

EVENT WITH CHILDREN IN OBSERVATION HOMES

**Report on Event Conducted at
Juvenile Justice Board, Observation
Home in Patna, Bihar on September
01, 2022.**

ABSTRACT: The main aim of the visit to the observation home was to analyse and speculate on the conditions of the Children living in the Observation homes, place of safety, shelter homes or undertrial juvenile's condition. It was a collaboration between the Legal Aid Centre and the Millennium Fellowship Project 'Chaitanya'. As a part of this project, the focus was on SDG 4 and 5 which talk about inclusive and equitable quality education across all genders and Rights of children. This event aimed at not only providing quality education to children but also spreading awareness about several government-run schemes on free and quality education in the country and rights of children.

Conducted by:
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Under the Guidance
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I. Concept Note

UN Millennium Fellowship believes in furthering several sustainable development goals all around the globe. As a part of project CHAITANYA, our focus was on SDG 4 and 5 which talks about inclusive and equitable quality education across all genders and Rights of children. In furtherance of this goal, our team conducted several events out of which, one was based in Patna, Bihar. This event aimed at not only providing quality education to children but also spreading awareness about several government-run schemes on free and quality education in the country and rights of children.

II. Objectives

The major objectives of the visit event were:

1. To explore the living conditions of the children in Observation homes.
2. To determine whether the Rules laid down in the Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act were followed in its true spirit or not.
3. To determine how many undertrial children in conflict with law were present there through the means of an RTI.

III. Preliminary Preparations

Before conducting the event, the organiser made the following preparations:

1. Conducted research on the rights of children under the Indian laws.

2. Gained permission from authorities to visit the Juvenile Justice Board Observation Home and conduct the event there.

IV. Conducting the Event

We began the event by interacting with the children in the observation home. Following this, we inquired about the education and medical facilities provided to the children.

We also sat through the proceedings of the juveniles in conflict with law. Further, there was interaction with Child Psychologist Mr. Manoj Kumar and the three members of Juvenile Justice Board, Mr. Nawajhul Haq, Mr. Manoranjan Kumar Jha and Mrs. Shashi Sharma. The event was super headed by Advocate Krishna Dev Mishra and with his support and contacts, it became easier for us to work in this field. Advocate KD Mishra is a renowned Criminal lawyer and a child's right activist. He is a practicing advocate in High Court and Civil court Patna. He is an Advocate on Record (AOR), in Patna High Court (AOR No. 3019). He is a well-established lawyer who has been practicing in all courts of Bihar. Along with that, he is a social worker and an influential Child Rights Activist of the state. He is a former member of Juvenile Justice Board, Patna. Therefore, I contacted him for this event.

As the work was related to a legal area, the laws in question were Juvenile Justice care and protection act, 2015 and POCSO Act.

V. Response of the Target Population

The target population heard the presentation attentively and energetically. They asked insightful questions.

VI. Future Plan of Action

The children showed interest in future events like this. Additionally, the organisers filed an RTI to determine the number of undertrial children in conflict with law. And as I was not qualified as a lawyer, I requested KD Mishra sir to file protest petition for the quality of education in observation homes. Other than this, we also helped the juveniles to apply for government advocates under free legal aid.

VII. Conclusion

All in all, it was a very fulfilling experience for me. While preparing for this event, I got to learn about a lot of new things that I previously had no clue about. Through education, children can garner emotional and mental strength which helps in various aspects of their lives. Exams, sports, games, and more, help develop a strong mental foundation and enable a child to take on obstacles and challenges with determination.

Not just this, education also nurtures a child's curiosity and interest to learn and grow in life. Thus, it is supremely important to pay close attention to the quality of education that we impart to children. This event aimed to do exactly that and make sure that the future of our children is in secure hands.

GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT

Photography was not allowed within the premise of the observation home. However, below attached are the proof of the visit and RTI filed.

