



HOMELINK NETWORK

20²² ANNUAL
23 REPORT



Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk
New Delhi



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As we navigate through various challenges posed to the life of children in the last Financial Year, it is crucial that we focus our efforts on supporting and empowering young people who are at risk.

At Homelink Network (HLK), we are committed to working towards this goal and ensuring that no young person is left behind. Many young people in India face a range of challenges that can impede their development and opportunities. These challenges include poverty, lack of education, limited access to healthcare, and social exclusion.



HLK aims to provide them with the support and resources they need to overcome these challenges and realize their full potential. We believe that this is important for the well-being of individual young people and the future of our society as a whole. Our approach is based on the values and principles of Don Bosco, who believed in the transformative power of education and the importance of creating a supportive and inclusive community.

With the help of Child MISS, a technology-driven software, Homelink Network was able to reach 10,487 children in FY 2022-23, which includes 6074 children who were restored to their parents or guardians, and through all our services, we were able to reach 17,731 FY 22-23 totally.

Understanding the importance of time-appropriate technology-driven interventions in today's world, we have identified the needs and the requirement of new software after much discussion and analysis from stakeholders especially hub coordinators and YaR coordinators of each province. Keeping in the need and accessibility, Child MISS 3.0 Web Application will have the following 3 important features Biometric integration, mobile application, and report generation. Therefore, we hope to bring out this new application by next year.

As we continue our work with young people at risk in India, we call on all stakeholders to join us in our efforts. We urge the government, civil society organizations, and the private sector to invest in programs and initiatives that support the well-being and development of young people, particularly those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. I am grateful to all our partners who have supported us: Kindermission, Don Bosco Mission, Bonn, It Will Be organization, and ELAIT. I am grateful to Fr. Tony Pellissery for his constant support and guidance in the Homelink Network. I am also grateful to Ms. Maheshwari Balan, Mr. Raj Parit & Mr. Austin Francis Charles who constantly guide the hub coordinators in data analysis & reporting. I profusely thank all the Hub Coordinators, YaR Coordinators, and Hub directors of each of the provinces for their support. I also welcome and wish the New YaR Secretary and Joint-Secretary to take forward the mission to greater heights.

Together, we can build a brighter future for young people in India and create a more just and equitable society for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Joseph Leo SDB'.

Fr. Joseph Leo SDB

DON BOSCO NATIONAL FORUM FOR THE YOUNG AT RISK

Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk (DB YaR Forum) is a network of groups and organizations committed to the safety, growth, development, and rights of vulnerable, marginalized children and young adults who need care and protection and those who conflict with the law. Currently, the network has 80+ member institutions and organizations from across 20 states and union territories of India. Services we offer to young people include street/railway platforms/ bus station presences, rescue teams, drop-in centers, open shelters, children's homes, youth hostels, and after-care facilities. We accompany the Young at Risk, to provide for their care and protection, conducive spaces to live, work together and develop within an environment of rights, participation, and dignity.



Homelink Network is the longest running project initiated by DB YaR Forum in 2002 to provide an accurate and timely response to the needs of the at-risk youth. It aims to establish a culture of data-led management and intervention planning supported by technology. The project facilitates real-time monitoring and predictive intervention planning, enabling organizations to respond effectively to evolving scenarios of young people at risk. The network spans across India with 8 Hubs and multiple Nodes. It comprises of 93 member organizations, interconnected through the Child MISS (Management Information System and Services) web tool which contains data of over 346,242 children. The tool has facilitated the restoration and home placement of over 121,220 children. Between January 2013 and March 2023, 116,260 children's details have been recorded in the Child MISS tool, of which 69,901 have been restored to their families or guardians.

HOMELINK NETWORK TEAM

NATIONAL TEAM



Fr. Joseph Leo
DB YaR Forum - Joint Secretary
Homelink Director



Ms. Maheshwari Balan
Senior Manager, Partnerships



Mr. Austin Francis
Technical Manager



Mr. Raj Parit
Project Officer

HUB TEAM

BANGALORE HUB - INK PROVINCE



Fr. Varghese Pallipuram
Project Officer



Mr. John Joshua Nirmal
Hub Coordinator

CHENNAI HUB - INM PROVINCE



Fr. Andrews Stephenraj
Hub Director



Ms. Jyothi Priya
Hub Coordinator

DELHI HUB - INN PROVINCE



Fr. Edward Sacrawat
Hub Director



Mr. John C. Shende
Hub Coordinator

GUWAHATI HUB - ING PROVINCE



Fr. Tomey Anikuzhikattil
Hub Director



Mr. Birender
Hub Coordinator

HYDERABAD HUB - INH PROVINCE



Fr. Ratna Neelam
Hub Director



Mr. J Prasad
Hub Coordinator

KOLKATA HUB - INC PROVINCE



Fr. C George
Hub Director

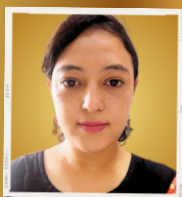


Mr. Aniruddha Battacharyya
Hub Coordinator

MUMBAI HUB - INB PROVINCE



Fr. Corlis Gonsalves
Hub Director



Ms. Khushboo
Hub Coordinator

TRICHY HUB - INT PROVINCE



Fr. Selvadurai
Hub Director



Ms. Jacqueline
Hub Coordinator

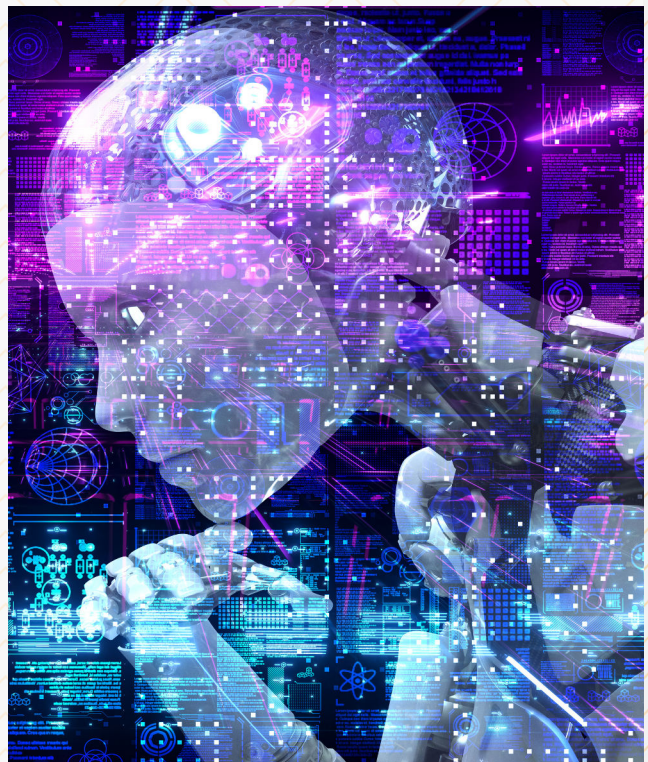


CHILD MISS

Child MISS (Management Information System and Services) is an online web portal that provides a secure and systematic platform for effective data management, monitoring, and reporting for Young at Risk. It is linked with other value-added tools and aims to enhance the awareness and skills of children and organizations through data. The tool is currently used by over 100 non-governmental organizations to document their services and follow up in a single-window system to enhance their mission for children at risk more effectively and efficiently. It also helps partner organizations to prepare and publish research and resource documents, micro-studies, and data snippets.

NEW DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD MISS

The AppPoint Software Solutions company had closed down and as a result, no new developments could be made on the existing BizApp Modeler. The technology used by this platform is almost 10 years old and maintaining it for a longer period is not feasible. Soon, the need for new developments grew that would consist of web applications, mobile applications with limited data entry, and Power BI for reporting. This initiative was supported by ELAIT. Additionally, Child PPa (Protection People App) integration for biometric authentication is currently supported by Itwillbe.org. This new development is necessary to keep up with the changing technology landscape and to ensure that Child MISS can continue to provide high-quality services to its partner organizations.



NATIONAL STATISTICS

CHILD STATUS

Hubs	Children Contacted			Institutionalized			Restoration			In Contact		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Bangalore	5,040	4,104	936	1,643	935	708	4,106	3,675	431	520	224	296
Chennai	754	364	390	378	231	147	177	45	132	588	334	254
Coimbatore	2,972	820	1,152	315	198	117	1,575	602	973	466	239	227
Delhi	774	526	248	133	116	17	249	241	8	500	260	240
Guwahati	265	107	158	237	152	85	73	49	24	205	69	136
Hyderabad	937	653	284	477	351	126	518	443	75	360	171	189
Kolkata	1,873	1069	804	272	176	96	2	1	1	1,836	1,042	794
Mumbai	46	46	-	187	187	-	78	78	-	-	-	-
Total	11,661	7,689	3,972	3,642	2,346	1,296	6,778	5,134	1,644	4,475	2,339	2,136

Data was exported on 03 July 2023, based on the contact date.

In the financial year 2022-23, a total of 6,778 children have been successfully reunited with their parents/guardians or placed in suitable institutions.

Children are contacted based on the contact date available within the Child MISS tool at the time of exporting.

In-Contact children include all the children who are not placed in our network institutions but receive support from the institutions.

The data represents the current information of institutionalized children, based on the exported date.

A total of 11,661 new data entries have been collected through the Child MISS Web Portal with the assistance of 8 hubs.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

SERVICES

Hubs	Total	Camp	Counselling	Education	Home Enquiry	Parent Visit	Home Visit	Job Placement	Medical	Vocational	HIV/ AIDS
Bangalore	5,775	137	3,642	1,064	36	107	122	4	459	204	-
Chennai	1,730	-	68	292	1	202	196	3	433	169	366
Coimbatore	2,042	-	611	231	-	599	256	3	311	31	-
Delhi	188	-	41	71	-	-	-	2	71	3	-
Guwahati	2,488	-	984	340	20	192	249	7	493	178	25
Hyderabad	1,708	-	122	641	27	218	341	29	136	194	-
Kolkata	1,154	-	567	587	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mumbai	2,159	-	399	216	-	480	134	5	855	70	-
Total	17,244	137	6,434	3,442	84	1,798	1,298	53	2,758	849	391

Data was exported based on the date of entry (date entered) provided in the system.

Child MISS has recorded a total of 17,244 services.

The most frequently utilized service modules in Child MISS are counseling, education, and medical.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

MODULES

Hubs	Total	Missing Complaint	Caring Community Members	Caring Community Group	Volunteer	Sponsorship	Event Management	Help & Rescue		
								Calls	Rescue	Total
Bangalore	3,660	51	2,376	161	171	-	117	455	329	784
Chennai	2,997	-	2,139	158	56	22	218	263	141	404
Coimbatore	3,488	13	985	89	32	-	361	1,131	877	2,008
Delhi	3,359	1	-	-	30	-	2	3,324	2	3,326
Guwahati	252	3	-	4	122	17	106	-	-	-
Hyderabad	1,606	4	-	-	35	-	1,567	-	-	-
Kolkata	2,907	-	-	-	9	-	2	1,132	1764	2,896
Mumbai	113	2	-	-	30	-	81	-	-	-
Total	18,382	74	5,500	412	485	39	2,454	6,305	3,113	9,418

Data was exported based on the date of entry (date entered) provided in the system.

Child MISS has recorded 18,582 entries in various modules, excluding services, follow-up, and child further.

The Help and Rescue module was utilized to document the calls received and rescue operations conducted by the organization, resulting in a total of 9,418 entries.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

FOLLOW- UP

Hubs	Total	Child Achievement	Education	Room Placement	Vocational Training	CWC
Bangalore	3,110	286	9	-	-	2,815
Chennai	22	10	12	-	-	-
Coimbatore	1	-	-	-	1	-
Delhi	2	-	1	-	1	-
Guwahati	164	25	-	30	40	69
Hyderabad	32	31	1	-	-	-
Kolkata	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mumbai	1,689	878	811	-	-	-
Total	5,020	1,230	834	30	42	2,884

Data was exported based on the date of entry (date entered) provided in the system.

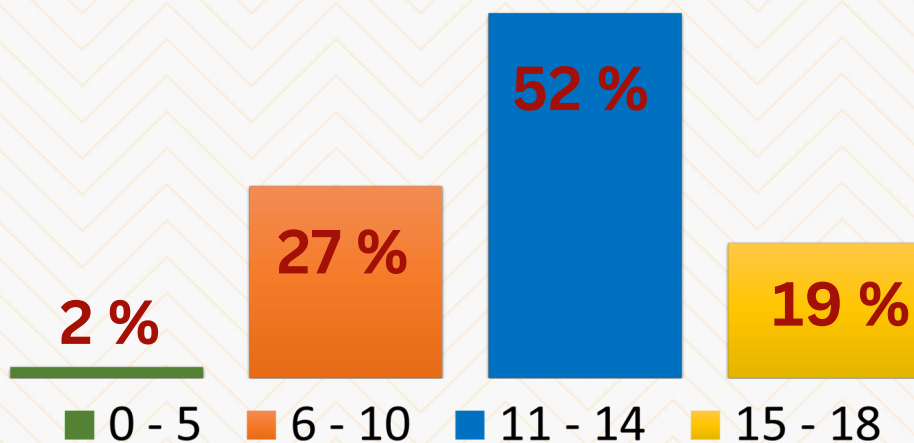
Follow-up is an additional module within Child MISS that organizations use to record the progress and subsequent services provided to individual children.

The most frequently utilized follow-up modules in Child MISS were CWC (Child Welfare Committee) and Child Achievement Education, followed by Vocational Training.

ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONALIZED CHILDREN

This analysis report examines 3,263 institutionalized children who resided in child care institutions between May 2006 and April 2023. The data were collected from 66 child care institutions that entered the data into Child MISS, providing a comprehensive snapshot of the status of institutionalized children. The analysis shows the characteristics of the children, their family backgrounds, and the duration of their stay in child care institutions. The findings from this analysis report aim to shed light on the needs of institutionalized children and have the potential to improve the quality of care provided to institutionalized children.

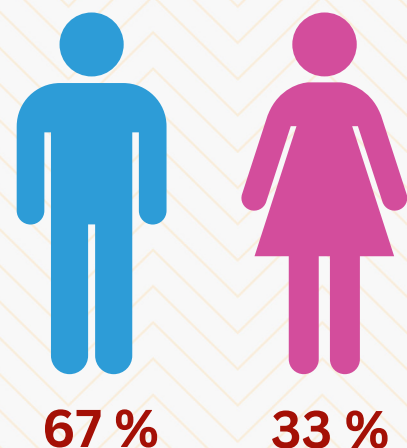
AGE GROUP



79% of the institutionalized children are aged 6-18. The age groups of 6-10 and 15-18 account for 27% and 19% respectively, **indicating a considerable number of children facing institutional care during their formative years and adolescence.** The highest percentage of children, 52%, falls within the 11-14 age range, suggesting that **this specific age group is more susceptible to institutionalization.** The youngest age group, 0-5, represents only 2%, potentially indicating efforts to prioritize alternatives to institutionalization for younger children. Children fell within the age range of 6 to 14 years.

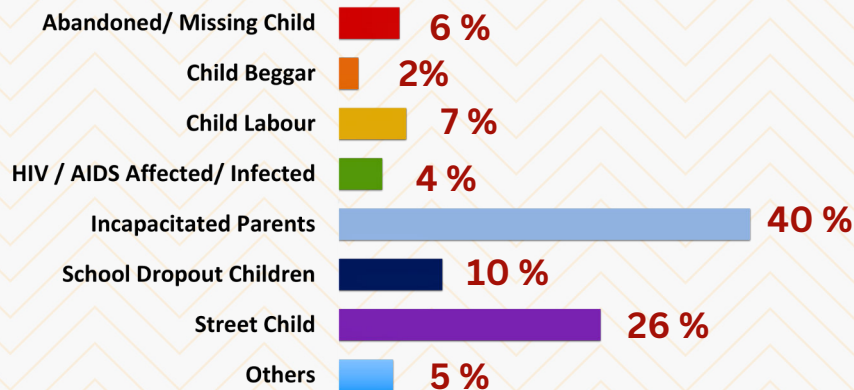
GENDER

The current data showing 67% male and 33% female institutionalization suggests a more **balanced approach in the care and protection of children, irrespective of their gender.** This shift signifies an effort to provide equal opportunities and support to both boys and girls who may face difficult circumstances requiring institutional care.



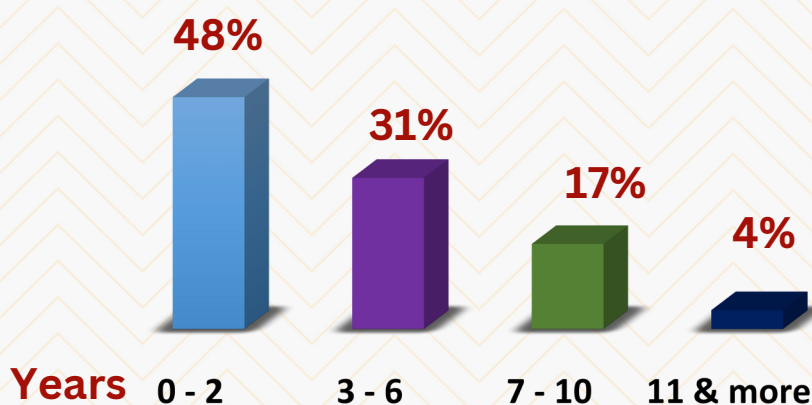
ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONALIZED CHILDREN

CHILD CATEGORY



The intersectionality method identified educational problems, **which could be attributed to poverty, a lack of infrastructure, or insufficient educational support.** To overcome this, investments in education, scholarships, and addressing the underlying challenges that impede access to education are critical. **Child labour denies children an education and jeopardizes their health and well-being.** On the family front, there is a need for a **comprehensive support system for disadvantaged families.** This could involve financial assistance, parental education, and community-based programmes to strengthen family units and lower the possibility of institutionalization. The pervasiveness of economic difficulties that cause children to rely on begging to survive.

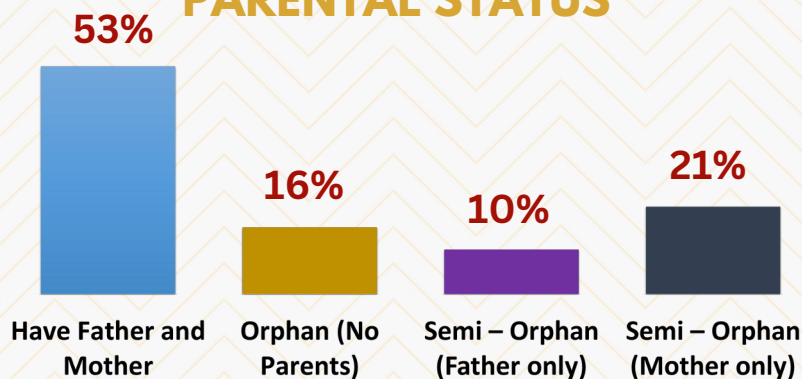
DURATION (YEARS) OF STAY IN CCI



The figures on the duration of institutionalization show a **favorable trend of reduced short-term stays (0-2 years) for 48% of children.** A significant number (31%) had slightly longer periods of care (3-6 years), indicating efforts to offer more steady care. However, the 17% of children who remain in institutions for **7-10 years require special attention** to ensure their well-being during their stay. The 4% who have lived for 11 years or longer emphasizes the need for immediate action to provide permanent solutions and identify adequate alternative care options. **The findings emphasize the significance of ongoing efforts to foster nurturing surroundings and facilitate timely reintegration into supportive family or community contexts.**

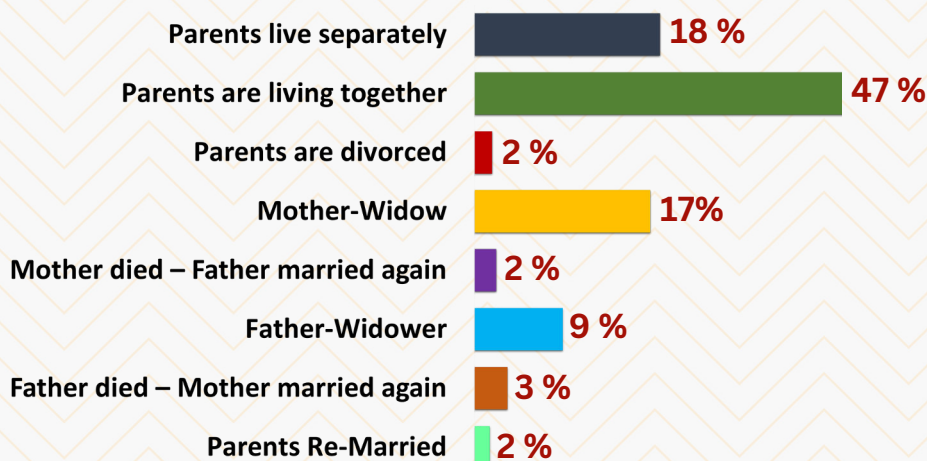
ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONALIZED CHILDREN

PARENTAL STATUS



The data on parental status of institutionalized children reflects a **variety of familial settings**. A good element is that **23% of children still have both parents present, indicating that they continue to receive family assistance**. However, because both parents are absent, the **16% of orphans require extra attention and care**. Furthermore, the 10% of semi-orphans who have only a father and 21% who have only a mother **may experience particular issues that necessitate tailored support systems**. Understanding these diverse family dynamics is critical for establishing tailored interventions to ensure each child's well-being and optimal development, promoting a caring environment regardless of parental status.

PARENTAL MARITAL STATUS



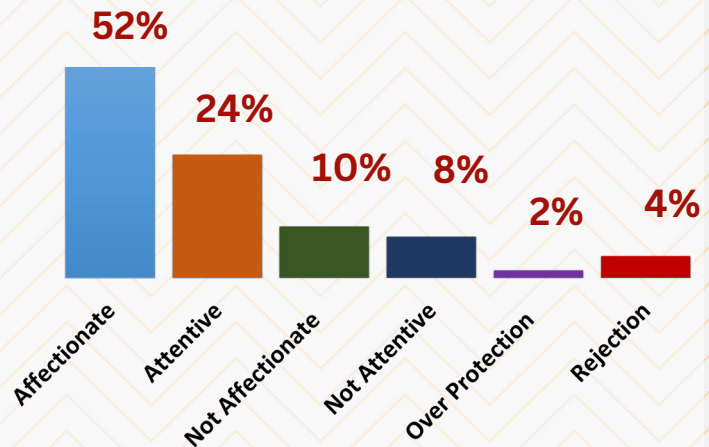
The children's parental marital status data reflects a variety of family circumstances. **The stability of both parents living together benefits a sizable proportion, 47%**. The 18% who live separately, on the other hand, **implies possible instabilities in the family unit**. The 2% who are going through parental divorce **may face emotional difficulties, demanding emotional help**. Furthermore, 17% of widowed mothers and 9% of widowed fathers seek specific support in single-parent households. The 5% of **parents who remarried following the demise of their partners demonstrate resilience and adaptability in dealing with bereavement**.

ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONALIZED CHILDREN

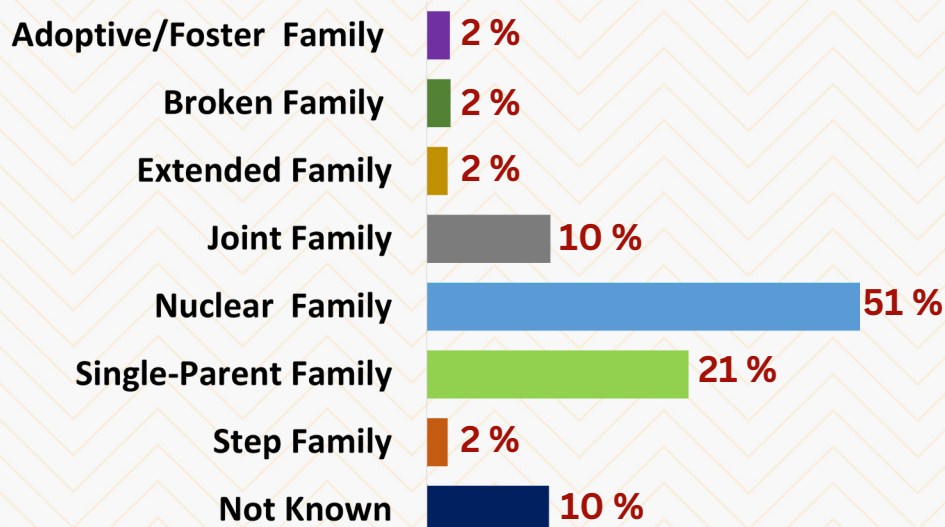
It is heartening that the majority of children, 52%, receive attentive attention from their parents, providing a caring and supportive atmosphere. Furthermore, 24% gain from attentive parents who are attentive to their needs. However, 10% lack of affection, while 8% had inattentive parenting, which may have an impact on their emotional well-being. Overprotection may impede the development of independence and self-confidence in the 2%. Furthermore, the 4% who

have experienced parental rejection require immediate attention and support to ensure that their emotional and psychological needs are met properly.

PARENTAL CARE



TYPES OF FAMILY



The information on the sort of family from which the children originated demonstrates the variety of family configurations they encounter. The majority, 51%, come from nuclear households, emphasizing **the importance of this family arrangement in society**. However, 21% come from single-parent families, **which can create distinct issues and may necessitate additional support networks**. Furthermore, the 10% from joint families provide a traditional support network, but the 2% from foster, dysfunctional, extended, and step families highlight the many circumstances these children encounter. Understanding different family kinds is critical for tailoring interventions to each child's individual needs and well-being, regardless of family origin.

ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONALIZED CHILDREN

CONCLUSION

The necessity for specialized solutions to address the challenges of institutionalized children is highlighted by extensive data, especially for those aged 11 to 14, who are most impacted during critical developmental phases. In care institutions, gender equality has made progress. But the high proportion of unfit parents highlights the significance of strengthening support systems for disadvantaged families. Street children and the homeless need comprehensive solutions, from prevention to rehabilitation. For people who will be spending a lot of time in institutions, long-term options are essential. It's critical to comprehend family dynamics and parenting practices while creating effective support systems to improve children's emotional and psychological well-being.

RECOMMENDATIONS

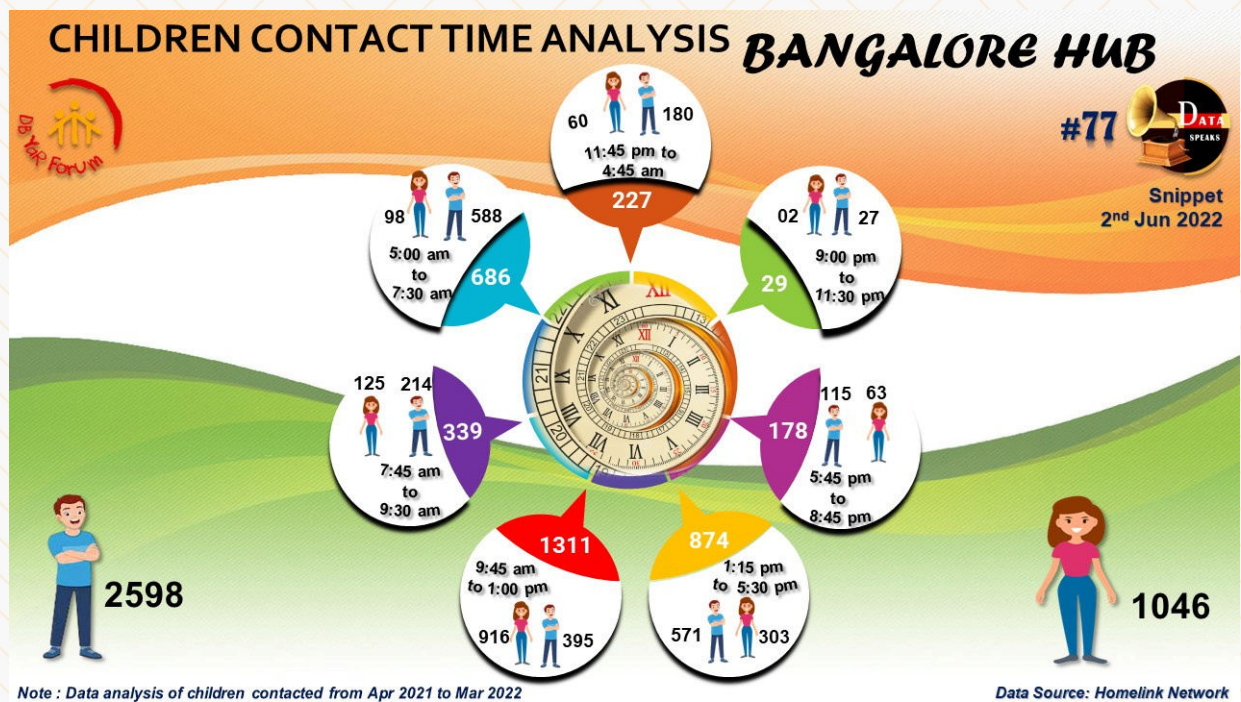
Several recommendations can be made based on the data analysis to alleviate the issues encountered by institutionalized children and vulnerable populations:

- **Preventive efforts** should be prioritized in order to limit the number of vulnerable youngsters entering facilities. This involves improving child protection services to prevent child trafficking, exploitation, etc.
- **Enhance support networks for families** facing economic difficulties or with incapacitated parents in order to avoid unwarranted institutionalization. This is possible through financial assistance, vocational training, and counselling. Prioritize education and skill development programmes to prepare children for a successful transition back into society following institutionalization. Promote their inclusion through facilitating collaborations with schools and educational institutions.
- **Gender-specific intervention** to tailor interventions to target the individual needs and vulnerabilities of boys and girls in order to promote gender equality and inclusivity in care institutions.
- **Mental health and counseling** to provide psychological assistance and counseling services to children who have undergone trauma, bereavement, or neglect in order to help them cope and heal.
- **Creating community-based care** models that focus on reuniting children with their families whenever possible or finding adequate alternative care arrangements within the community.
- **Advocate for policies** that protect the rights and well-being of institutionalized children and vulnerable populations, ensuring that they receive adequate care, education, and assistance.

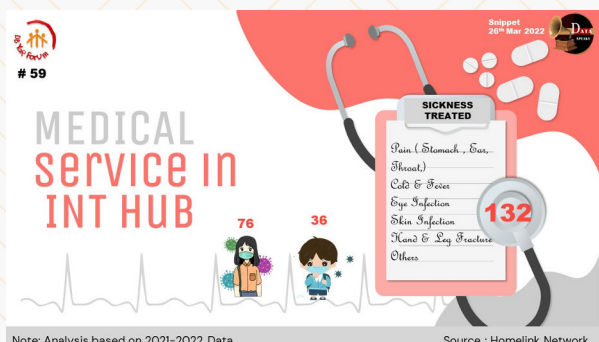
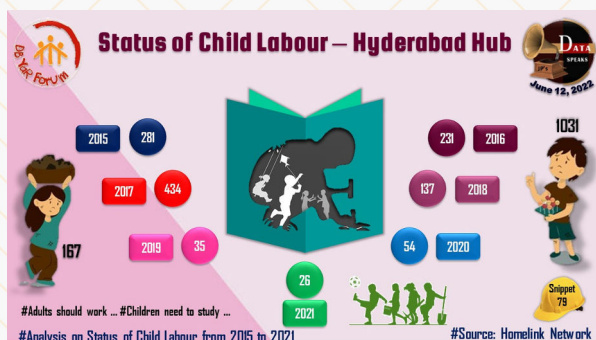
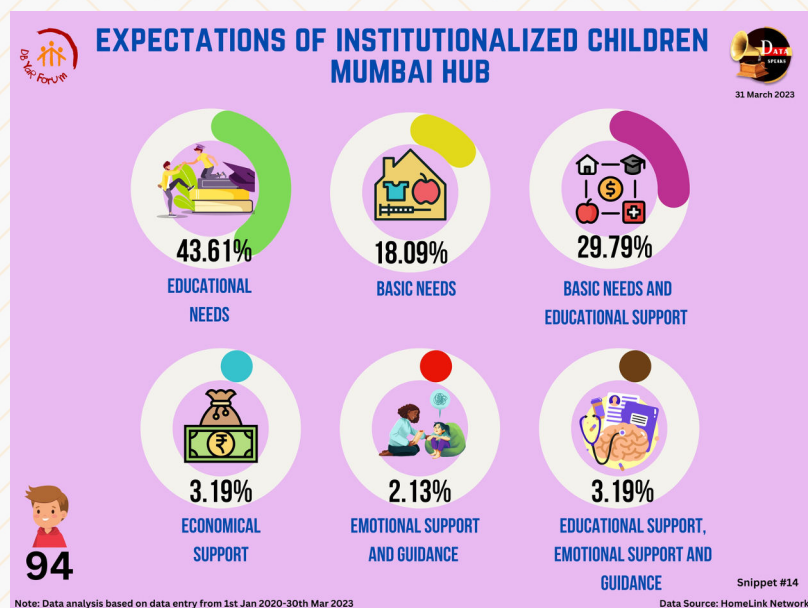
SUMMARY

The data analysis provides insight into the intricate world of disadvantaged groups and institutionalized youngsters. It is clear that efforts are being made to advance gender equality and offer secure situations for children aged 11 to 14 years, yet problems with extended institutionalization and single-parent families still exist. To protect children's well-being, preventive measures, family support, education, and gender-specific interventions are advised. In order to create a loving environment for all vulnerable children and ensure that all their rights are given priority, it is essential to place an emphasis on community-based care and advocate for protective measures.

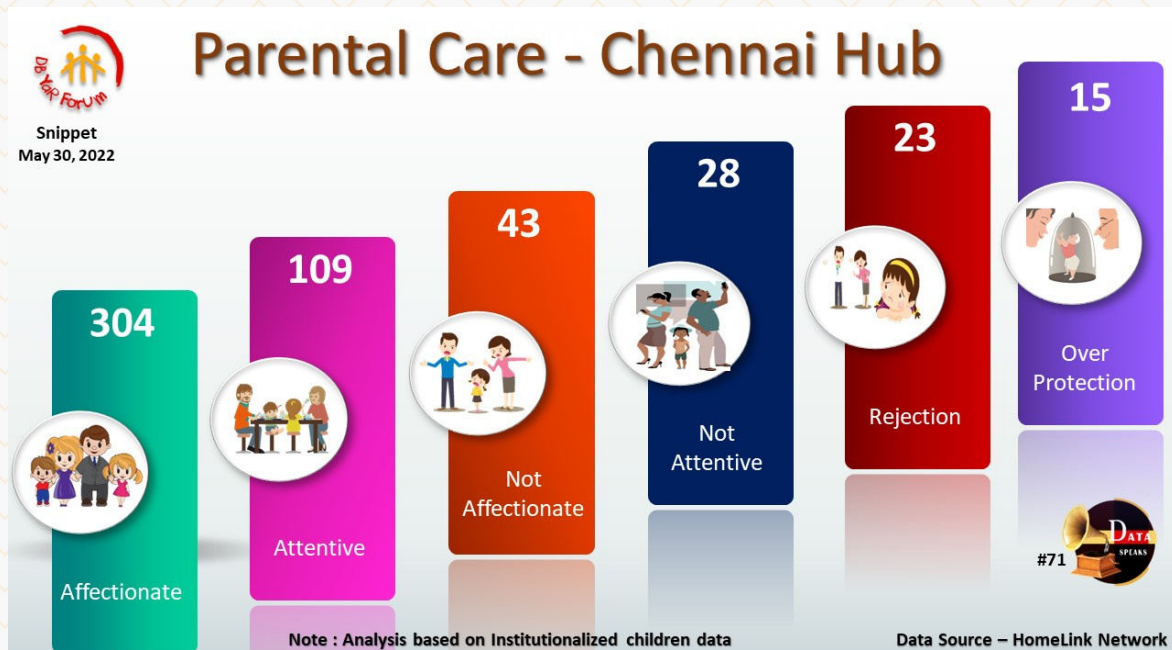
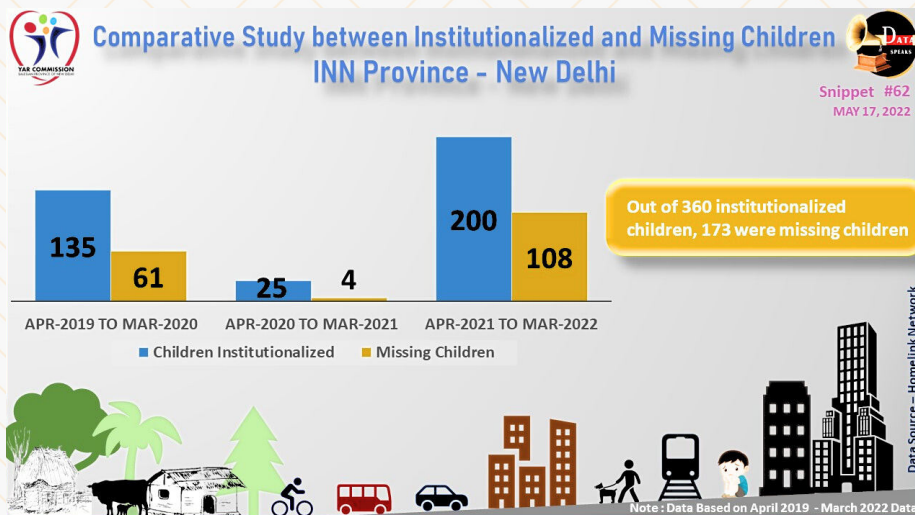
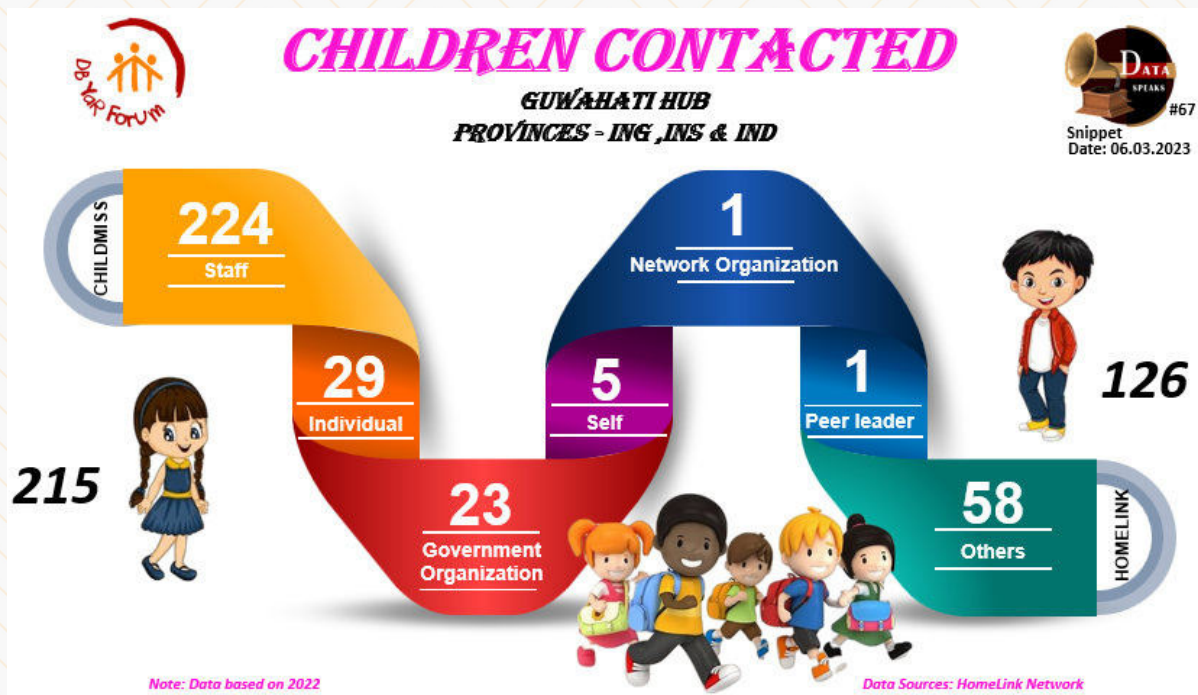
SNIPPETS



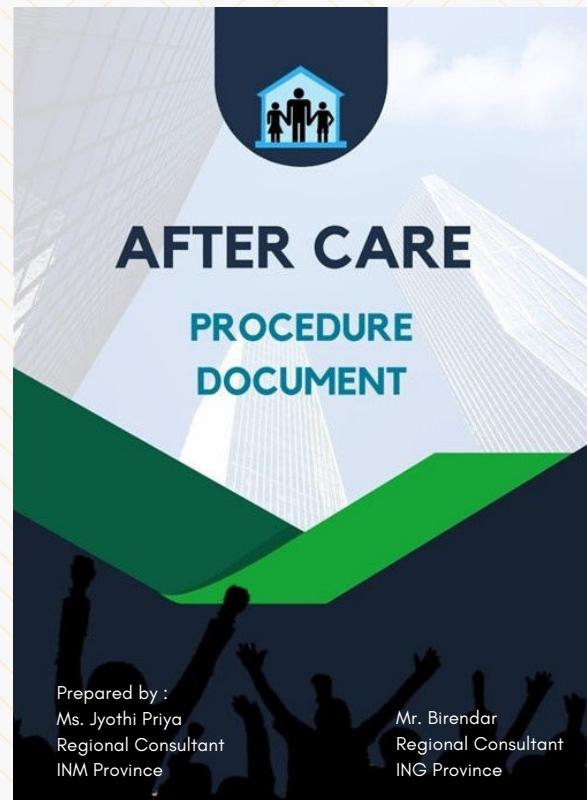
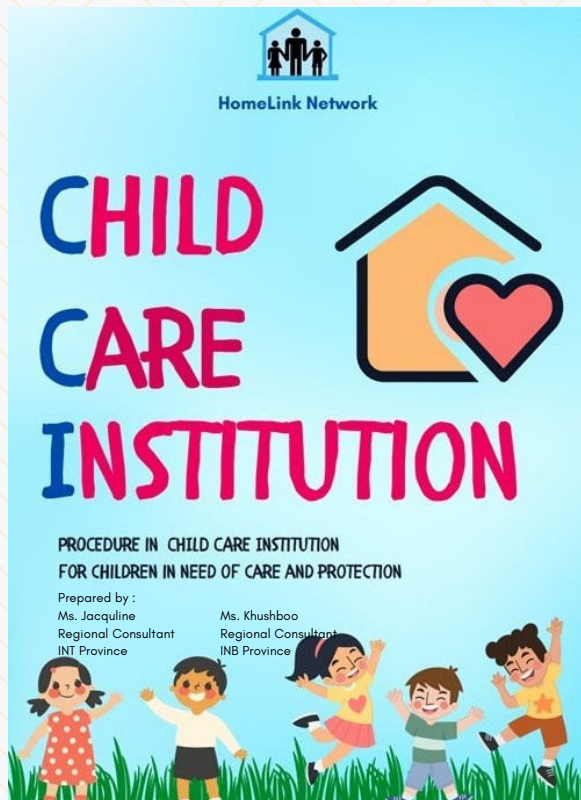
Data Speaks is an initiative by Don Bosco National Forum for Young at Risk, Homelink Network, which aims to develop a data-driven management system across its organizations. The initiative analyses statistical data, including children in Child Care Institutions and Street Presences. The snippets are sourced from the Child MISS tool of Homelink Network and are published to create awareness and visibility of the work of young people at risk in India.



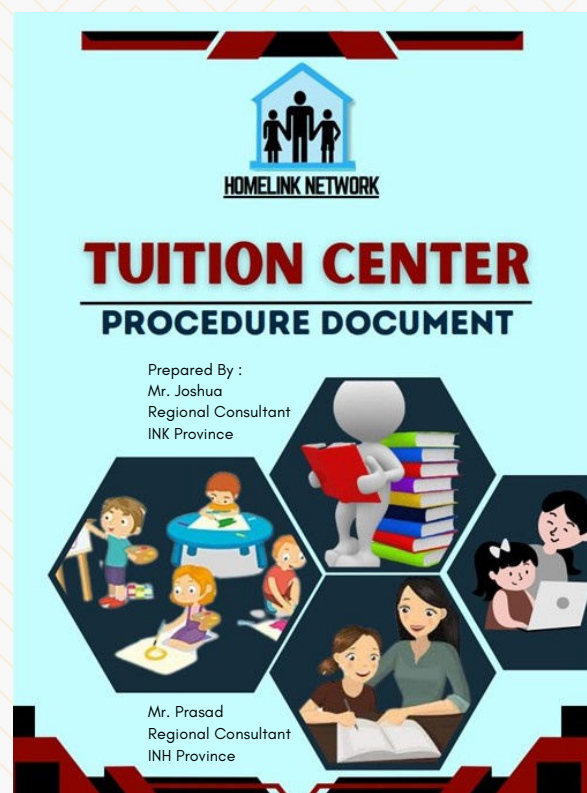
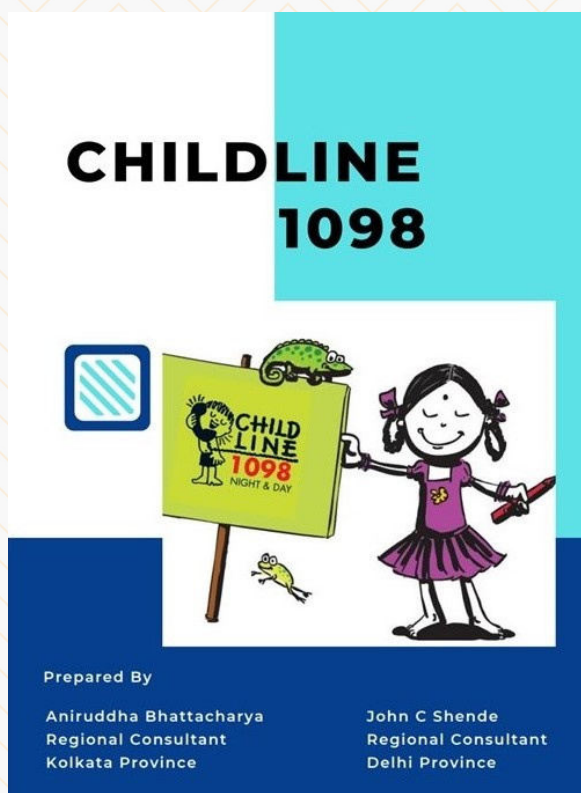
SNIPPETS



FLIPBOOKS



Flipbooks were introduced to cater to readers' short attention spans. Each Flipbook contains basic information related to a topic and links to various sources for further knowledge. These flipbooks are designed with less written content and more pictures - to make them visually appealing on a mobile phone. The Bangalore and Hyderabad Hubs made a flipbook on 'Tuition Centres'; Chennai and Guwahati Hubs made a flipbook on 'After Care'; Delhi and Kolkata Hubs made a flipbook on 'CHILDLINE' and the Coimbatore and Mumbai Hubs made flipbook on 'Child Care Institutions'.



1 - MINI RESEARCH

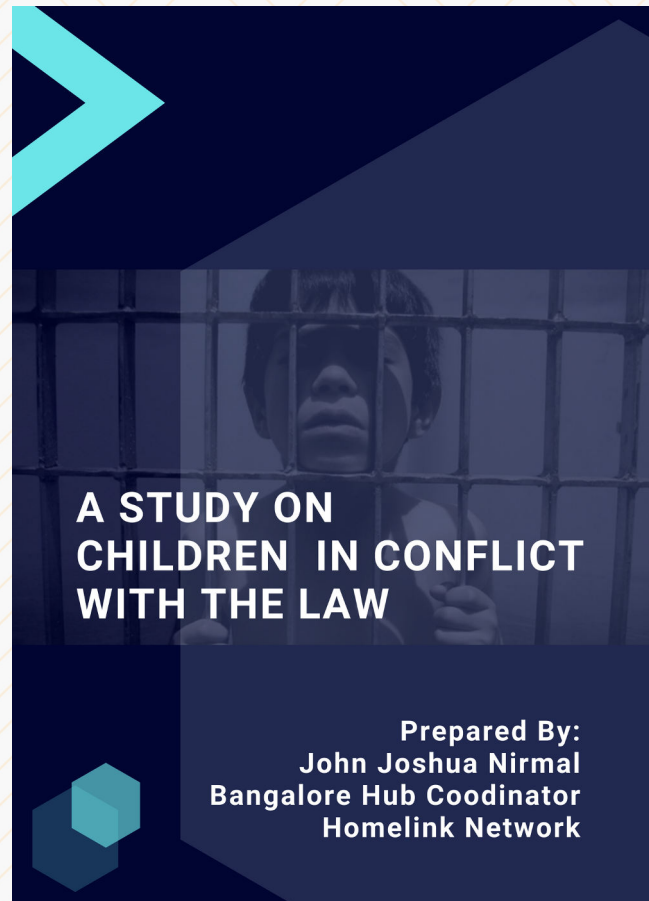
Children in Conflict with the Law

This mini-research delves into the subject of "Children in Conflict with the Law," exploring the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act and its objective to safeguard children from violence, abuse, and exploitation. The act ensures that children accused of offenses are treated differently from adults.

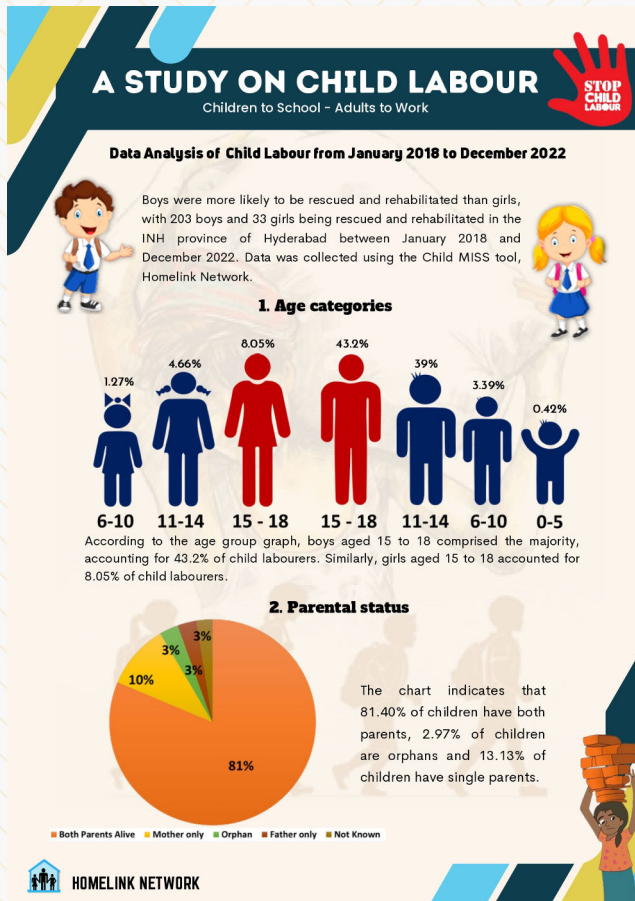
The study analyses data from 330 children involved in conflicts with the law, revealing a male-female ratio of 97:3. Most cases (91%) involve children aged between 15 and 18, with no offenders below 11 years of age. Serious offenses account for 162 cases, while petty offenses make up 168 cases.

In its recommendations, the research emphasizes the importance of identifying and addressing risk factors by parents, teachers, schools, communities, and law enforcement agencies. It highlights the need for a child-friendly approach to justice, with a focus on rehabilitation and social reintegration. Equal social status, education awareness, and a friendly environment are essential to avoid delinquency. The conclusion underscores the significance of prioritizing rehabilitation over punishment for children in conflict with the law. While the act aims to protect children, it allows for adult trials in cases of heinous offenses to ensure justice.

Overall, the study advocates for promoting positive development through protective factors that mitigate risks, fostering a society that supports and nurtures children on the path to a better future.



2 - MINI RESEARCH



Child Labour

Child labour is a grave issue that deprives children of their childhood, education, and well-being and persists in various parts of the world. Poverty, lack of education, cultural norms, and weak enforcement of labour laws contribute to this problem. To combat child labour, a comprehensive approach is necessary, involving public policy, community awareness, education, and cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Data analysis from January 2018 to December 2022 reveals that boys (203) were more likely to be rescued and rehabilitated than girls (33) in the INH province of Hyderabad. The majority of child labourers were aged 15 to 18, with boys accounting for 43.2% and girls 8.05%. Most children had both parents (81.40%), while 2.97% were orphans and 13.13% had single parents.

Suggestions to reduce child labour include enforcing laws, improving access to education, implementing social protection programs, raising public awareness, promoting children's rights, providing alternative livelihood opportunities, and strengthening child protection systems through public-private collaboration. Addressing child labour requires concerted efforts to protect vulnerable children and ensure a better future for them.



3 - MINI RESEARCH

Parental and Orphan Status of Institutionalized Children

This mini-research focuses on the parental and orphan status of children residing in child care institutions (CCIs) in India. Parental care is crucial for a child's well-being, but many children end up in CCIs due to factors like poverty, discrimination, and inadequate family support. The data, collected from 160 children from the province of Mumbai and Panjim, highlights that children aged 12 to 14 are more frequently admitted to CCIs. Single-mother households account for the highest number of children, indicating the challenges they face in providing care due to economic constraints or social support.

Factors influencing children's admission to CCIs include poverty, stigma, inadequate family support, family issues, and legal matters. Government initiatives, such as the "Bal Swaraj" scheme and the orphan certificate in Maharashtra, aim to improve alternative care options and protect children's rights.

The study emphasizes the need for comprehensive approaches to address the root causes of parental incapacity and poverty. Promoting family-based care, community interventions, and awareness can ensure children thrive in safe and stable environments, reducing the number of children in CCIs.

A STUDY ON PARENTAL AND ORPHAN STATUS OF INSTITUTIONALISED CHILDREN

Introduction

Parental or orphan status is an important factor that affects the lives of millions of children in India. Children who are deprived of parental care are at a higher risk of facing various challenges, including poverty, malnutrition, lack of education, and exposure to abuse and exploitation. As a result, many of these children end up in childcare institutions (CCIs), such as Children's homes, where they receive care and protection.



Background

According to the 2018 report by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the number of children with Single Parents is 1,20,118 which is about 31.81% and the number of orphans in the CCI is 41730 which is 11%. A total of 1,78,885 children are residing in childcare institutions as their parents or guardian have been found incapable of taking care of them. This highlights the urgent need to address the issue of parental care in India and to ensure that children receive the support they need to thrive.



Government Initiatives

- The government of India has taken steps to improve alternative care for children such as foster care through strengthening the capacity of organizations providing alternative care, improving the monitoring and evaluation of care arrangements, and providing greater support to families to prevent the need for alternative care in the first place.
- The Government initiatives such as the "Bal Swaraj" scheme, aims to strengthen the child protection system and promote family-based care for children.
- The orphan certificate in Maharashtra is a legal document that certifies a child as an orphan. It is issued by the state government to children who have lost their parents or whose parents have abandoned them and helps them access various government benefits, such as education, health care, and financial assistance. It also helps in preventing child trafficking and child labour and provides legal protection to the child. To ensure its effective implementation and awareness, the government needs to create awareness among the people and streamline the process of issuing the certificate.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the data suggest that there is a complex relationship between the child category and parental status in the context of children in childcare institutions in India. The high number of children in child care institutions could be attributed to various factors such as parental incapacity, poverty, and gender-based discrimination. It is important to address the root causes of these issues through comprehensive and multi-sectoral approaches and to ensure that children receive the support they need to thrive in safe and stable environments. This may include family-based care options, community-based interventions, and other measures to prevent.



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DB National Forum for the Young at Risk

Prepared By
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4 - MINI RESEARCH



A STUDY ON SCHOOL DROPOUT CHILDREN



INTRODUCTION

Ensuring equity and excellence by delivering equitable, quality education in formal schooling lies at the very core of any country's educational system, in which the teacher – the key facilitator of the education process – plays the most important role in shaping the child's journey through schooling.

UNICEF (2000) provides a comprehensive definition of quality education that includes various elements. These elements include healthy learners who are well-nourished, ready to participate and learn, and whose learning is supported by their families and communities.

SCHOOL DROPOUT CHILDREN

School dropout refers to individuals who leave their formal education prematurely, without completing the necessary academic requirements. Factors such as socioeconomic challenges, lack of support, or disengagement can contribute to dropout rates. Understanding the reasons behind dropout and implementing effective interventions are crucial for promoting educational attainment and reducing societal inequalities.

DATA

The data for this study was collected using the web tool call Child MISS, which is part of the Homelink Network. The data covers the period from 2020 to 2022 and includes a sample size of 258 children from the provinces of Guwahati, Shillong, and Dimapur.

LIMITATIONS

The limitation of this study is the potential for sampling bias. The study may have focused on specific regions or populations, making it challenging to generalize the findings in a broader context. Other limitations could include the potential for incomplete or missing data, limited resources or time constraints for data collection, or the inability to control all relevant variables that may influence school dropout.

1



REASONS FOR SCHOOL DROPOUT

The reasons for school dropouts are diverse, ranging from voluntary choices to being compelled by difficult circumstances. School dropouts are a widespread phenomenon. Some key points regarding this issue are highlighted below:

Academic pressure	Families social-economic needs
Peer pressure	Lack of parental support
Disengagement	Migration (frequent change of school)
Lack of interest	Child marriage & pregnancy
Bullying	Mental illness & Disabilities

PREVENTIVE MEASURES FOR IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ● Increasing access to education | ● Encouraging parent involvement |
| ● Improving infrastructure | ● Using technology |
| ● Eliminating poverty & child labour | ● Promoting gender equality |

CONCLUSION

The problem of school dropout is complex and multi-dimensional, necessitating collaborative efforts for its resolution. Although government and non-government organizations have made efforts to fill the gaps. Raising awareness and fostering cooperation among families, teachers, children, and community leaders can contribute to preventing school dropouts.

Emphasizing the value of both quantity and quality of education is essential for a child's future. Measures such as involving parents, providing academic and mental health support, reducing education costs, and offering life skill training programs are crucial. Monitoring student performance and identifying warning signs can prevent dropouts and child abuse. The UN Convention on Child Rights highlights the importance of education for a child's holistic development in society.

THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk

Prepared by

Birendar Kumar Baxla
Hub Coordinator
Guwahati Hub



School Dropout Children

This mini-research examines the issue of school dropout children and its impact on educational attainment and societal inequalities. Data was collected from 258 children from the province of Guwahati, Shillong, and Dimapur using the Child MISS web tool. The study identifies various factors contributing to school dropout, including socioeconomic challenges, lack of parental support, bullying, child marriage, and migration.

Gender analysis reveals that a larger proportion of girls drop out due to diverse reasons. Parental status and occupation also affect children's education, with children of daily wage earners facing challenges in academic performance due to limited support. Neglect and lack of parental affection further impact children's development.

Preventive measures to improve education for children include increasing access to education, improving infrastructure, eliminating poverty and child labour, encouraging parent involvement, using technology, and promoting gender equality.

In conclusion, the problem of school dropout requires collaborative efforts from government, non-government organizations, families, teachers, and community leaders. Raising awareness and implementing supportive measures can prevent school dropouts and foster a child's holistic development in society, aligning with the UN Convention on Child Rights.

5- MINI RESEARCH

Incapacitated Parents of Children in Institutional Care

This mini-research investigates the prevalence and impact of incapacitated parents on children who end up in institutional care. Incapacitated parents refer to those who are unable to adequately care for their children due to various factors like poverty, illness, mental health issues, or involvement in criminal activities. These families are vulnerable to disintegration and breakdown, leaving children susceptible to neglect, abandonment, and destitution.

The study analyses data from 240 institutionalized children in the Chennai Province, focusing on gender, age groups, parental status, type of family, and child category. Most children come from families with low income, daily wages, and unskilled workers, which leads to inadequate care and institutionalization.

The research reflects on the challenges faced by incapacitated parents and raises important questions about responsibilities towards children from nuclear families, the gap between nuclear and joint family lifestyles, gender disparities in care, and the impact of extramarital affairs on institutional care needs.

In conclusion, the study emphasizes the critical role of institutions in shaping children's lives and calls for a holistic perspective when considering children from families with incapacitated parents. It highlights the need for comprehensive support, family/community-based care options, and child-centered approaches to address the vulnerabilities faced by these children.

A STUDY ON INCAPACITATED PARENT OF CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE



HOMELINK NETWORK



Homelink Network

HomeLink Network is an ongoing initiative started by DB YaR Forum in 2002, to ensure appropriate, timely and real-time response to the needs of the young at risk, based on accurate documentation and data analysis supported by the best of technologies available today.

We work towards

- a. Developing data driven child care system through documentation, research and networking
- b. Systematically documenting the systems, processes, and workflow of the organizations
- c. Data led intervention planning in organizations
- d. Data-driven advocacy and engagement with stakeholders and government on children's issues
- e. Harnessing current advances in digital technologies in the service of the work with young at risk

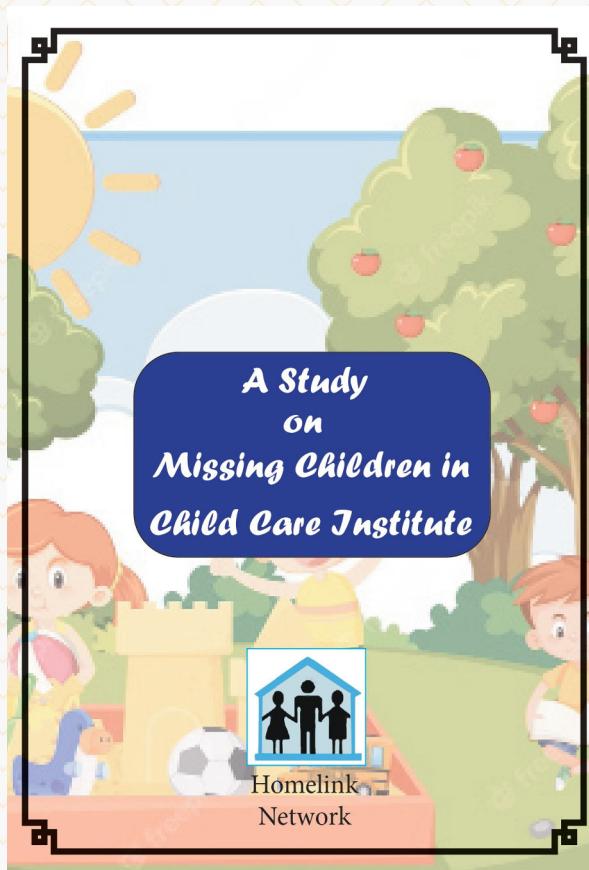
Province of Chennai Networking Organizations working for Young-at-Risk (YaR) in various situations



Supported By : Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk

Prepared By:
Ms. Jyothi Priya
Chennai Hub Coordinator – INM Province

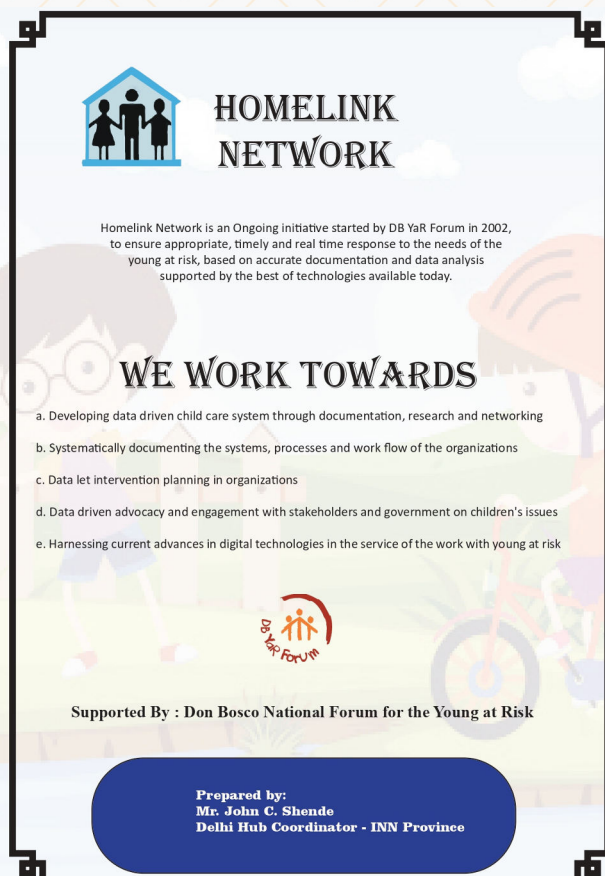
6 - MINI RESEARCH



A Study on Missing Children in Child Care Institute

In this study on missing children in Child Care Institutions, the research aims to address the alarming issue of missing children and explore the underlying reasons behind it. The objective is to create a safer environment, foster proactive communities, and protect the well-being of these vulnerable children. The study covers data from 2017 to 2022, focusing on a sample size of 702 children from Don Bosco Ashalayam, Delhi.

Key findings indicate that the majority of missing children are between the ages of 6 to 15 years, with a higher incidence during summer vacations. Public transport terminals are common locations where missing children are found. Surprisingly, children go missing even when both parents are present, suggesting the need to address underlying family issues. The study highlights the successful restoration of 89% of missing children to their parents or guardians within a month of contact. However, 4% of children remain in Child Care Institutions for over a year. The reasons for children going missing include parental conflict, peer pressure, abuse, online exploitation, and poverty. To reduce the incidence of missing children, the study recommends creating a peaceful and supportive home environment, increasing public awareness, providing counselling and support services, strengthening laws, and improving data-sharing systems. Addressing root causes such as child abuse, neglect, poverty, and social inequality is essential to protect vulnerable children and ensure their well-being.



7- MINI RESEARCH

A Study on Child Marriage

Child marriage is a pressing issue, particularly affecting girls worldwide, and this study focuses on its prevalence in Tamil Nadu, India. The objective is to understand the reasons behind child marriage, its impacts, and ways to prevent it. The data reveals an alarming increase in reported child marriage cases, with approximately 10 cases daily in Tamil Nadu from January to August 2022.

Among the vulnerable children, 98% are girls, and love affairs facilitated by increased mobile phone usage during the pandemic are a significant contributing factor. Poverty, family pressure, and sexual abuse are also common reasons for child marriage. Surprisingly, a high percentage of child marriages occur in families with both parents due to poverty and social norms.

Education is crucial in preventing child marriage, as almost half of the girls end their education at the secondary level. The age difference between child brides and their partners leads to violence and pregnancy complications.

Child marriage deprives children of their right to choose and exposes them to health risks and violence. Empowering children through education, economic opportunities, and community support is essential to combat this issue. Collective action involving activists, governments, and communities is necessary to create a safe environment where children can thrive and fulfil their potential, free from the burden of child marriage.

CHILD MARRIAGE A LOSING GAME



JUST STOP!

A STUDY ON CHILD MARRIAGE
BASED ON 2020-2022 DATA
HOMELINK NETWORK
COIMBATORE HUB - INT PROVINCE



CHILD MARRIAGE IS THE RAPE OF A CHILD!

HOMELINK NETWORK



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Don Bosco National Forum for Young at Risk

Prepared by

Mrs. D. Jacqueline
Hub Coordinator
Coimbatore Hub - INT Province

HUB LEVEL TRAININGS

A series of 8 one-day Hub Level Trainings were organized by each Hub, during which the national team visited the Hubs and conducted training programs for all node directors and staff involved in Child MISS-related activities. The main objective of these trainings were to empower and train the nodes to conduct gap analysis of the data entered by them, as well as to develop insights into evolving societal trends. The program included sessions on various topics, including use of social media, standard of care in child care institutions, and effective implementation of Homelink Network.



The training program was designed to encourage the nodes to adapt or devise interventions based on data analysis to address critical issues faced by children. In addition, there were discussions related to the implementation plan of the Homelink Network in the nodes and

the challenges faced by team members on the field. The training also included sharing challenges faced by children, such as an increase in the number of parents who lack the physical or financial ability to care for their children, an increase in cases of school dropouts, missing children, trafficking, and child marriage.

TRAININGS FOR NGOS

Three Hubs conducted motivational and orientation programs for other non-profit organizations working in the field of child care and child rights. Through these programs, several aspects of the Child MISS tools was discussed. Other topics of effective documentation and data-driven child care was also discussed.



Ms. Jyothi from the Chennai Hub conducted two training programs. One was with Franciscan Sisters of St Josephs which was attended by 53 participants from 39 centers. The other was with Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary which was attended by 50 participants from 32 centres

The Coimbatore Hub training was led by Ms. Jacqueline for 45 NGOs.
A training session was organised by Mr. Aniruddha from the Kolkata Hub which was attended by 5 NGOs and 2 Childline organizations.



10

25

Austin Francis is presenting

National

National

VIRTUAL HUB

1. **Organization** – That which has Mission, Vision, and Target group. Each organization can have multiple entities operating under it.

2. **Entity** – An individual or a group which belongs to the organization. This is a very broad term. Programs are contained under this entity.

3. **Project / Program** – are conducted within the Entity have an target group and goals (eg., Children, Traditional Training, Rural extension, etc) are called

4. **Programs** – Organized (eg. Travel, Academic, Health, Research, Activity)

5. **Sub-branching to be changed** – Differ Organization, Centre, Projects, and Programs.

6. **Report** –

- a. We need to have a reporting system (with the Application)
- b. We need to have a reporting system (with the Application)

4:24 PM | New Requirement Discussion @ 2:30 pm

Man with glasses

Woman with glasses

Man with glasses

Woman with glasses

Technical Experts, both individually and in groups, to address all. The meetings resulted in the development of a structural outline for the new Child MISS tool, which was designed to be child-centric and enhance the reporting experience. Field experts were consulted during the process to ensure the tool's effectiveness.

The screenshot displays a Zoom meeting in progress. The main window shows a presentation titled "Disaster National Forum for the Young at Risk Monthly Info-graphic Report February 2022". The presentation content includes:

- State Disasters by Risk:** A bar chart showing the number of disasters by state. The states listed are: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and India.
- Status of Children:** A pie chart showing the status of children. The data is as follows:

Status	Percentage
Orphan	10%
Abused	30%
Displaced	21%
Other	39%
- Age Group:** A line chart showing the number of children by age group. The age groups are: 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94, and 95-99.

The Zoom interface shows a list of participants on the right side, including "Raj Parti", "Srinidhar R. Sanku", "Jaqueline Dominic", "Mamuel HGB (KNU)", "Anirudha Shetty...", and "John C. Shonko". The bottom of the screen shows the Zoom meeting controls, including a timer indicating 1:24 PM.

25

Digital Transformation & Innovation for NGOs, Child PPa & E-Learning Training

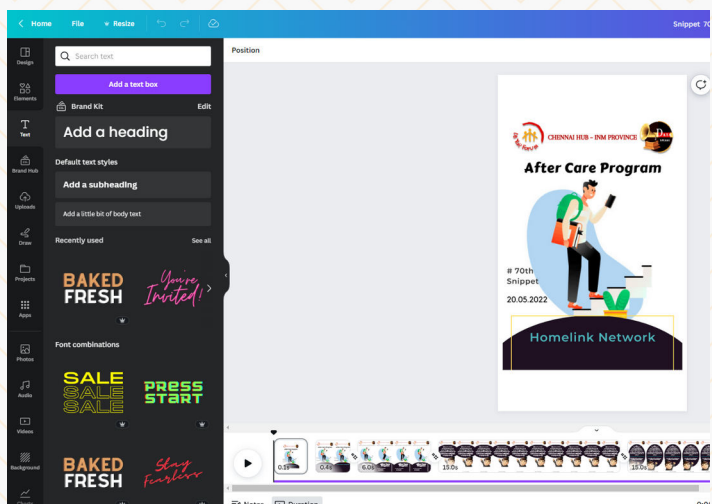


A two-day training program was conducted on Digital Transformation and Innovation for NGOs, concentrating on Child PPa and E-Learning. The program focused to educate participants on the integration and adaptation of technology to reach a wider audience and collaborate with beneficiaries for the well-being of children and young adults. Additionally, the program aimed to mobilize NGOs to use social media platforms to create awareness and foster collaboration. During the training, Child PPa was demonstrated and tested, showcasing how it works and how it can be utilized to trace missing children.



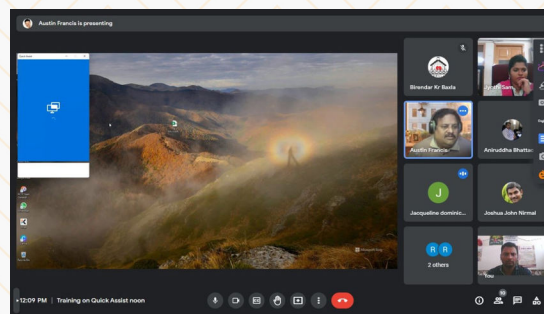
Training on Video Snippet

A virtual training session was conducted to equip the Hub Coordinators with the skills needed to create video snippets, to increase the reach and visibility. This resulted in the creation of 1-minute videos that highlight the issues related to Young at Risk based on data obtained from the Child MISS tool. Learning from the trends of social media, with the increased reach and visibility of the social media reels, the same concept was adopted to reach the masses by making 1 min videos highlighting the trends and issues of the society in relation to young at risk through data entered in Child MISS tool.



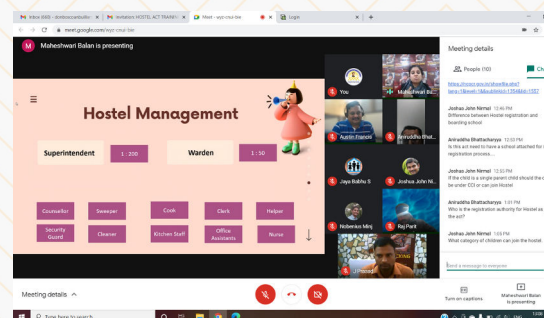
Training on Quick Assist MS Office

Quick Assist is a remote assistance application developed by Microsoft, which facilitates device sharing between two individuals, helping Hub Coordinators to resolve technical issues faced by nodes while using Child MISS and other tools.



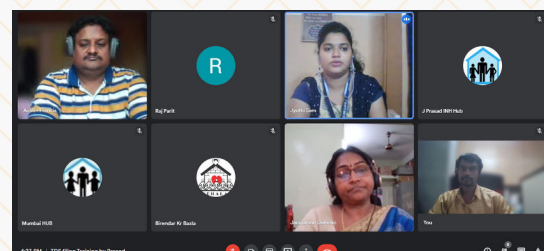
Hostel Act Training

A comprehensive induction program was conducted for Hub Coordinators on the Hostel Act. They were provided with essential details about maintaining documents in a hostel and how to apply for registration. Additionally, the program included instructions on the necessary infrastructure details for compliance. The goal of the training was to simplify the documentation process and ensure smooth compliance with the Hostel Act.



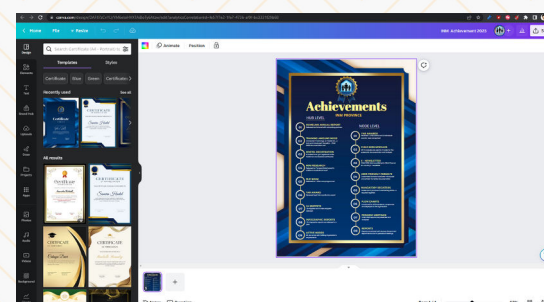
ITR Filing Training

An induction program on income tax return filing was conducted for the Hub Coordinators to enhance their knowledge and skills in this area. The training aimed to equip them with the necessary information to file their income tax returns independently.



Canva Training

The virtual training on Canva was held to enhance the skills of the Hub Coordinators to create visually appealing and engaging social media graphics, presentations, and reports. Hub Coordinators were given hands-on experience in creating graphics and presentations using different templates and designs available on the platform.

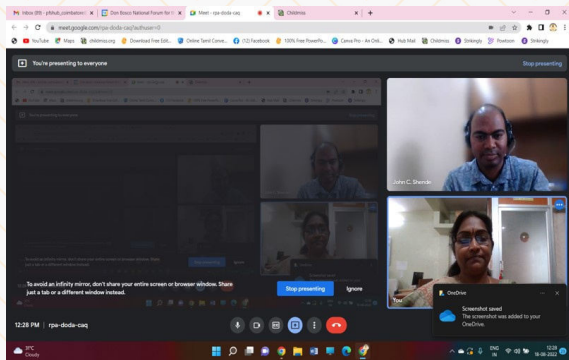


Launch of YaR Campaign 'Choose Life. Not Drugs'

The theme chosen for the YaR Campaign of 2022-23 was "Choose Life. Not Drugs." Different methods and techniques were employed to achieve the objective of spreading awareness among children and young adults. The participating centers adopted diverse activities and approaches to addressing the harmful effects of drugs and substances, and to spread the message of living a healthy and drug-free life.



Induction Training for Delhi Hub Coordinator



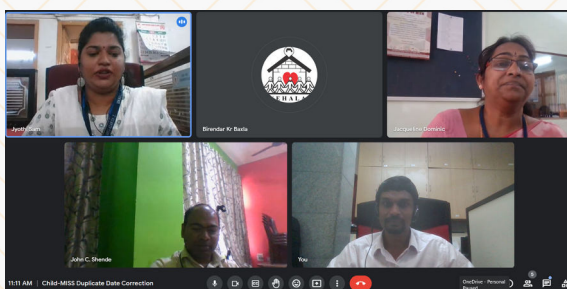
Mr. John C Shende was appointed as the new Hub Coordinator for the Delhi Hub. To ensure his success in the role, the national team and existing Hub Coordinators provided him with training on every aspect of Child MISS and other related tools. This training included instruction on using infographics, Canva, Power BI and Pivot charts, which are essential for effective data analysis and creating visibility.

Child PPa Installations Process Training

The training was conducted to demonstrate the installation and usage of the updated version of Child PPa. The training covered various aspects of the software, such as user interface, data entry, and reporting features. Participants were also provided with troubleshooting tips and support in case of any technical difficulties.



Child MISS Data Cleaning and Corrections



During the Gap Analysis, discrepancies were identified in the data recorded in Child MISS. To ensure accurate and reliable data, the hub coordinators and national team held discussions on cleaning and correcting the existing data. The objective was to minimize the probability of unavailable or incorrect data, resulting in an improved digital reporting system for the nodes and centres.

YAR AWARDS

**Homelink Service of
Excellence**

**Best Hub Coordinator
Award**

**Ms. Jyothi Priya
Coordinator, Chennai Hub**



**Homelink Service of
Excellence**

Best Node Award

BOSCO, Bangalore

**Homelink
Phoenix Award
Don Bosco Ashalayam,
Howrah**





HOMELINK NETWORK

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- a. Developing data driven childcare system through documentation, research, and networking
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- e. Harnessing current advances in digital technologies in the service of the work with young at risk



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Thank You !



DIE STERNSINGER
KINDERMISSIONSWERK

itwillbe.org
efficient solidarity