

M.P India Observatory for Child Rights CROMP

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Context

Established in (M.P State, India) November 2007

The First CRO in Asia

- **In India major issues for children under state governments**
- **M.P's sizeable population of marginalized groups**
 - **Posing challenges for delivery and monitoring of services**
- **CRO to provide synergy, coordination, strong voice and results**

Activities

1. Policy Development

- Review of laws and policies
- Status of children in M.P Report
- Coordination between government and NGOs
- Support government departments

2. Develop Data Base and Research

- A think tank on issues of children
- A State Resource Centre on Child Rights

3. Advocacy Awareness,lobbying for Child Rights

- Awareness campaign with teachers, students,NGOs
- Directory of NGOs working for Child Rights
- Creation of Network of NGOs

4. Child Rights Monitoring

- Developing norms and standards for basic services for children
- Overall monitoring of CRC implementation in M.P.

Its “specialty”

Strengthening of voluntary sector of civil society actors for advocacy of Child Rights and services for children

- **Provide an autonomous independent Platform for consultation/dialogue with civil society groups and participation of children and taking issues with policy makers**
- **Identification, compilation of information of civil society groups, individuals, experts, researchers, institutions engaged/interested in Child Rights and Child Development Services**
- **Production of a Directory of Institutions engaged with Child Right issues**

Its “specialty”

- **Dialogue with civil society groups in the state through consultations meetings at different places.**
- **School level dialogue with teachers and children on Child Rights**
- **Participation of civil society groups in developing norms and standards of child services and their monitoring and talking with government for enhancing outreach and benefits.**

Major problems

- Civil society groups involved in child rights limited, thin geographical spread.
- Low level awareness of stake holders on Child Rights and on ways of their protection.
- The hierarchic stratification of Indian society becomes a barrier in the desirable space for Child Rights.
- Outreach and effectiveness of policies, programmes have gaps particularly for children from excluded groups and areas.
- Public policy advocacy for enhancing them still limited.
- Inadequate appreciation of Child Rights advocacy and platform against the role of a proposed statutory State Child Rights Commission.
- Constraints of funds needed for such a platform and its activities focus.

Solutions

- **Consultations with: NGOs Academic Institutions, Government, UNICEF**
- **Research, Status Report on Children**
-use as tool for advocacy, monitoring services
- **Fund raising strategy formulated to make CRO an independent Platform.**
- **Defined the strength of autonomous CRO against a state appointed statutory commission**