divides and contribute to the building of a more inclusive society, where everyone would have access to quality services irrespective of social background or status.

In addition to aforementioned challenges, violence is a major impediment to children's development. Violence, neglect and lack of care can damage children's cognitive and affective development. Further, children exposed to violence are at significant risk for future disadvantage across a range of outcomes—health,

education, cognitive development and ability, and social problems, amongst others. However certain forms of violence are considered acceptable—such as corporal punishment, including beating and harsh punishment—large numbers of children are put in situations of harm where they experience extreme violence. This is manifested in early marriage, child labour, and most horribly in trafficking for commercial and sexual exploitation. The absence of preventive measures such as direct support to families and care-givers in the form of essential information, services and resources, places large numbers of children at tremendous risk.

The terrible costs of these risks are not very well-understood by all policy makers. Global evidence shows that it is costlier for nations, societies and individuals to repair the effects of damage caused by violence in childhood than it is to invest in its prevention. Failure to acknowledge and act on such overwhelming evidence will undermine India's efforts to be the beacon and the torch-bearer it seeks to represent itself as on the global stage. We will be discussing these challenges in a more elaborate manner in the subsequent paragraphs and will also try to analyse the status of different categories of CIDC in the country.

SDG TRACKER FOR CIDC PROPOSED BY PLAN INDIA

The experience of the MDGs underscores the importance of thinking through the indicators of SDGs as early as possible. Any delay in measuring the progress or developing the measurement framework of SDGs would have an influence on the overall achievements envisaged in the 'Post-2015 Development Agenda'. While the SDGs have been appreciated for being more intensive, inclusive, multidimensional and participatory than MDGs, they face a different set of challenges, one of them being the monitoring of an extensive list of 169 targets accompanied by 230 indicators.

In this chapter, we have made an attempt to propose an SDG tracker for CIDC and understand how India would perform against the SDG targets/indicators for a selected category of CIDC—Child Labour, Child Marriage, Children Affected by AIDS (CABA), Child Trafficking, Street Children and Children in Substance Abuse, if current trends continue. This provides a benchmark that can and should be exceeded if an early start and strong implementation effort is made across the SDG agenda. Projecting the status of SDG targets for all of the goals or all the CIDC categories is not feasible for several reasons: not all targets are quantifiable, and for those that are, projections or data is not always available and not all CIDC categories have a specific target in SDGs[7].

[7] Amongst targets that could be projected, only one target per goal was selected in order to make analysis and discussion more manageable.Among CIDC categories only six categories were selected to broadly reflect the situation of CIDC in India and status of their relevant SDG targets. The projections only relate to a specific target within a goal and should not be interpreted as reflecting how the entire goal will fare. The scorecard therefore presents the trend for a key target for each goal, as opposed to all targets under all goals.

In order to measure the progress, we are proposing a quartile model for grading the SDGs. The grading model will rate the position of India vis-à-vis SDGs based on how close or away we are from SDG targets. The tracker, while projecting the statistics, assumes that the current trends are constant. The rationale for developing this model is to visualise and monitor the progress made on SDG targets. The proposed model uses in its framework, the official list of indicators proposed by the inter-agency and expert group on SDG targets. The tracker has also made an attempt to align the relevant national indicators with the targets and their corresponding data. The grading system scores SDG targets on 4 parameters which are:

Grading	A	B	C	D
Based on Current Trends	Fully Achieved	Likely to be Achieved (More than halfway)	Partially Achieved (Less than halfway)	Not likely to be Achieved

To better understand the operational implications and feasibility of the proposed SDG tracker for CIDC it is important to analyse the inclusion of all the categories of CIDC in SDGs; present status of the indicators; source, frequency and validity of the data. In the following section we analyse SDG indicators/targets of six selected categories of CIDC and try to understand the status of India vis-à-vis these indicators.

Child Labour

India has 4.3 million child labourers in the age group of 5 to 14 years according to the National Census 2011.The Non-Government Organization (NGO) estimates are higher and suggest that this number may be as high as 60 million and can extend upto a 100 million if all out-of-school children are part of the labour force. India, despite having legislations and laws to curb this inhuman practice, is rampant with this menace to the extent that children in India comprise a large part of the entire labour market. Child labour is a multifold issue which is integral to concerns of child protection, right to education and social security.

As per the Census 2011, there are 11,720,724[8] children between the age group of 5 to14 engaged in work. The proportion of working children has decreased by almost 8 per cent from 2001 to 2011. An analytical projection of the available historical (time series) data sets from census surveys reveals that despite this decline in the numbers, by the target year of 2025, India would be quite far away from the target with close to 1.2 crore children engaged in child labour.

Further, looking at working children as the percentage of total number of children in the age group of 5-14, is a trend that reaffirms the decline. The proportion of working children has decreased from 5 per cent in 2001 to 4.56 per cent in 2011.

These projections however do not provide a complete picture of the child labour in India, due to the inadequate availability of statistical inputs to monitor and measure child labour -related SDG targets properly.

Regulatory Framework

In addition to Articles 23 and 24 of the Indian Constitution which safeguard a child below the age of 14 from being in factories, mines and any other hazardous employment and give the child a right not to be used in “forced” or “bonded” labour, a number of laws have been enacted to curtail the spread of child labour, the most important of these being ‘The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986’. Section 3 of this Act focusses on the prohibition of employment of

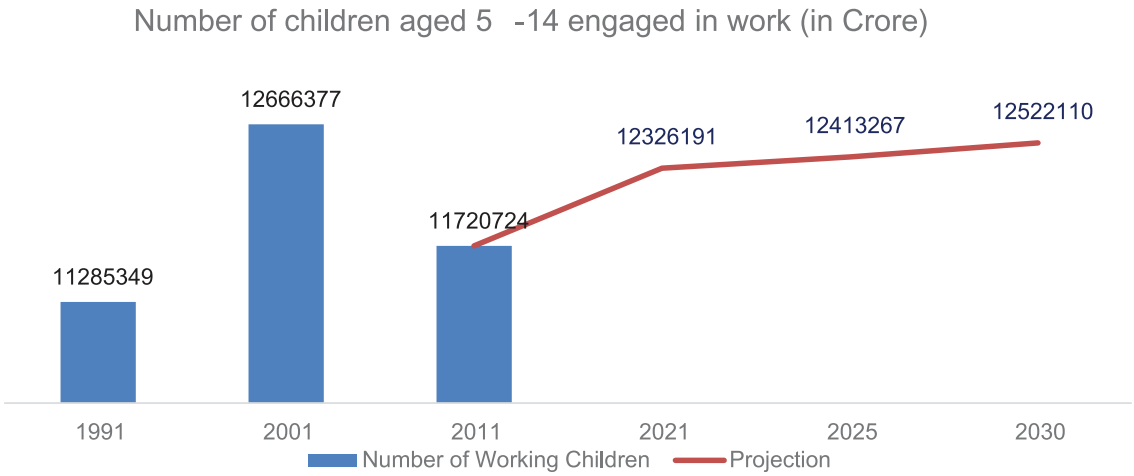
[8] The figure from census 2011 has been calculated using number of main and all the 3 categories of marginal workers within the age group of 5-14. Population available to work within the age group categorized under marginal workers has been included because the figures of earlier years (1991 and 2001) have no such segregation and the marginal workers data ensuing from a study of these two years has been completely added into the total figure.

Goal	Target	Global indicator	Corresponding indicator in India with available data	Frequency of data Collection in India	Data Collecting agency	Present Status	Estimated status	SDG Score
Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	**Target 8.7:**Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end, child labour in all its forms	Proportion of children aged 5-17 years engaged in labour	Percentage and number of children aged 5-14 engaged in work by sex, disaggregated by occupational categories	Decennial	Census of India	11,720,724 children are working (2011 census)	12413267	D
			Percentage of children aged 5-9 and 10-14 by sex, disaggregated by sector	Quinquennial	National Sample Survey	4983871 children working (2010)		D

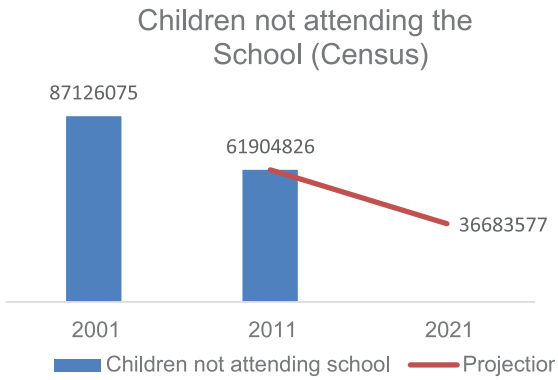
children in certain occupations and processes. This act was amended in 2016 " to prohibit the engagement of children in all occupations and to prohibit the engagement of adolescents in hazardous occupations and processes and the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto." Here "adolescent" means a person who has completed his fourteenth year of age but has not completed his eighteenth year, while "child" refers to a person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age. Other laws that relate to the prevention of child labour include:

Amendment to the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules 1964 and the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 in 2007

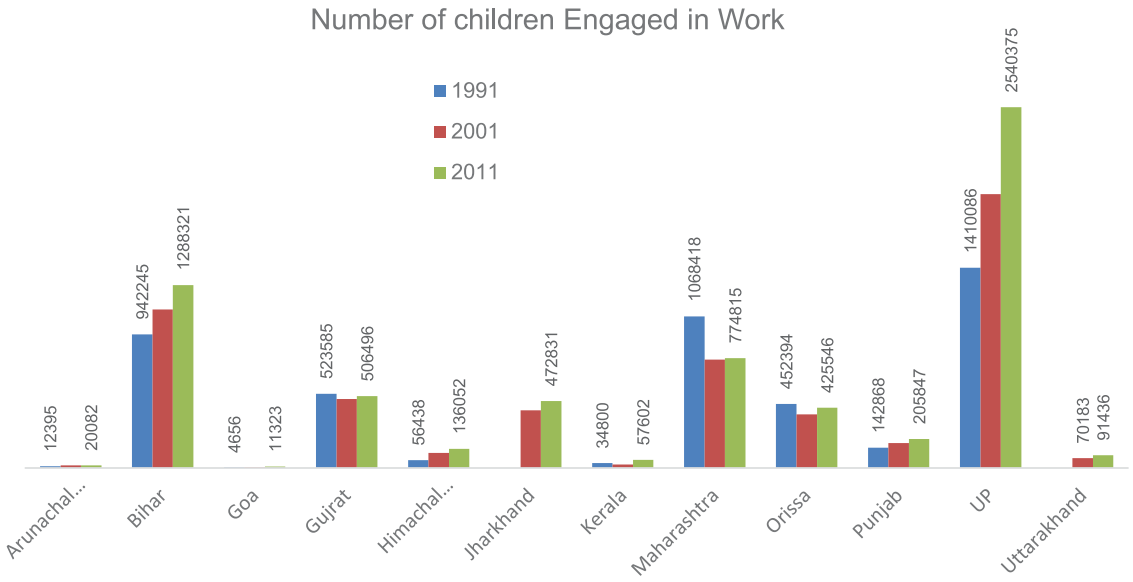
- Amendment to The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 in Oct 2006
- Bonded Labour System Act, 1976
- Bidi and Cigar Workers Act, 1966
- Labour Law Apprentice Act, 1961
- Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961
- Merchant Shipping Act, 1958
- Amendment to the Mines Act 1952
- Plantation Labour Act, 1951
- Factories Act, 1948
- Indian Ports Act, 1908
- Employment of young persons on dangerous machines
- Prohibition of employment of women and children near cotton openers
- Mumbai shops and establishment act 1948
- Juvenile justice Act 2000 and Amendment of the JJ Act in 2006
- Indian Penal Code (IPC) Act 1860
- The Right of Children to Free And Compulsory Education Act, 2009. The implementation of this Act is monitored by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
- Mumbai shops and establishment act 1948
- Juvenile justice Act 2000
- Indian Penal Code (IPC) Act 1860



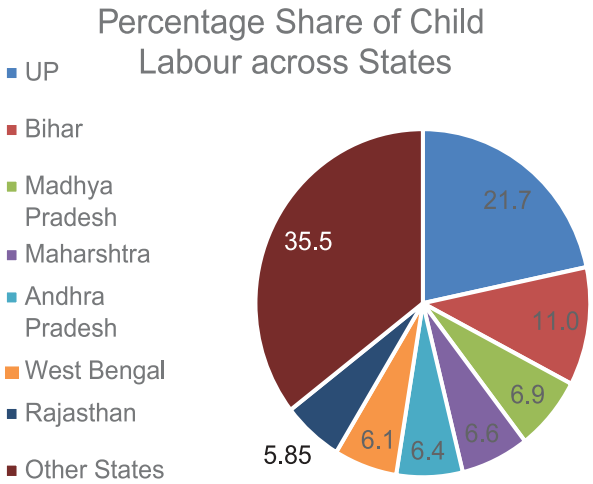
To further explain data inadequacy and inconsistency and advocate the need for improvement in statistical capacity, in India, to monitor the SDGs, we did an analysis of the census data around a different but related indicatorx 'out-of-school' children. The employment of children as labourers cause school dropouts. A trend forecast of 'out-of-school' children from the available census data for the last two census surveys, reveals that the proportion of out-of-school children is on a decline which is in stark contrast to the trend in child labour.



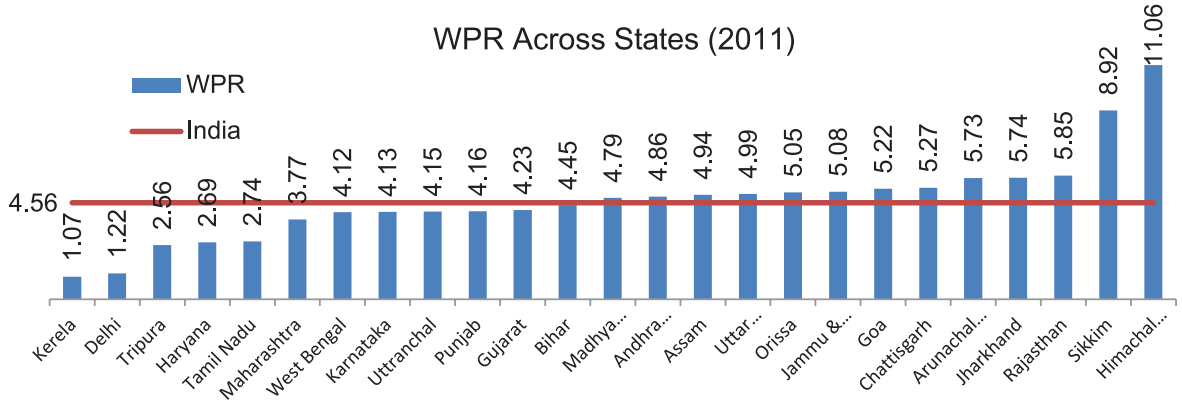
The decline in the number of children working is not the story of the entire country. There are states where child labour has increased both in absolute numbers and in terms of percentile of child population. Among the states that have seen sharp increase in the number of children working, Goa tops the list with an astounding 173 per cent increase from 2001. Other states which have seen an increase are Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It is important to see from the graph that there are instances in India where the states in which the number of children engaged in work had declined during the ten years between 1991 and 2001, have seen an increase in these numbers. These places would be Maharashtra and Orissa.

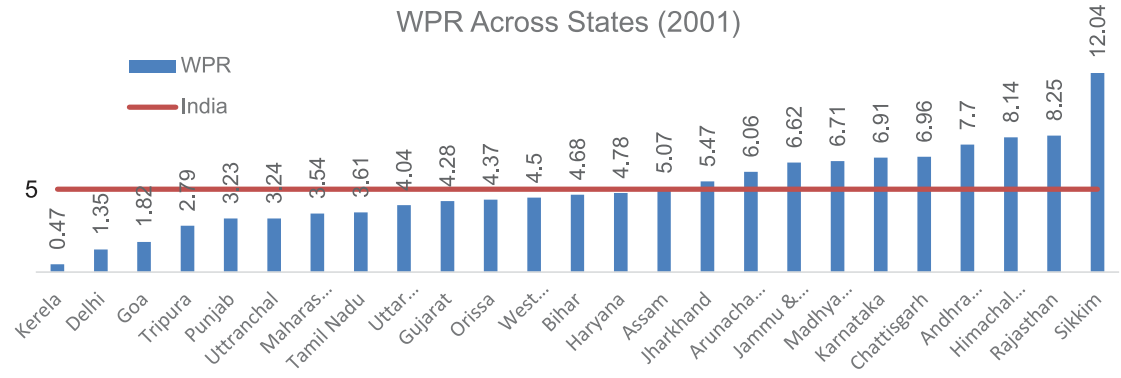


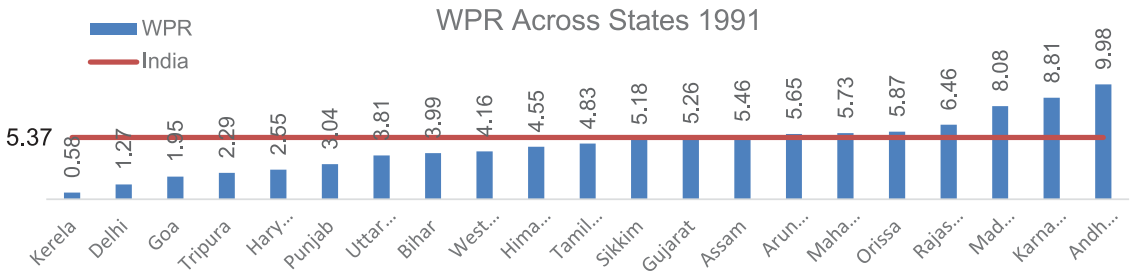
As for the percentage share of child labour across the states, almost two third of the children engaged in work are concentrated only in seven states in the country, out of which two states—Uttar Pradesh and Bihar—have more than one third of India's working children population.



The declining trend also does not explain the increasing Work Participation Rates (WPR) in some of the states. Himachal Pradesh has emerged as the state with the highest WPR in India with a rate of 11.06 followed by Sikkim, 8.92 WPR. This is a reflection of the emerging crisis of poorer segments of the population like in many other states. Goa, on other hand has recorded the highest increase in the WPR from 1.82 in 2001 to 5.22 in 2011. There are thirteen states which have a WPR greater than the national average. As we can see from the graphs on WPR in states compared to the national average, the number of these states has been increasing between 1991 and 2011.The growth of child labour across states and UTs in India between 1991 and 2011 are presented in Annexure-II.







There are various challenges facing the tracking of child labour related SDG targets. To begin with, the data sets which we have used for our depiction and which would be, most probably, used by the government is extremely patchy and comes with tremendous time lags, hence it cannot be used as a management tool for SDGs. Whilst the NSSO surveys are done every five years, the census data is collected every 10 years. It makes the monitoring of progress, schemes and strategies difficult as the interval is too long. Further, the Census provides data on “percentage and number of children aged 5-14 engaged in work by sex, disaggregated by occupational categories”, while NSSO quinquennially provides data on “percentage of children aged 5-9 and 10-14 by sex, disaggregated by

sector", which means that child labour data in India is collected on the basis of economic activity and not from the perspective of human or child rights.

Even if all income-generating activities were included in definitions of child labour, such a definition would still not capture the full complexity of activities that intuitively encompass child labour. A large number of children in India attend school and work after school hours or during holidays. They may or may not directly earn remuneration.

Further, the Census and NSSO surveys that enumerate child labour in India simply derive the number of child workers from age-wise distribution of workers. Workers are defined as those who contribute to the national product as per economic accounting principles. This, by definition, excludes 'own account' and 'own consumption' processing of primary products outside the agriculture sector. By this definition, mining and quarrying activities, prostitution, begging etc. are excluded, even though they fetch earnings (NCPCR). Thus, a number of working children are possibly being excluded from these surveys.

Furthermore, by the government's own admission, disaggregated data on children's involvement in various hazardous occupations and processes (as defined by the Child Labour (Protection and Regulation) Act) is not available (NSSO, 2014), although gathering such data was attempted in the NSSO survey of 1993-94.

Children affected by AIDS – CABA

HIV infections pose a grim challenge for the developing as well as the developed world. According to National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), India had an estimated 138456 children below the age of 15 infected with HIV AIDS in 2015[9]. While life of adults infected with HIV is problematic, children living with AIDS are particularly susceptible to the adverse socioeconomic impact that comes with this enduring disease.

The HIV epidemic in India, first recognised in 1986, is 30 years old and ranks among the most serious public health concerns in the country. In 2008, an estimated 2.27 million people between the ages of 15–49 years were living with HIV. Although home to the world's third-largest population of HIV infected people (following South Africa and Nigeria), India has witnessed declining spread of HIV infection.

HIV prevalence shows a diverse geographic spread across states and districts, with southern states and the northeast region reporting high prevalence rates. The distribution of PLHIV across India shows that the southern states of Andhra Pradesh (21 per cent), Maharashtra (20 per cent), Karnataka (11 per cent), and Tamil Nadu (10 per cent) bear the heaviest burden of HIV. More specifically, 195 priority districts in the country were identified for focussed programmatic interventions.

According to NACO estimates, India has significantly improved its AIDS epidemic since the beginning of MDGs. One of the reasons for this improvement is the sustained prevention efforts focusing on key populations, particularly in higher prevalence regions that accounted for the bulk of the epidemic. This has led to a major reduction in the estimated number of new HIV infections at the national level. In the following section we have made an attempt to portray the status of CABA with reference to relevant SDG targets. However, it should be noted that in this section, CABA is only referring to children having HIV infection and not children who are not carrying HIV infection but are affected by AIDS.

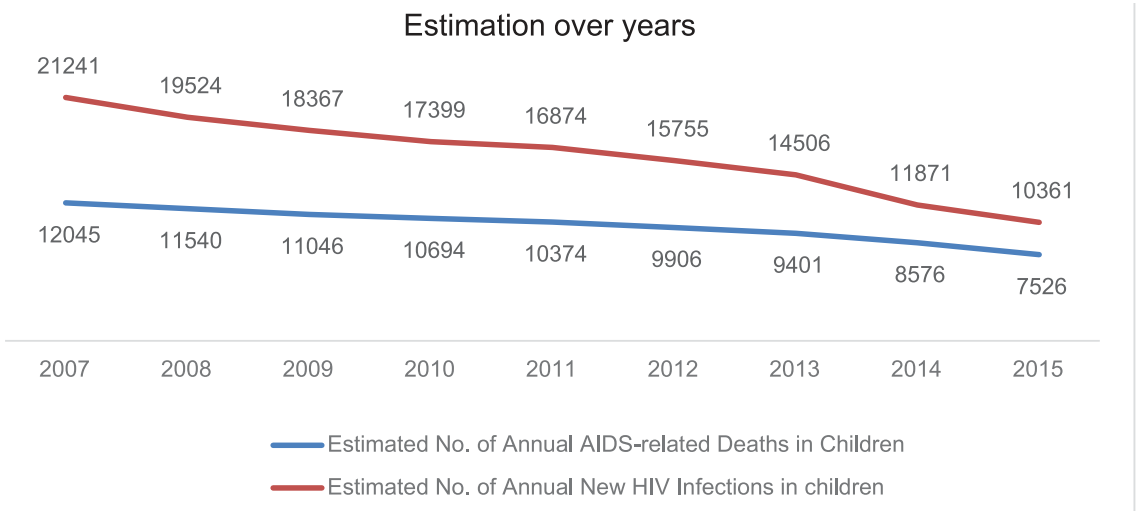
The total number of children below the age of 15 living with HIV in India, which account for 6.54 per cent of total Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV) in the country, is estimated at 138456 in 2015 compared with 126232 in 2007[10].The comparison

[9] India HIV Estimations Report, 2015 (NACO). These figures are estimations arrived at using the 'spectrum model'. www.naco.gov.in/sites/default/files/India%20HIV%20Estimations%202015.pdf

[10]

Goal	Target	Global indicator	Corresponding indicator in India with available data	Frequency of data collection in India	Data collecting agency	Present status	Estimated status 2030	SDG score
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	**Target 3.3:**By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases	No Indicator	Number of children with HIV Aids	Annual	NACO	138456 children with HIV (2015)		C
			Number of new HIV infections in children	Annual	NACO	10361 (2015)		B
			Number of AIDS-related deaths in children	Annual	NACO	7526 (2015)		B

between PLHIV figures of 2007 and 2015 shows that there has been an increase of in the number of HIV infected children, however, a closer look at the trend line suggests that there was an earlier surge from 2007 to 2013, but from 2013 onwards there has been a decline in the number which puts the country back on track to achieve the targets of eradiating HIV infections. The estimations also suggest that there has been a significant (51 per cent) decrease in the number of new HIV infections among children from 2007 to 2015. Children (<15 years) accounted for 12 per cent of total new infections. Similarly the number of deaths due to HIV infection among children has also been reduced from 12045 in 2007 to 7586 in 2015.



The above-mentioned estimations clearly indicate that India has achieved the MDG of halting and reversing the HIV epidemic by 2015. The declining trend is a testimony of preventions programmes in the country being a success. However India is still a long way from achieving the SDG of completely eradicating the epidemic. If the aforementioned trends are assumed to continue at the same rate, the number of new HIV infections would be completely over by 2024. The recent trends, though suggesting that India is on its track to achieve the SDG target within its timeframe may not necessarily reflect all the variables contributing to the HIV issue in the country. In the following paragraph we shall discuss the challenges in tracking the SDG targets related to CABA.

The statistics that in all probability can be used to track the HIV related SDG targets/indicators in India are, after all, only estimations[11], hence it is difficult for us to draw projections from this set of data. Further, the data on the number of children

[11] NACO, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Government of India periodically undertake these estimates to provide updated information on the status of HIV epidemic in India. The first such estimatewas carried out in 1998 and the latest one was carried out in 2015.

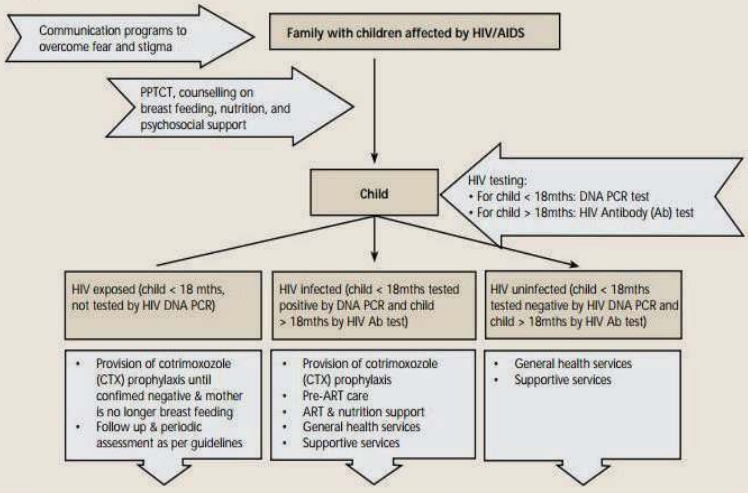
having HIV infections is not categorised on the basis of age. This creates a challenge in drawing projections, as the number of cases in the age group till 15 would not be included in 'children set' in the following year. Subsequently each year, for which projections are made, will have one such group of children going out of the 'children set' range and this number will need to be deducted from the overall calculations. The present set of data does not allow this kind of deduction to be made. Another challenge towards making any kind of projections is that the available data is not inclusive of the entire child population living with HIV in the country.

From a perspective of running social programmes, within the recent declining trend at the national level, there is evidence of diverse trends and, in states and localities previously known to have low prevalence, vulnerabilities are increasing. Latest national surveillance data has indicated a rise in the epidemic in certain previously moderate to low prevalence states from 2007-11 onwards where, earlier, in these areas, previously the epidemic was non-existent. These trends, when studied in depth, might prove to be of greater-impact value on the national trend and might call for a more serious effort to counter the threat of the epidemic.

Government of India, had come up with a CABA Scheme, which had identified the multiple point testing for children and the services to be provided. There is an urgent need to address the multiple vulnerabilities of CABA in a comprehensive manner to ensure their overall well-being and holistic development. It is important that a large-scale, multifaceted strategy be put in place to address the health, nutrition, education, psychosocial support, and economic needs of CABA and secure their rights and entitlements. The broad needs of CABA were outlined in GoI's framework for implementing the CABA Scheme (2010), which was piloted in 10 districts during 2011–2012.

However CABA scheme could not be sustained over the years and financial resources allocated for the scheme have dwindled substantially.

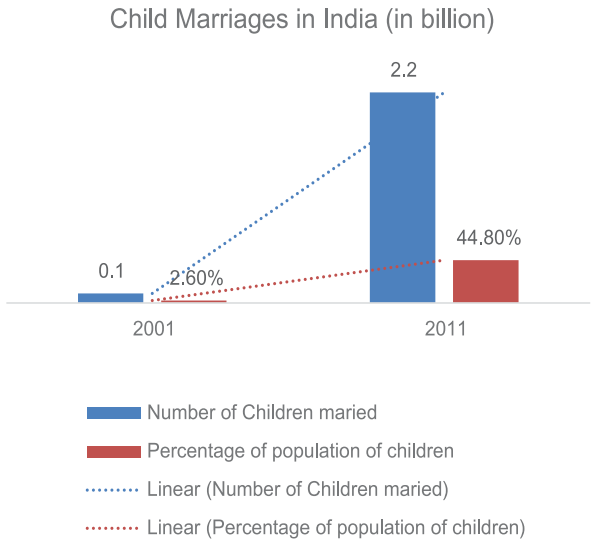
Figure 2: Services to be delivered under Government of India's CABA Scheme



Child Marriage

Child marriage is an age old custom in India, prevalent across social groups, castes, and religions, as well in geographical regions. Child marriage has social, cultural, economic and historic reasons for being so deep rooted in Indian culture. Cultural traditions, customs, practices, beliefs, caste and ethnic pressures, educational and economic backwardness, ineffective laws and widespread poverty are the main reasons for the prevailing high rate of early marriage in India. Although girls are more vulnerable to and affected much more by this custom, early marriage also impacts boys, vesting them with early responsibility of fatherhood and the burden of economic responsibility at an early age. Thus, early or child marriage is a violation of the human rights of all children/young people: It has severe health implications, and is a violation of the right to education and development; it also violates a child's right to protection — a very important aspect that has not been addressed sufficiently.

India has 2.2 billion children married before the legal age (18 for girls and 21 for boys) as per census 2011[12]. The data regarding child marriage is collected through census surveys, District Level Household and Facility Survey (DLHS), and National Family Health Survey (NFHS). A preliminary glimpse at the data sets reveals that there has been a tremendous increase in the number of children married before the legal age, from 2001 to 2011. However, the absolute number doesn't provide a correct picture, so we have used the percentage of population within the same age group. The percentage wise data also confirms the steep increase. Whereas only 2.6 per cent of child population was married before the legal age in 2001, an astounding proportion of 45 per cent of children were married before the legal age in 2011. An extrapolation of the trend line on the available data set suggests that within the timeline of developmental goals, India would be quite far away from attaining the SDG on eliminating the practice of child marriage.



[12] The data for the chart titled: Child Marriages in India (in billion) is taken from the Census of India. For the year 2001 males less than 21 years who are married, widowed, divorced or separated are considered along with the females who are less than 18 years married, widowed and divorced or separated. For the Year 2011 males ever married but are less than 21 years are taken along with females ever married but are less than 17 years.

Goal	Target	Global indicator	Corresponding Indicator in India with available data	Frequency of data Collection in India	Data Collecting Agency	Present Status	Estimated Projection	SDG Score
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	**Target 5.3:**Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married by age 15	Number of children between the age group of 0-19 who are married (have been married at least once)	Decennial	Census	227945660 children married before legal age (2011)		D
		Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married by age 18						

Further, according to the National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3, 2005–2006), 47.4 per cent (i.e., nearly half) of all young women (currently between the ages of 20–24) were married before the age of 18 years. And 16 per cent of men aged 20–49 years were married by age 18 and 28 per cent by the age of 20 years (NFHS-3). The DLHS surveys reveal that more boys than girls are getting married at a lower age. The proportion of girls and boys married below the legal age of 18 and 21 years between 2002 and 2008 has changed from 28 per cent to 22.1 per cent for girls and 20 per cent to 23.4 per cent for boys[13].

Another contributing factor to the increasing trend is the rise in the number of cases of Child Marriage cases registered under CMRA / PCMA which have increased by 98 per cent, and kidnapping and abduction cases which have seen an increase of 148 per cent from 2001 to 2011[14].

Also when observed at state levels, according to NFHS 4 report , we see that there is a change in the child marriage percentage from NFHS3 , but at the same time it is also observed that the problem is still a major concern.

The table below shows the comparison of NFHS3 and NFHS 4 among the states.

[13] DLH-II and III

[14] Child Marriage in India: Achievements, Gaps and Challenges (HAQ CRC)

Women age 20 -24 years married before age 18 years (%)				Men age 25-29 years married before age 21 years (%)		
States	NFHS4	NFHS3	Difference	NFHS4	NFHS3	Difference
AP	32.7	NA	NA	23.5	NA	NA
BR	39.1	60.3	-21.2	40	47.2	-7.2
AN	17.1	NA	NA	14.9	NA	NA
AS	32.6	38	-5.4	23.3	20	3.3
GA	9.8	11.7	-1.9	10.6	7.2	3.4
HR	18.5	39.8	-21.3	31.3	41.6	-10.3
KA	23.2	41.2	-18	10.9	18.1	-7.2
MP	30	53	-23	39.5	59.4	-19.9
MH	25.1	39	-13.9	16.7	20.7	-4
MN	13.1	12.7	0.4	20.6	16	4.6
MG	16.5	24.5	-8	19.6	33.3	-13.7
PU	10.7	NA	NA	6.3	NA	NA
TG	25.7	NA	NA	23.9	NA	NA
SK	14.5	30.1	-15.6	18.5	31.5	-13
TN	15.7	21.5	-5.8	17	14	3
TR	32.2	41	-8.8	22.2	18.9	3.3
UT	13.9	22.6	-8.7	20.9	24.8	-3.9
WB	40.7	53.3	-12.6	24	32.4	-8.4

Tracking the situation data on child marriage is a challenge as the method of data collection varies between the District Level Household and Facility Survey (DLHS), the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), and the Census. Additionally, the data has large interval periods, 10 years in census surveys and five years in DLHS and NFHS which makes annual tracking very difficult.

Child Trafficking

Human trafficking has emerged as one of the most profitable forms of organized crime in India. Over a short span of a few decades, trade of trafficked victims for the purposes of sexual abuse, labour, domestic work and organ trade has fetched extraordinary returns to human poachers. India for long has been considered the source, destination and transit country for women and children for forced labour and sex-trafficking. Ninety per cent of trafficking in India is internal, and those from India's most disadvantaged social and economic strata, are most vulnerable[15]. Trafficking between states in the country is rising due to increased mobility, rapid urbanization, and a growth in a number of industries that use forced labour such as construction, textiles, cable and biscuit factories among others. An increasing number of job placement agencies lure adults and children under false promises of employment for sex trafficking or forced labour, including domestic servitude.

Based on a review of the available literature, the different forms and purposes of child trafficking that exist in India:

Sexual Exploitation

- Forced prostitution
- Socially and religiously sanctified forms of prostitution
- Sex tourism
- Pornography

Illegal Activities

- Begging
- Organ trade
- Drug peddling and smuggling

Labour

- Bonded labour
- Domestic work
- Agricultural labour
- Construction work
- Carpet industry, garment industry, fish/shrimp export as well as other sites of work in the formal and informal economy.

Entertainment and Sports

- Camel jockeying

[15] Trafficking in Person Report. Rep. U.S. Department of State, 2013. 195.Web. 4 Apr. 2016.

Goal	Target	Global indicator	Corresponding indicator in India with available data	Frequency of data collection in India	Data collecting agency	Present status	SDG score
Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.	**Target 16.2:** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	Number of cases registered against 366-A IPC, 366B IPC, 373 IPC, 372 IPC , ITP 1956 and 370 & 370A IPC	Annual	National Crime Record Bureau, Indian Ministry of Home Affairs	17330 cases in 2014	D

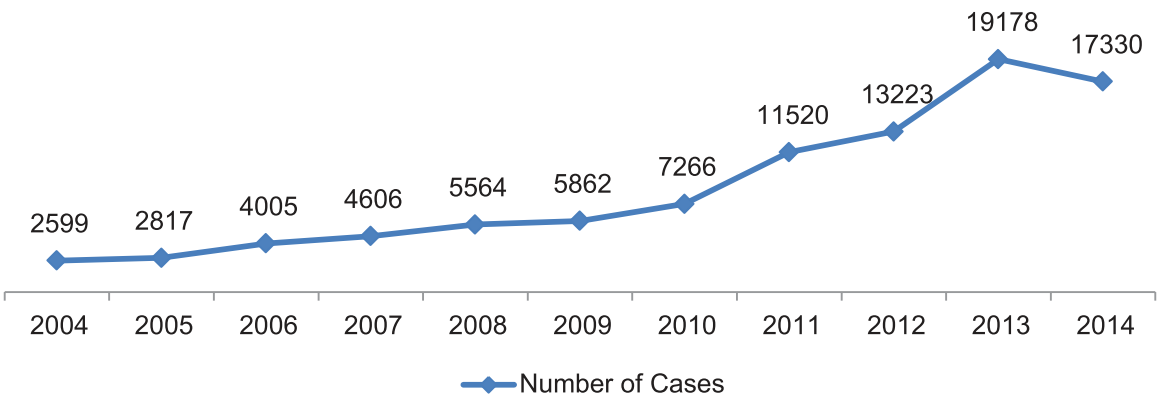
Child trafficking in India is tracked by NCRB through the number of cases registered under the following crime heads (Annexure-II):

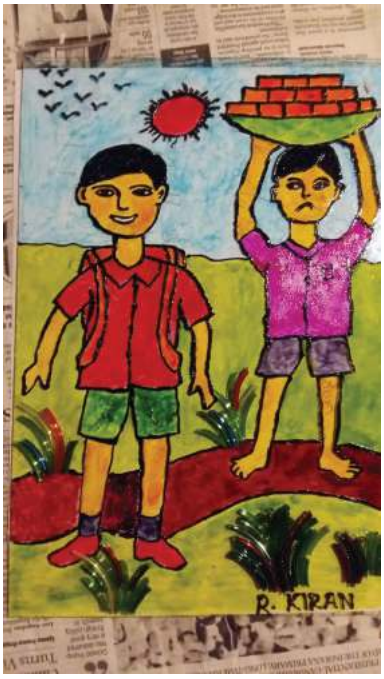
- Importation of girls from foreign countries (Section 366B IPC)
- Procuration of minor girls (Section 366-A IPC)
- Buying of minors for prostitution (Section 373 IPC)
- Selling of minors for prostitution (Section 372 IPC)
- Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956
- Human trafficking (Section 370 & 370A IPC)

NCRB remains the only regular source of information. Since the chapter on human trafficking does not provide age-specific data, the data on kidnapping and abduction have been used to understand and explain the nature of trafficking as collated by NCRB.

The crime data from NCRB portal from 2004 paints a very grim picture for India with respect to child trafficking. The trend shows a steady increase in the number of cases reported under child trafficking. There has been a constant increase in the number of cases from 2599 cases reported in 2004 to 17330 cases reported in 2014. In the decade (2004-2014) there has been a 566 per cent increase in the quantum of cases reported under child trafficking with kidnapping for adoption being the highest (1400 per cent) followed by marriage 672.19 per cent. If this trend continues in the same way it is very likely that India will find the SDG target way out of reach even after a decade from now. The problem gets amplified when we find that the above-mentioned graph, though the only credible representation, does not reflect the reality and complexity of the problem completely. But before making any projections into the future, the challenges in the credibility and collection of data need to be understood.

Number of Cases reported under Child Trafficking (NCRB)





The lack of credible data on the extent of child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children has been the biggest challenge confronting this issue in India. Apart from this, data on trafficking in all its forms and purposes is sparse. The only government data available to provide some insights on the situation of trafficking is the crime statistics relating to human trafficking available in the Crime in India Reports brought out by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Another problem with the data is that it does not pertain only to children, which makes it difficult to disaggregate for children. Moreover, the cases of child trafficking are majorly unreported but the data only represents the registered cases. Further, the chapter on Human Trafficking in the Crime in India Publications of the NCRB fails to take into account cases of kidnapping and abduction, even though the chapter on Violent Crimes gives age-wise details on kidnapping and abduction according to its purpose i.e. whether kidnapping is for prostitution, or marriage, or illicit intercourse, begging etc.

There is no data available on cases of 'trafficking registered under the ITPA since neither the tables on crimes against women nor those on crimes against children or violent crimes provide age-wise breakup of cases registered under ITPA. Another problem with the calculations is that a case of trafficking may get registered under more than one legal provision in the IPC and other special laws (the same case may get registered under Sections 370/370A, 366 A, 372, 373 of IPC and the ITPA), thereby making it difficult to enumerate the exact number of cases of trafficking in women and children.

Further analysis of the crime data (annex 1) suggests a 20 per cent decrease in kidnapping for begging in the last decade with only 16 cases reported in 2014. Does this not indicate a mismatch between reality and data? One has only to look around to see how many children are begging on the streets. What adds to the d concern is that while there is an almost 81 per cent reduction in kidnapping of children for slavery, the Global Slavery Index, 2014— has ranked India as number 5— with the highest number of people in modern slavery in absolute terms[16].

With so many challenges it is very apparent that the data on child trafficking has many loopholes and the data based on the number of cases registered should not, rather cannot be used to make any forecasts. But, as already mentioned, the NCRB data is the only reliable and available data that we have on this issue. This surely advocates for a case for having a manageable and inclusive system of data collection on this menace. It is only by knowing the actual realm of this problem that the country can plan to eradicate it.

[16] www.dh-cii.eu/0_content/Global_Slavery_Index_2014_fi nal_lowres.pdf, accessed 1.03.2016

Street Children

Street children constitute a marginalized group in most societies. They do not have what society considers appropriate relationships with major institutions of childhood such as family, education and health. The continuous exposure to harsh environments and the nature of their lifestyles make them one of the most vulnerable groups of children. The vulnerability of street children gets intensified with the fact that there are currently no statistics, official or unofficial, on the number of street children in India. Whatever data is available is in the form of discrete studies carried out in specific geographical pockets of the country by civil society organizations which provide wide discrepancies in the gross estimates of children on the streets in the country. For example, UNICEF estimated the number street children in India to be 11 million in 1994, whereas a recent study by Save the Children estimates that there are 51,000 street children in the national capital only. Looking at the estimates of the number of street children, there is a need for a larger framework of field analysis from which may evolve theoretical assumptions and considerations that would need a serious effort to overcome.

Once on the street, the children face a myriad of challenges for survival. For survival these children adopt tactics such as begging, stealing, rough sleeping and substance abuse. Society alienates the street children and stigmatises them. Street children are generally found near flyovers, traffic signals, market places, railway stations, etc. Because of a lack of permanent shelter and the fact that the number of street children is not recorded in any national survey or study street children are often called the 'hidden children'. Being hidden, they are at a higher risk to being abuse, exploited and neglected.

The call to look into the matter of street children has been growing louder in the country and organizations are increasingly working towards advocating the case of street children. The universal declaration that pledges to end poverty, better

protect children and ensure rights to all, through a set of goals (SDGs) would have been an ideal start to bring street children into the domain of vulnerable children at a global level and make national governments recognize the issue and work towards it. However, the situation is that the SDGs also have failed to directly recognise and address the issue. There are no specific goals, targets or indicators regarding street children on the current list of goals. However, targets relating to other CIDC categories (few of which have been mentioned above) do cover a few relevant aspects of street children.

The closest SDGs have come to realise and address the subject of street children is through goal number 16 which addresses the biggest challenge that street children face, that is of identity.

Children into Substance Abuse

Children living in difficult circumstances are continuously exposed to harsh environments and the nature of their lifestyles makes them vulnerable to substance use and this threatens their mental, physical, social and spiritual well-being. According to a study conducted by National Commission for Protection of

Child Rights (2013)the use of substance among children is due to curiosity, peer pressure, migration, poverty, living a street life, amongst others. Substance use at a younger age makes children more vulnerable to several health and psychosocial consequences. It was seen that children in conflict with law were associated with one or other forms of substance. This further complicated the issue of protecting them from such a situation. Alcohol, tobacco and inhalants were the common initial substances of abuse and have been described as 'gateway substances'; also these were easily available to the children.

In the preceding section we discussed the status of street children vis-à-vis SDGs, and since it is generally argued that among CIDC street children are most vulnerable to substance abuse, this issue has more or less the same case against SDGs. The only category SDG speaks about substance abuse is through goal number 3. But the limiting factor is that the relevant indicators only talk about use of alcohol and that too among the adult population (>15 years).

Children Engaged in Substance Abuse	
Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Target 3.5	Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
Indicator 3.5.2	Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol

Again in this case there is a serious dearth of national level data. The data that is available is based on a small size survey conducted by independent civil society organizations in various geographical locations. Further, as various studies have suggested that higher the number of risk factors, more the chance of choosing substance when the children are in difficult circumstances increase. These assumptions and the increasing trends in the number of various categories of CIDC (as discussed in this report) are indicative of the growing magnitude of the problem of substance abuse among children in the country.

WAY FORWARD

On a concluding note one of the key aspects that has come through in this report, if we would especially like to cater to children in difficult circumstances and make a safe and better world for them is that India needs to put serious effort both on the programmatic and statistical grounds to be in line with the development agenda of 2030.

The cornerstone of monitoring SDG targets is the quality, comprehensiveness and periodicity of data. Without such data, tracking processes and operations are neither reliable nor relevant. In order to measure progress effectively the following steps must be taken:

1. **Development of Policy Frameworks at Multi Levels:** Due to the diverse nature of the SDGs , it is very essential that there is a policy level framework for implementation of SDGs at National (Macro) , State (Mesa) and District(Micro) level.
2. **Measuring Progress:** It is also observed that while the SDGs are more cohesive and inclusive compare to the MDGs, India needs to have its own targets or indicators which can cover various groups of CIDC and their sub categories. For example, at this juncture of time there are no specific indicators for street children and child marriage.

   Non-availability of data (particularly with respect to sub-national levels), periodicity issues and incomplete coverage of administrative data, have been a major challenge in measuring the progress of MDGs. There should be an institutional structure with a mandate to collect and disseminate data. Within the structure, there should be processes for data collection in the form of surveys or other tracking processes. These processes should

collect data that is methodologically robust and appropriate to local context as well as to national priorities. Data should also be transparent, easy to understand and should have an appropriate periodicity.

3. **Developing Relevant Indicators and Targets:** Apart from establishing SDG Indicators and targets at the national level there is also a need to develop the relevant indicators at the state level or adapt the indicators that are acceptable at the local level. It may not be advisable that the indicators' successful performance at national level may be followed through at the state level. For example, the indicator on Child Labor clearly demonstrates that there is a dip at the national level but the situation at the state level is a concern. Hence, it is very essential to observe the indicator at multiple levels and also see its adaptability and acceptability.
4. **Integration of SDGs in Programme Designing:** Unlike the MDGs, SDGs demands a larger scope of planning for adaptability and acceptability at the ground level. Hence, these SDGs need to be cautiously integrated with regular programming so that the inclusion aspects are well-addressed. Perhaps NITI Ayog needs to include departments / functionaries at the state and national level while setting up the targets and indicators.
5. **Financing SDGs**: Poor performance on child related MDGs suggest that India has to increase its expenditure on rescuing and rehabilitating its children in difficult circumstances. Given the recent slash in social sector schemes by the Union government, unless states devote a significant portion of their resources on the social sector, there is likely to be a significant funding gap, which could affect SDG funding.
6. **Increase in Funding for Schemes related to CIDC:** Though the budget allocations for multiples schemes are available and new schemes too have been announced over the years for children, the analysis clearly indicates that the budget allocations for the schemes that are benefiting the children have seen a decline in their share over the years. Budget allocations must urgently see a significant increase. A comprehensive monitoring mechanism also must be developed for the schemes in the lines of SDG for deeper implementation of these schemes.

Finally, there has to be a consciousness about focussing policy towards redressal of problems faced by children in difficult circumstances (CIDC). As the timeline set out for achieving the SDGs has already begun, it is fitting to take stock of the present status and plan for the distance that is yet to be traversed; to take bold and corrective measures; and to secure the country's future with inclusive and sustainable development measures.

GLOSSARY

- **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) :** Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of United Nations that contain eight goals with measurable targets of specific goals of the world society and clear deadlines (2001 to 2015) for improving the life of people who belong to the lowest rung of our society.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of United Nations that comprise seventeen goals that pledge to end grinding poverty, protection of global environment and well-being of all people within a stipulated time-period (2015-2030) in which governments, private sectors and CSOs will play an active role.
- **Children in Difficult Circumstances (CIDC**): CIDC stands for Children in Difficult Circumstances. CIDC includes within its scope, street and working children, children involved in substance abuse and broadly the section of children who are deprived of basic human needs of education, health care and protection and forced to live in extremely difficult situations.
- **National Policy for Children**: Government of India has adopted such a policy in 2013 which is an expansion of the NPC of 1974. The policy has acknowledged that children are the country's supreme asset and has emphasised the need to protect and promote child rights in India.
- **Street Children**: The United Nations has defined street children as 'any boy or girl for whom the street in the widest sense of the word….has become his or her habitual abode and / or source of livelihood, and who inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults.
- **Slum Children**: Children who live in slums both in rural and urban settings.
- **Migrant Children**: Migration can be of two kinds: interstate and international. Interstate migration happens when children migrate from one state to another/ village to city and international migration happens when children from foreign countries migrate to another country for livelihood.

- **Abandoned and homeless children**: Abandoned children are those who have been left unattended since a very early stage, a stage at which they deserved full protection, care, affection from parents and others. Homeless children are those who left home permanently due to social reasons.
- **Child Labour**: The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has defined child labour as one kind of work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity and causes harm to their physical and mental development.
- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**: ICDS is the largest government sponsored programme and India's primary social welfare scheme that provides food, pre-school education and primary health care services for children (under six years) and counselling for their parents to protect and promote the well-being of the poorest of the poor.
- **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)** : The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is a governmental program implemented by the Government of India to help secure the safety of children, with a special emphasis on children in need of care and protection, juveniles in conflict or contact with the law and other vulnerable children.
- ***Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* Campaign**: This is a government programme and is being implemented in a hundred selected districts of India, earmarked as having low child sex ratio whose objectives are to prevent gender-biased sex selective elimination; to ensure the survival, protection and empowerment of the girl child and to ensure the education and participation of the girl child.
- **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**: This is a government programme meant for the children of most marginalised sections of society especially girls, for backward classes whose main objectives are to prevent malnutrition of children, regular attendance in school for learning programmes, socialisation and inter-community dialogue for harmony and peaceful coexistence.
- **SABLA**: The Government is implementing Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)–'Sabla', a Centrally-sponsored scheme in 205 districts selected from all the States/UTs. The scheme SABLA aims at empowering Adolescent Girls (AGs) (in the age group between11-18 years) through nutrition, health care and life skills education.
- **Juvenile and Justice ACt**: Juvenile Justice Act is a landmark in the history of Indian judicial systems, introduced in 2000 and modified in 2016. Its main objectives are to consolidate and amend the law relating to children alleged and found to be in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection, by catering to their basic needs through proper care, protection, development, treatment, social re-integration, by adopting a child-friendly

approach in the adjudication and disposal of matters in their best interest and for their rehabilitation through processes provided, and institutions and bodies established.

- **RTE**: Right to Education Act was introduced through the 86th Constitutional Amendment in 2002 and modified with more provision in 2009 in order to acknowledge it as one of the Fundamental Rights of the child, as incorporated into the Constitution of India. This provides free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years.
- **U5MR**: The under-five mortality rate (U5MR) is the probability (expressed as a rate per 1,000 live births) of a child born in a specified year dying before reaching the age of five if subject to current age-specific mortality rates.
- **NITI Aayog**: National Institution for Transforming India, formerly the Planning Commission, is a Government of India policy think-tank established by the current government.
- **Child Sex Ratio:** In India, the Child Sex Ratio is defined as the number of females per thousand males in the age group 0–6 years in the human population. Thus it is equal to 1000times the reciprocal of the sex ratio (ratio of males to females in a population) in the same age group, that is under age seven.
- **NSSO**: The National Sample Survey Office (Formerly National Sample Survey Organisation) is a unique nodal agency of the Government of India that carries out surveys at regular intervals on socio-economic, demographic, agricultural and industrial subjects for collecting data from households and from enterprises located in villages and in towns. This is the main agency of the Government of India for the collection of statistical data in the sectoral domains that are vital for national development.
- **NFHS**: National Family Health Survey is a large scale survey initiative of the government of India that basically collects and analyses data about the health care sector and contributes to national level development planning and programme implementation. This is a joint collaboration in which IIPS is entrusted as a nodal agency and where it coordinates with USAID, ORC Macro, USA, East-West Centre , Honolulu. The first NFHS was conducted in 1992-1993 and now the NFHS four phase has begun.
- **DLHS**: DLHS stands for District Level Household and Facility Survey, conducting district level house hold and facility survey that will effectively contribute to monitoring the progress of various ongoing health and family welfare programmes at the grass-root levels. And the first survey was carried out in 1998.

- **Work Participation Rate (WPR)** : WPR is the participation rate that measures and analyses active portion of labour force in the national economy. It refers to the number of people who are either employed or are actively looking for work.
- **KGBV** or *Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya* (KGBV):KGBV is a government sponsored scheme and launched in 2004 to ensure access to quality education for girls, who belong to SC, ST, OBC and minority communities in difficult terrains. This scheme is being implemented in educationally backward districts where female literacy is remarkably low and below the national average. The scheme is currently being implemented in 27 States / Union Territories and 460 districts of India.
- **NCPCR** or The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights: is an important government institution, set up in 2007 with the prime objective of ensuring that all laws, policies, programmes and administrative mechanisms are in tune with the NCPCR objectives and mandates as enshrined in the Constitution of India. Under NCPCR, a child is defined as an individual in the age group of 0 to 18 years and is thus entitled to protective security under the law.

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ANNEXURE-I

Changes in the magnitude of child labour and WPR between 1991 to 2011 (Children in the age group of 5-14)

States	Child Workers			Percentage Change		Work Participation rates			Percentage Share of individual states		
	1991	2001	2011	2001	2011	1991	2001	2011	1991	2001	2011
Andhra Pradesh	1661940	1363339	753004	-17.9	-44.8	9.98	7.7	4.86	14.7	10.8	6.4
Arunachal Pradesh	12395	18482	20082	49.1	8.7	5.65	6.06	5.73	0.1	0.1	0.2
Assam	327598	351416	347353	7.3	-1.2	5.46	5.07	4.94	2.9	2.8	3.0
Bihar	942245	1117500	1288321	18.6	15.3	3.99	4.68	4.45	8.3	8.8	11.0
Chattisgarh		364572	297535		-18.4		6.96	5.27	0	2.9	2.5
Delhi	27351	41899	38939	53.2	-7.1	1.27	1.35	1.22	0.2	0.3	0.3
Goa	4656	4138	11323	-11.1	173.6	1.95	1.82	5.22	0	0	0.1
Gujarat	523585	485530	506496	-7.3	4.3	5.26	4.28	4.23	4.6	3.8	4.3
Haryana	109691	253491	138983	131.1	-45.2	2.55	4.78	2.69	1	2	1.2
Himachal Pradesh	56438	107774	136052	90.7	26.2	4.55	8.14	11.06	0.5	0.9	1.2
Jammu & Kashmir		175630	143460		-18.3		6.62	5.08	0	1.4	1.2
Jharkhand		407200	472831		16.1		5.47	5.74	0	3.2	4.0
Karnataka	976247	822665	453215	-15.7	-44.9	8.81	6.91	4.13	8.7	6.5	3.9
Kerala	34800	26156	57602	-24.8	120.2	0.58	0.47	1.07	0.3	0.2	0.5
Madhya Pradesh	1352563	1065259	806546	-21.2	-24.3	8.08	6.71	4.79	12	8.4	6.9
Maharashtra	1068418	764075	774815	-28.5	1.4	5.73	3.54	3.77	9.5	6	6.6
Orissa	452394	377594	425546	-16.5	12.7	5.87	4.37	5.05	4	3	3.6

Punjab	142868	177268	205847	24.1	16.1	3.04	3.23	4.16	1.3	1.4	1.8
Rajasthan	774199	1262570	960549	63.1	-23.9	6.46	8.25	5.85	6.9	10	8.2
Sikkim	5598	16457	11020	194	-33.0	5.18	12.04	8.92	0	0.1	0.1
Tamil Nadu	578889	418801	321002	-27.6	-23.4	4.83	3.61	2.74	5.1	3.3	2.7
Tripura	16478	21756	17808	32	-18.1	2.29	2.79	2.56	0.1	0.2	0.2
Uttar Pradesh	1410086	1927997	2540375	36.7	31.8	3.81	4.04	4.99	12.5	15.2	21.7
Uttarakhand		70183	91436		30.3		3.24	4.15	0	0.6	0.8
West Bengal	711691	857087	716576	20.4	-16.4	4.16	4.5	4.12	6.3	6.8	6.1
India	**11285349**	**12666377**	**11720724**	**12.2**	**-7.5**	**5.37**	**5**	**4.56**			

ANNEXURE-II

Number of cases registered against crimes that are treated as child trafficking according to NCRB

Crime	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	%age change
Procuration of minor girls	205	145	231	253	225	237	679	862	809	1224	2020	885.37
Buying of girls/ minors for prostitution	21	28	35	40	30	32	78	27	15	6	14	-33.33
Selling of girls/ minors for prostitution	19	50	123	69	49	57	130	113	108	100	82	331.58
Importation of girls	89	149	67	61	67	48	36	80	59	31	2	-97.75
Adoption	15	41	23	36	34	44	37	62	46	111	225	1400
Begging	20	19	24	13	17	30	34	45	29	44	16	-20
Illicit intercourse	414	501	676	649	825	765	749	1373	1113	2910	2316	459.42
Marriage	1593	1693	2621	3224	4003	4177	5193	8409	10572	14242	12301	672.19
Prostitution	101	117	148	130	130	165	93	137	143	60	39	-61.39
Selling body parts	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Unlawful activity	92	58	30	84	138	219	160	222	270	382	231	151.09
Slavery	16	4	15	35	32	49	26	24	5	19	3	-81.25
Sale	13	9	11	12	14	39	51	166	54	49	80	515.38
Total	**2599**	**2817**	**4005**	**4606**	**5564**	**5862**	**7266**	**11520**	**13223**	**19178**	**17330**	

NCPCR - Rights and Entitlements of Children Affected and Infected by HIV/AIDS[17]

In efforts to address the issues of children in the HIV/AIDS context, six public hearings have been held by NCPCR for orphan and vulnerable children infected/ affected by HIV/AIDS between September 2008 and February 2010 in Tamil Nadu (Chennai), Karnataka (Bangalore), Maharashtra (Mumbai), Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad), Manipur (Imphal), and Delhi (where West Bengal, Orissa, Gujarat, Nagaland and Uttar Pradesh also participated), involving the participation of 10 states. The hearings in six high prevalence States in India have shown the challenges faced by children to live a life with dignity vis-a-vis the responses of various State governments in provisioning of services.

It is estimated that there are 100,000 children in need of treatment for HIV and AIDS. They continue to live precariously in many parts of the country where they lack access to health care, adequate treatment of HIV and AIDS and face discrimination, exclusion and isolation. Orphans, children without security, and many other children are in need of counselling. Considering the rapid strides that are being made in the field of medicine and science and the available knowledge on public health systems for preventive and curative care, such neglect cannot be allowed. There is an urgent need for State provisioning of health and allied services for all such children. Likewise there has to be a comprehensive child health policy to address all health-related problems of children.

There are anywhere between 3 to 4 lakh children infected by HIV and the majority of them are in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka. Five to six times the number infected children are those who face a parentless, shelterless situation or because their parents have suffered from HIV . Thus, when we speak of HIV in the context of children— it's not only those *infected* that we speak about, but also those *affected* and are battling with the aftermath of this chronic and fatal infection. These children, at a very tender age, are confused, first, due to the loss of one or both parent(s) and second due to the bodily insults they have to combat on an everyday basis. Despite such clinical repercussions of the ailment we do not let the issue be confined to its medical connotations – it's made out to be a social issue and beyond. It is bad enough that the child has to worry about her medicines, treatment, ailing caregivers. But,we also burden her with the anxiety of school fees, property rights, pension— etc. The child must be freed from such encumbrances and the system should take care of them. Children should be made to live like empowered children and not troubled adults, not in the least with the burden of things even we as adults don't want to live with!

[17] http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/view_file.php?fid=99

ABOUT PLAN INDIA

Plan India member of Plan International Federation, is a nationally registered independent child development organisation committed to creating a lasting impact in the lives of vulnerable and excluded children, their families and communities. For over 35 years, Plan India and its partners have improved the lives of millions of children by providing them access to protection, basic education, proper healthcare, a healthy environment, livelihood opportunities and participation in decisions which affect their lives.

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