

# National Child Rights Research Fellowships 2009-10

Childhood in India is not uniformly experienced; infact several childhoods co-exist: childhoods of social and economic status, physical and mental ability as well as geographical location to name a few. Respecting children as sovereign, equal members is a step towards recognising their voices in defining their best interest as participants and not just mute beneficiaries.

Child Rights and You (CRY) welcomes applications exploring the various dimensions of child rights, the best interest principle, within the constitutional framework of Justice for Children.

We seek new ideas, a combination of formal and informal approaches to explore and discover, simple and complex truths about the interplay of culture, laws, ethics and policies determining childhoods.

## Possible Focus Areas

You are welcome to expand and interpret the themes, based on your life experiences and vision.

- ❖ Creativity and imagination, in the experience and expression of childhoods, researching stories, folk songs, poems, as metaphors social interactions
- ❖ Explorations of the relationships of the child with other children, with the State, community and the family
- ❖ Evidences of assertion or rejection of the role of children in decision making arenas such as home, school, work and play spaces and governing institutions
- ❖ Gather evidence on relationships between ethnicity, inequality and conflict as witnessed and/or experienced by children
- ❖ Is best interest principle a value, a constitutional right, an interpretative advocacy instrument or a rule of law ?

## Principles governing the Fellowship

**Eligibility:** Applicants will be Indians residing in India, above the age of 18 years. Those previously awarded this fellowship are ineligible. Preference will be given to applicants who have studied in government schools, where no fees are charged. (Studies conducted and CRY's experiential learning of working with over 2000 deprived communities in villages and urban slums demonstrates that students attending government schools are primarily Dalits, tribals, girls and children from female headed and/or landless households.)

It is expected that potential fellows ascribe to the CRY values:

- **Respect for Human Dignity** ● **Secularism**
- **Working in Partnership** ● **Non-Violence**
- **Transparency** ● **Accountability** ● **Innovation**

**Language:** Applicants, may choose to work in any Indian language including English. Please clearly indicate the language you plan to work with. As assessment of the application will be conducted, both in English and your working language. Please include an English translation of the proposal, CV and work sample.

**Grant Sizes:** Upto 10 fellowships for grant sizes ranging from Rs.50,000 to Rs.1 lakh will be awarded. These will be support grants and fellows are free to continue their primary occupation. Proposals above one lakh will not be reviewed.

## Essential requirements:

1. A three-page proposal, which briefly explains your topic of study, outlines the research question within a framework, proposed methodology, time schedules, a reading list of related literature/existing studies on the subject and a detailed budget
  2. A two-page CV
  3. A sample of your published or unpublished paper/article or any documentation done on a related theme.
- Proposals whose duration exceeds a year will not be reviewed

Selected fellows will participate in an initial workshop to share research plans and gain from the collective experience (closer to March 2010) and will also participate at a half-yearly sharing meeting. Short-listed applicants will have opportunity to share their ideas and future plans, in conversation with members of the CRY assessment team.

**Dissemination:** Research results will be made available to activists, academics, development practitioners and interested general public through multiple fora, including language translations to influence the course of the debate on child rights and the best interest principle.

**Ownership:** While fellows will retain authorship of the final research report and content, all information and insights gathered will be open access and available to the widest possible numbers, for no charge. Fellows are free to publish the insights of their research efforts, with appropriate acknowledgment to the National Child Rights Research Fellowship and CRY.

If your proposal is part of a submission to any academic institution it will be ineligible for this fellowship as also if the fellow is already receiving funding for conduct of the research proposed. In case during the course of the Fellowship, the fellow feels the need to expand the scope and add greater depth, it is expected that CRY will be informed first about the need for additional funds. Also any other donors reached out to will be informed about CRY support for the principal work.

## Last Date for application is September 12th, 2009.

Please e-mail your application to: [research@crymail.org](mailto:research@crymail.org)  
In the absence of internet access you may send your application by post to

**CRY - Child Rights and You,  
Documentation Centre,  
189 A, Anand Estate,  
Sane Guruji Marg,  
Mumbai 400011.**



The names of researchers awarded the Fellowship will be announced on the CRY website latest by April 2010.