

All About Rights

What are Rights?

Rights are those basic standards without which people cannot live in dignity. To violate someone's human rights is to treat that person as though she or he were not a human being. To advocate human rights is to demand that the human dignity of all people be respected.

Why do we need Rights?

We all need rights, they ensure we survive, develop and they protect us. Rights are also about having the opportunity to be involved and included on matters that affect us. Rights ensure that everybody is treated equally and fairly. Sadly not everyone around the world and in India has his or her human rights respected. Rights are the foundation of a democratic society.

Who protects our rights?

Given importance of rights the Indian constitution guarantees them to all Indian citizens equally and has designated our elected government as the primary duty holder towards these rights. They are responsible for upholding rights and accountable in case of their violations

How are Child Rights and Human Rights linked?

Inseparably linked to their families or adult guardians and their community, children are affected by rights violations that communities and adults themselves suffer. This makes them most vulnerable to any situation be it poverty, natural disasters, displacement, social biases and prejudices. It is impossible to find long-term solutions to the issues confronting children without addressing these root-causes and resolving human rights violations. A child may not be in school for multiple reasons:

- There may be no school in her village
 - The school may be dysfunctional
 - She may be prevented from going to school because of her caste, gender or religion
 - Her parents may need her to work, look after younger siblings or migrate due to economic pressures
- Ensuring the child is not only enrolled in school, but stays there and gets an adequate education requires addressing each of those underlying problems.

What do these Rights mean?

Right to Survival

The right to survival ensures that every child has easy access to all the provisions that are necessary for his or her survival and intellectual as well as physical growth. This means that children should be rightfully assured of adequate nutrition and quality healthcare. Their names are registered as citizens to access state nutritional schemes. Infant and child mortality should be curtailed and malnourishment should not be a concern. The survival Rights of children include:

- Right to life
- Right to a wholesome family life
- Right to a decent standard of living
- Right of a disabled child to special care, training and education
- Right to have medical care and health services
- Right to full citizenship and social security

Right to Protection

Protection rights cover those pertaining to all forms of child exploitation and cruelty, arbitrary separation from family, and abuses in the criminal justice system. It upholds the child's right to be protected from harmful influences, having to work, to face any kind of physical or mental abuse and to have a caring, secure family. The Protection Rights of children include:

- Right to Administration of juvenile justice
- Right to protection against sexual exploitation
- Right to Protection from abuse and neglect
- Right to Protection of privacy
- Right to Protection of a child without a family
- Right to be protected from work that threatens a child's right to health, education and development
- Right to protection from drug abuse
- Right to Protection from other forms of exploitation

Right to Development

Development rights include provisions for education, access to information, play and leisure, cultural activities that lets the child explore her/his full potential. For education that not only leads the child to a path of learning but promotes understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and should contribute to deconstructing social evils like caste, class and gender discrimination. The Development Rights of children include:

- Right to free, equal and quality education for all children in India
- Right to play and recreation
- Right to be brought up in an environment that is conducive to holistic development of the child

Right to Participation

Participation rights include the child's freedom to hold independent thought, express opinions and to have a say in matters affecting his or her life. As capacities evolve, the child shall have increasing opportunities to take part in the activities of society for responsible adulthood. The Participation Rights of children include:

- Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- Right to Freedom of expression
- Right to Freedom of association with people, organizations. Clubs etc
- Right to The child's opinion

Did you know that there is a special set of rights for children and young people across the globe?

This set of rights is for children and young people (up to 18 years old). It is called the 'United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child'. On the 20th November 1989, the United Nations (UN) approved the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is now an international agreement that countries sign up to obey. Once countries agree to uphold the convention they are legally bound to what it says. In India the constitution states that these are every child's rights; and that every child has the right to enjoy these rights in their natural environment in their own family and community, with the benefit of their unique cultural ethos.

So what does the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child say?

The Charter of Child Rights (CRC) is built on the principle that "ALL children are born with fundamental freedoms and ALL human beings have some inherent rights". The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has 54 articles. Each article outlines a different right. They cover four distinct group of rights; Survival, Protection, Development and Participation.

What is the status in India?

In 1992, India ratified the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child. The Charter confers the following basic rights on all children and in India they are relevant as:

- The right to survival - to life, health, nutrition, name and nationality
- The right to development - to education, care, leisure, recreation
- The right to protection - from exploitation, abuse, neglect
- The right to participation - to expression, information, thought and religion

How does CRY work

[Content Source: www.library.thinkquest.org and www.globalfootprints.org]

AT A BRICK FACTORY...

9 YEAR OLD PADMA CARRIED BRICKS ...NOT BOOKS.

HER FATHER WORKED HARD ON THE FIELDS.

BUT STILL DIDN'T EARN ENOUGH FOR HIS FAMILY.

...AND THE NEAREST SCHOOL WAS FAR, FAR AWAY.

LOCAL NGOS WANTED TO GET THE VILLAGERS INCLUDING PADMA AND HER FATHER THEIR DUE.

CHILD RIGHTS AND YOU
www.cry.org
Stand up for what is Right

NGO PARTNERS

CRY TEAMED UP WITH THEM TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE BY BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER, SPREADING AWARENESS AND REACTIVATING THE SCHOOLS AND PHC'S

THE JAMIN ADHIKAR ANDOLAN, FOR EXAMPLE, ENSURED EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF GRAIN LAND AND IT'S YIELD AMONG THE LANDLESS, BENEFITING PADMA'S FATHER

AND HE MANAGED TO EARN BETTER...

TO RID PADMA OF HER BURDEN...

AND GO TO THE GOVT. SCHOOL NEARBY, WHICH WAS NOW FUNCTIONAL

15 LAKH PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY WILLED PADMA TO DO SO.

CARE TO JOIN THEM?

CRY supports Developmental Organisations by funding their initiatives and training their resources while monitoring their work and progress. You can help demand the rights of millions of children like Padma by pledging your time, skills, or money towards CRY's efforts.



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