

Child Friendly Gram Panchayats

Localisation of SDGs and the PRIs



***Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India
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Why Children need Special Attention?



- Children are more vulnerable than adults, to the conditions under which they live.
- They are more affected than any other age group by the actions and inaction of governments and society.
- In most societies, including ours, views persist that children are their parents' property, or are adults in the making, or are not yet ready to contribute to society.
- Children have no votes or political influence and little economic power. Too often, their voices are not heard.
- Children are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Why Gram Panchayats?



- *The Gram Panchayats need to play a crucial role to guide and support the families for the due care of children, to make the various programs for children effective and to solve local problems. Child Friendly Panchayats can help children realize their potential*

Constitutional provisions



- The Constitution of India guarantees Fundamental Rights to all children of the country belonging to every caste, community or religion on equal basis, whether they live in the cities or in villages.
- To make sure that children enjoy these rights, it also provides that government makes special laws and schemes for them.

Key laws for care, protection and development of children



- ❖ Pre-Conception Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 2003 - to control female feticide
- ❖ Infant and Milk Substitute, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 - to ensure that infant foods are regulated and used appropriately.
- ❖ Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 – to provide free and compulsory education to till 8th Class to children of 6-14 years.
- ❖ Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012
- ❖ Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1989 – employment of children below 14 years of age banned in hazardous occupations
- ❖ Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
- ❖ Immoral Trafficking Prevention, 1956 – provides safety against trafficking of women and children for the purpose of sex work
- ❖ Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act, 2000 - provides for care, protection and rehabilitation of children in difficult and risky situations and also child offenders who violate the law.

WHAT IS CHILD FRIENDLY PANCHAYAT?



- All the **members of GP understand, implement, promote child friendly activities**, develop action plans based on children's issues, develop services for children based on these issues and improve them if these already exist.
- Functionaries of various **line departments connected with children, understand, implement and actively endorse child friendly activities**. They also come forward to protect children, respect their opinions and never discriminate against them.
- **Parents and caregivers are aware of children's issues**, patiently listen to them, encourage their active participation, protect and respect them and never discriminate against them.
- **Children are happy, protected, respected**, they have access to better healthcare, education, leisure and recreation, have a say in the matters concerning them and are involved in the conduct of services or activities for them.

CFGP & Role of MoPR



*The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India, acknowledging the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in creating a conducive environment for the healthy growth and development of children issued directions for the constitution of a **'Child Friendly Panchayat Award'** in 2019.*

CFGP & Localization of SDGs & the PRIs



- Volume 2 of the Report identifies **THEME 3 as the CHILD FRIENDLY PANCHAYATS** covering **SDGs 1,2,3,4 & 5**. The report brings out clearly the expected role of UNICEF to institutionalize child friendly elements into GP plans.
- The Report says “This Theme has 2 aspects to its assessment. **One is the LIF. The other is a Report Card.**
 - ***The Report card will come from the children in the Panchayat.*** Their answers to the aspects concerning them will determine **whether or not the Panchayat is Child friendly from the perception of children.**
 - This **assessment in the form of a survey becomes necessary**, for the reason that Indicators alone cannot capture the various aspects that are required to be covered for children and that are at field level, and do not find place even in a specifically tailored LIF.
 - This twist in the Assessment and LIF will add a lot of local flavor, **greater involvement of Panchayats and participation of children in various processes** that go along with the Theme to achieve Child Friendly Local Governance.
 - **UNICEF and Kerala have already done excellent work** in this regard, and upscaling it for the SDGs for children would be ideally serving actions towards the achievement of this Theme”.

CFGP & Localization of SDGs & the PRIs (contd.)



The Report Says-

- “Going deeper, for each Theme, a **dedicated Team needs to be formed at State level consisting of Key Resource Persons, Experts, Lead Intuitions, Organisations etc. For Example:** For the **Theme of Child Friendly Panchayats, along with UNICEF**, experts in Adolescent and Youth development, Child protection, can be part of the core team that constantly reviews progress”.
- “One of the most important aspects to achieve SDGs is development quality learning material by the training institutions to **enhance the knowledge and skills of ERs and Panchayat functionaries on SDGs.** For localization of SDGs the UNDP and UN-Habitat and **UNICEF** have also developed training modules. The resource persons may use these modules extensively in the training programs”.
- “For the Theme of Child Friendly village, the Report card from children will be a key evidence of the Monitoring framework and assessment of progress. (**UNICEF has already done substantial work on this which needs to be incorporated into the Localisation of SDGs**)”.
- Scheme mapping with respect to SDG targets and modified GP level targets portray the possible points of actions at local level. **This will be a guideline for the GPDP to modify their developmental activities and further help in achieving the desired targets at GP level.**

CFGP & Localization of SDGs & the PRIs (*contd.*)



- ❖ The thematic area on **Child Friendly Panchayat (SDG 1,2,3,4 and 5) and the relation with respect to 29 subjects transferred to the Panchayats** shows that there are areas in which Panchayats have a role and the potential of contributing to the eradication of poverty. Those subjects with respect to goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are:
- Education including primary and secondary school, technical training and
 - vocational education, Adult and non-formal education and Libraries
 - Poverty alleviation programs
 - **Family welfare, Women and child development**
 - Social welfare, including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded
 - Welfare of the weaker sections, and in particular, of the Scheduled Caste and scheduled Tribes

CFGP & Localization of SDGs & the PRIs (*contd.*)



- **Gram Panchayat –Action Points**

- Checking for dropouts and irregular attendance in schools, monitoring quality of education through the PTAs/SMCs; facilitating provision of facilities of transportation/ Hostel for children living in geographically isolated areas.
- Facilitating access to entitlements like scholarships/stipend, free uniform, text books, insurance, teaching -learning materials, stationery, midday meals for children
- Facilitating special needs children to access schools/special schools
- Ensuring construction of girls' toilets where none exist and make dysfunctional toilets functional in collaboration with relevant agencies.
- Facilitating analysis of the reasons for dropouts and irregular attendance and to formulate possible solutions, through people's participation
- Facilitating conduction of evening schools, mobile schools, local learning centers and residential camps for providing bridge courses for dropouts/ out of school children.
- Promoting awards/ incentives/certificates/gifts etc. in public gathering to children as a mark of recognizing their achievements in academics / sports/games etc.
- Supporting and enabling conduct of Sports events , identifying talent and enabling it to be nurtured and taken to higher levels to full potential
- Liaising with relevant departments to post teachers in vacant positions.

CFGP & Localization of SDGs & the PRIs (*contd.*)



- Facilitating development of a comprehensive education plan to improve the basic physical facilities / physical environment / social environment / incentives / classroom processes/ monitoring / assessment of children /community support etc.
- Liaising with relevant departments/agencies to improve the facilities and infrastructure of Anganwadis; promoting incentives, teaching learning materials, stationary etc. to those children enrolled in preschools/ Anganwadis.
- Strengthening pre-school Anganwadi welfare committees; promoting Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) approach for eradication of adult illiteracy
- Facilitating strengthening of existing libraries in supporting literacy programs; take steps to create an in depth understanding of the term 'poverty' among the Panchayat committee and other community volunteers
- Disseminate information about various schemes for poor and vulnerable through ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and schoolteachers
- **Develop criteria for identification of the poor, destitute and vulnerable; initiate participatory surveys for their identification and need assessment**
- Ensure transparency in the selection process/providing benefits; set the goals and targets for your Gram Panchayat.
- **Develop a comprehensive programme based on need assessment, goals and targets through GPDP; Converge different agencies, their programmes and schemes and community organizations which can support the Gram Panchayat Develop a monitoring mechanism for the actions**
- Disseminate information on possibilities of scientific agriculture and respective schemes through the Gram Sabha; Formation of labour bank along with adequate machines and skill up gradation.
- **Prepare a target register for population vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition and monitor their status with the support of relevant department and agencies**

What UNICEF Proposes to do Going Forward?



- ❖ **UNICEF submitted 2 proposals to MoPR on-**
 - ❖ Working with Gram Panchayats to mainstream the Roles of the *Bal Sabhas* into GPDP preparation especially focusing on emergency responses like COVID 19.
 - ❖ *institutionalize the LIF support adoption of the mechanism to ensure that children's voices are heard and adequately addressed.*
 - ❖ Working with Gram Panchayats to handhold them to pilot monitoring of the indicators detailed out in the Expert Group Report on Localization of SDGs.
 - ❖ *ensure activities pertaining to these indicators across all the 29 subjects are adequately captured in the GPDPs and monitored systematically.*

UNICEF Partnerships with State Governments on CFGP



- ❖ **Maharashtra-** UNICEF in partnership with GoM developed resource kit to help the local self governments work towards mainstreaming child rights in local planning and monitoring agenda.
- ❖ **Odisha-** UNICEF in partnership with SIRDPR, GoO organized workshops for ERs to develop understanding and modus operandi towards institutionalizing CFGPI.
- ❖ **Andhra Pradesh-** UNICEF provides technical support to reduce stunting and undernutrition among infants and young children by promoting appropriate infant and young child feeding practices and treatment and management of severe acute malnutrition.
- ❖ **Uttar Pradesh-** To ensure that children in Uttar Pradesh survive and thrive, UNICEF supports the state government in the crucial programming areas of WASH, Nutrition, Health, Education & Child Protection.
- ❖ **Rajasthan-** UNICEF in partnership with RDPR, GoR to institutionalize children's participation in local governance launched the Child Friendly Panchayat Initiative (CFPI) in the State. Constitution of Bal Panchayats and holding bi-annual Bal Sabhas was made mandatory and so was the constitution of Panchayat level Child Protection

Documenting Child Friendly Practices



- ❖ **Case Study Compendium of 15 states-** captures details of UNICEF initiatives in states on aspects of Child Development. [Case Study Compendium](#)
- ❖ **Child Friendly Initiatives by GPs-** Compendium of Best Practices from Gram Panchayats on Child Friendly Practices. [CFLG-BEST-PRACTICES](#)
- ❖ **CHILD FRIENDLY documents-** Developed as a part of the UNICEF-NIRDPR partnership through the CHILD RIGHTS RESOURCE UNIT (CRRU). [Child Friendly Documents.](#)
- ❖ **CFGPA Evaluation Framework-** UNICEF partnered with the MoPR to revise the evaluation criteria for the AWARD on nominations for the CFGP.

Hearing the Voices of Children- *Bal Sabhas*



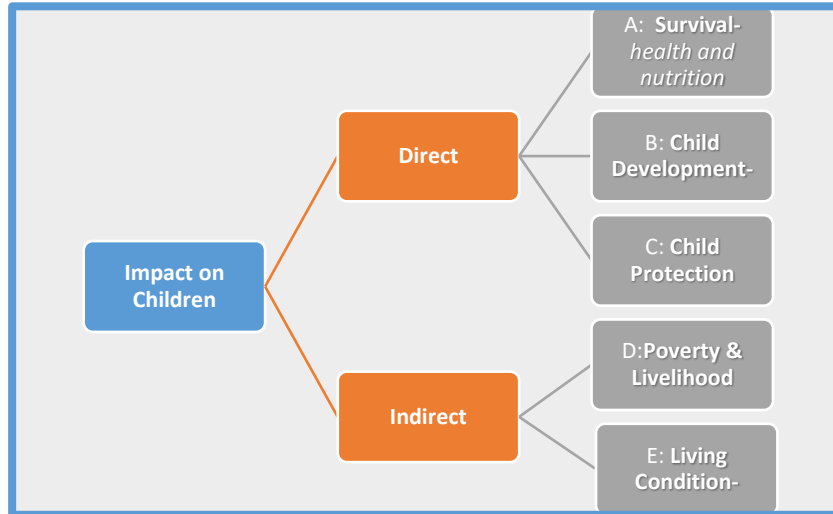
- ❖ How do we ensure that the voices of our children are heard?
- ❖ Need for constituting and institutionalizing **BAL SABHAS**- Children Assembly
- ❖ Meetings of *Bal Panchayats* are organized regularly
- ❖ Resolutions from Bal Sabha meetings are fed into the *Gram Sabha* meetings
- ❖ *Bal Sabha* meetings identify children's priorities and incorporate them into the GPFP
- ❖ Optimum convergence across the National and State schemes for children are ensured for adequate financial allocation.
- ❖ *Bal Sabhas* are completely institutionalized in the State Panchayati Raj Act for statutory sanctity.

CFGP Award Framework & Methodology

The CFGPA framework is broadly guided by the model guidelines of GPDP developed by MoPR, 2018. In the following table, indicators under each of the five domains A to E have been provided.

- A. **Survival, Health & Nutrition** (7 indicators)
- B. **Development- (ECE, School attendance, GP's role in SMC)**
(5 indicators)
- c. **Child protection** (4 indicators)
- D. **Poverty and Livelihood at family level** (3 indicators)
- E. **Living condition of the family** (3 indicators)

CFGP Award Framework & Methodology



Studies have revealed that children in poor families are more susceptible to various kinds of vulnerabilities and that living condition plays a major role in the overall cognitive development of children.

Assessment framework is based on five domain areas, that address Direct and indirect impact on Children as shown in the adjacent figure. UNICEF proposes a comprehensive framework with the following five domains to develop a set of indicators for CFGPA. These are

1. Child Survival especially focusing on health and nutrition;
2. Child Development focusing on early childhood education, school attendance and SMCs;
3. Child Protection;
4. Poverty and livelihood; and
5. Living condition.

To enable an integrated approach the role of GPs become vital and hence capacity of the GPs remain fundamental to achieve all of them.

SDGs Goals



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT** **GOALS**

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



unicef

SDGs Goals and Children

PRINTABLE BOOKLET

THE WORLD WE WANT

A GUIDE TO THE GOALS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

SDGs Focused on Child Development



Children focused indicators are spread across Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11 and 16.

- ❖ 1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and **children** of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- ❖ 1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, and distinguishing **children**, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work injury victims, and the poor and the vulnerable. (included in NIF)
- ❖ 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age (Included in NIF)
- ❖ 2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height $>+2$ or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type
- ❖ 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (Included in NIF)
- ❖ 3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate (Included in NIF)
- ❖ 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate (Included in NIF)
- ❖ 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group (Included in NIF)
- ❖ 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, **newborn and child health**, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)
- ❖ 4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

SDGs Focused on Child Development



UNICEF is custodian of 7 indicators and co-custodian for another 12 indicators.

- ❖ 4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex
- ❖ 4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)
- ❖ 4.2.1 Proportion of children aged 24-59 months of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex;
- ❖ 4.2.2 Adjusted net attendance rate, one year before the official primary entry age
- ❖ 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence
- ❖ 5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age
- ❖ 8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age
- ❖ 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month
- ❖ 16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

WE, THE CHILDREN: A GoM-UNICEF Collaboration

WE THE CHILDREN-UNICEF-GoM-PARTNERSHIP

1. MY BAL PANCHAYAT
2. OFFICE BEARERS OF THE BAL PANCHAYAT
3. PLACE OF MEETING
4. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY BAL PANCHAYATS
5. BAL PANCHAYAT'S ACHIEVEMENTS
6. CHALLENGES FACED BY BAL PANCHAYATS
7. PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE WHO GUIDE THE BAL PANCHAYAT
8. DISCUSSION FORUMS
9. LEARNING BY DOING ACTIVITIES

*United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child contains all the Rights of Children written as "**Articles**"- 54 Articles. They ensure various Rights for Children. For example, Article 7 and 8 say that all children have a **Right to an Identity**.*

Every child should have a name, their birth should be registered, they should have the birth registration certificate to prove their nationality and get benefit of all government schemes and services.

Thank You