



KONPAL*

CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION
SOCIETY

KONPAL Child Abuse Prevention Society is an NGO working against all form of child abuse. It comprises child rights activists who share the common vision of a society free of child abuse, with zero tolerance against child sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation, involvement of children in hazardous occupation, armed conflicts and violence. The members are professionals from different fields who are concerned with the rising incidence of abuse against children. The group is fighting for the rights of children and against all forms of abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation of children.

Conference asks government to implement child rights bill

IN view of the alarming increase in child abuse in Pakistan, the participants of the 9th National Conference on Child Rights, Abuse & Neglect have unanimously appealed that the government should implement Child Protection Bill forthwith, calling on all stakeholders, including active non government organizations (NGOs) to be more active on a single platform and put their hands together to abolish child abuse in all forms.

With the theme "Protect Child Rights: Build a Better Pakistan", the 9th National Paediatric Conference on Child Rights, Abuse & Neglect was held at the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Pakistan, Karachi, on December 19-21. The event received wide coverage in the media.

The 9th National Conference on Child Rights was held to create awareness of child rights according to the UN Convention, and to discuss its components and the action taken by Pakistan; to highlight child abuse and neglect problems, their prevalence and the role of the government and NGOs in its prevention and management.

The conference was held to create awareness about child rights in the light of the UN Convention, to which Pakistan is also a signatory, and to discuss its various components and the actions taken; to highlight the problems of abuse and neglect, their prevalence and the role played by the government and non government organizations in the prevention and management; to

discuss the role of stakeholders in provision of children's rights, and the role society can play in eradication of abuse, neglect, child labour and children becoming victims of terrorism and violence.

Preconference Workshop: On Dec 19, an interactive pre-conference workshop

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KONPAL means a new bud. Small, tender, delicate, yet capable of becoming a flower, a leaf or a branch.



Continued from page 1

was held on "Management of Sexual Violence in Children and Adolescents" in collaboration with NGOs Konpal, Ahang and WAR. It was attended by health care providers, social activists and NGO workers.

Open Forum Discussion: In Open Forum Discussion, NGOs and INGOs, Save the Children Fund Sweden, Unicef, Konpal, Rozan, Aas and Sparc, participated and deliberated on "The Role of NGO & International Organization in Protection of Rights of Children and Protection from Abuse & Neglect".

Four **Panel Discussions** were made on the role of NGOs in promotion of child rights; child protection system and hospital child protection committees; street children/child labour; and violence against children. In seven scientific sessions, speakers and social activists shared experiences with the audience.

In **Session I**, Prof Abdul Hameed spoke on "Ethical Aspects in Child Care & Child Rights" and Prof DS Akram on "Prevalence of Pneumonia in Socially Neglected Children". Dr Tipu Sultan read paper on "Conversion Reaction in Child". Dr Ghulam Rehman Mohyuddin presented "My Thoughts on Child Labour".

In **Session II**, Mr Anis Jilani spoke on child labour, and Justice (retired) Nasir Aslam Zahid on child abuse and juvenile justice system.

Session III focused on Islamic perspective of child rights. Mufti Munibur Rahman elaborated on "Child Rights in Islam". Maulana Badruddin discussed issues related to children's rights in the madressahs.

In **Session IV**, Dr Tufail Mohammad Khan presented paper on "Child Protection System"; and Dr Naeem Zafar gave an overview of Hospital Child Protection Committees.

In **Session V**, Prof M A Arif, General Secretary, PPA Centre, elaborated on children's right to education. Mrs Sehba Memood,

Senior Lecturer at the Auckland University, New Zealand, talked on "Cyber Safety Rights of Children". Mrs Bernadette Dean, Principal, Kinnaird College, Lahore, shared her study on corporal punishment.

Ms Shehla Mumtaz presented paper on the role of area child protection committees in prevention and management of child abuse.

In **Session VI**, Mr Mannan Rana, Child Protection Specialist, Unicef, discussed "Protection of CSA in Child Protection System".

Dr Jabeen Fatima Abbas, Programme Manager Unicef, presented paper on Child Protection Authority Bill. Miss Seema Nazli from Social Welfare Department discussed the Child Protection Bill and the Role of PCCWD and Social Welfare Department. Dr Amin Gadit, a psychologist from Canada, presented paper on "Beyond Child Abuse: The Long-term Challenges."

These plenary talks were followed by three presentations which were: "The Dilemma of Child Abuse: Knowledge and Perception of Parents about Child Abuse" by Mrs Jacqueline Sommers; "Knowledge & Skills of HCP in the Diagnosis & Management of Child Abuse & Neglect" by Professor Aisha Mehnaz and "Building Life Skills in Children as Preventive Means and Dealing with Child Sexual Abuse" by Khuzaima Rizwan from the NGO Rozan.

In **Session VII**, Mr Javed Jabbar, renowned speaker and a respected national figure, discussed child rights and various aspects of child abuse in the current scenario.

His talk was followed by another pertinent and current issue which is a cause of concern to all concerned citizens, that is, "Children in Arm conflicts".

Lt-Colonel Azhar of the Baqai Medical University, Karachi, delivered talk on the involvement of children in the arms conflict, delving on historical background, current perspective and the impact of war on children.





Recommendations

THE deliberations of the conference concluded with recommendations to improve child abuse scenario in Pakistan. It was recommended that:

1. A joint forum for children's rights needs to be formed as a platform for NGOs to make collective efforts by putting their hands together in their effort to abolish child abuse.

2. Ethical guidelines be formulated for management of health, social, physical and emotional aspects of child development.

3. Age definition of child should be defined in the light of WHO guidelines according to which it is 18 years.

4. Juvenile legal system should be revised in the light of current situation.

5. Child protection bill should be implemented and its stakeholders in Pakistan should be more active in its implementation.

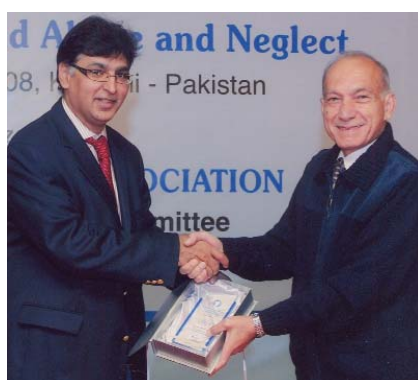
6. Present school curriculum should be modified to incorporate social and moral aspects of child care.

7. Parents and children should be educated about use of new information technology.

8. Strict legislation regarding corporal punishment should be implemented and teachers should be trained and counseled about it.

9. Children in armed conflict and terrorism should be provided maximum support for rehabilitation.

10. Media policy for audience rating system and timings for graphic programmes should be implemented.



LIGHT of the conference was a separation of children in which child speakers on various aspect of child abuse, and the audience. Rejah Khawer, a Class IX student from Mama Parsi Girls School gave an address, "Protect Our Rights, We Are the Masters". Niaz, a Class VII student from Al-Farooq Primary School, talked on "Child Abuse". Aziz a Class VII student from Al-Farooq Primary School, talked on "Corporal Punishment".

Children's Recommendations

“Children, defined by the UN, are all individuals below the age of 18, are the future of a nation. In Pakistan, they comprise over 45 per cent of the population. The UN Convention on the Rights of Children and the Constitution of Pakistan both guarantee children’s basic rights:

- The right to receive good education.
- The right to get the best health care.
- The right to have decent shelter.
- The right to have good recreation.
- The right to have well planned and well maintained parks and playgrounds for recreation and health.
- The right to be protected from all kinds of physical, mental violence injury or abuse, and injustice.
- The right not to be subjected to corporal punishment at school, madressa or home as it interferes with normal development.
- The right to be protected against child labor & exploitation for economic gain.
- The right to live.
- The right of protection from criminals.
- The right for disabled children to be provided special care.
- The right to be protected from watching violence and pornography on the media.
- The right to be protected from all sorts of addiction.
- The right to be loved and cared by our elders.
- The right to have good nutritive food, and clean water to help us grow into a healthy adult. We don't need junk food.
- The right to be registered at birth.
- The right to have our individual identity and nationality.
- The right to have safe, clean environment to protect us from getting sick or falling ill.
- Our needs should not be neglected.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

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FOUNDED BY QUAID-E-AZAM MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

DAWN

DAWN MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2008

Enactment of law against child abuse urged

KARACHI, June 21. Participants of a three-day conference, organized by the child rights and child protection division of the Pakistan Association (PPA), urged the government to immediately introduce a law to protect children from sexual abuse, pointing out that the move had been pending for two years. The conference, which was held on Saturday, they also called for intensifying the child protection efforts in the country, which had been finalized a year back.

The Muhammad Tufail of the PPA said that the government should take 10 child protection committees that had been set up at various levels in 1988 into consideration.

trained in the field of child protection and preventive measures against child abuse disorders. Prof. A. I. Mahmood, chairperson of the organizing committee, said that children, coming from all parts of the country's total population, were deprived of their rights and better living conditions. The children of basic rights such as health, education, shelter, etc. were in a deplorable state, he said.

Dr. Zahidul Chaudhry of the CPSP and former PPA executive committee member Prof. A. G. Gillani were among those who addressed the conference. On the day, a presentation

National child protection policy soon, says Gilani

[illegible]

He said seminars were being held from time to time, but that they were not permanent personnel in and around it. He said seminars were being held from time to time, but that they were not permanent personnel in and around it.

Doctors attending the conference drew his attention to the incidents of child abuse and corporal punishment having been reported to the government hospitals. Mufuti Murethi said they should refer the seminarists to ascertain facts.

He said Weyangul Maderi would address any complaint lodged against any seminarist in this regard.

Maulana Muzammil Kabudhi said that the class-based education should be done away with.

He said ministers, government officials and councilors all should send their children to the public sector schools and the private sector schooling system should be abolished to ensure equal rights for children.—Agencies

TheNation



A group photo of children from different schools who took part in a special awareness programme held by an NGO – APP.

Sunday, December 21, 2008 | The Nation

Call made for enacting Child Protection Bill

CHIEF STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI The participants at the 9th national paediatric conference on "Child Rights: Abuse and Neglect" held in Karachi, Pakistan, urged the government to immediately set up a Child Protection Bill, which is expected to be passed by the parliament for the last two years.

"Speaking at the inaugural session held on Friday evening, they also urged the government to announce 'child protection policy' whose draft was also presented to the parliament."

Three day conference was organized by the Child Rights and Abuse Prevention Committee of the Paediatric Association (PPA), in collaboration with PPA, NIPHA,

formed and as much as 700 people participated in the conference. The participants stressed the need of child protection and prevention measures to stop child abuse and neglect. They also urged the government to set up a platform in the struggle for child protection as we believe that no violation is justified against the children.

In her welcome address chairperson addressing a tentative PPA members stressed that only a little less than 50 percent of the total population was children and the rest were adults. The rights and needs of children and rights and needs are being abused.

She pointed out that they are not only the rights of children but also the rights of the children of the adult rights of children including health, education, shelter, and employment.

Muhammad Tufail said that child protection bill was pending in the National Assembly for one reason or the other.

It should be passed immediately, he said, and should provide protection to children's rights.

He said that progressive bill and prepared after the hard work of so many years. It has almost all the things which are needed for protection to children's right and sufficient punishment to discourage the offenders.

Similarly, child protection policy is needed in the country.

Once it is promulgated, the bill will be passed, he said.

He said that you have child protection bill and child abuse bill.

Dr Mehrnaz said that federal government is approving the draft of child protection bill and it needed the enactment as soon as possible.

She said that Child Protection Bureau has been created and Sinthi needs to ensure that the bill is passed.

Child protection committees in Sindh to make our hospitals as safe places for children, she said.

She said that police should be made to play its rule to publicise this effort so that people are aware of the bill.

She said that the members of committees and report any incident of neglect against a child at the earliest.

She said a helpline is also being set up to facilitate reporting of child abuse cases between the two committees and the police.

people.

Dr Mubeen pointed out that the incidents of child abuse have increased manifold in the last eight years. It is the duty of every person to play his role in the fight against child abuse. Secretary general PPA Prof M A Arif said that besides a good treatment, children should get love, affection, education, food and good housing. This will pay back to the nation, he added. President CFSF Professor Zafarullah Chaudhry said that Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah used the call children as "young Pakistanis".

He underlined the need for a dialogue of parents and teachers with the children instead of forcing them their decisions on

them. Former president PPA Prof A G Billow said that corporal punishment against children was continued unabated at schools and madrasahs (seminaries).

It was of the view that affection and love were the greatest rights of a child.

Speaking as a guest speaker, Professor Billow underlined the need for a networking of stakeholders to jointly struggle for the child protection. "I also recommended for the creation of a national alliance for child rights.

Non governmental organisations including SPARC, WAR, PAVNHA, AHUNG, KONPAL, KOZAN, UNICEF, Save the Children Fund, Sweden attended the open forum.



Konpal Children Club campaign to sensitize the media

Members of the Konpal Children Club planned to visit the offices of press and electronic media to sensitize media professionals and to promote awareness of child abuse in our society. Pictures here show how these enthusiasts young ones implemented their noble plan and went out to visit offices of newspapers and television channels. The media people intently listened to them and expressed their will to support the issue.





Konpal & PPA CRC in 2008

THE Child Protection Committee in collaboration with Konpal Child Abuse Prevention Society and CRC PPA has conducted the following activities on the issue of child rights and abuse in Sindh in the year 2008.

1. Two-day Training Workshops on Child Protection, Early Case Detection and Management of Child Abuse. Seven two-day workshops were held in 2008. More than 250 health care providers were trained in these workshops. Three workshops were held in collaboration with Unicef and Save the Children fund, Sweden. These were held at: (i) Chandka Medical College Larkana: Feb 3-4; (ii) The Aga Khan University Hospital: March 13-14; (iii) Civil Hospital Karachi: Aug 23-24; (iv) National Institute of Child Health: Aug 25-26; (v) Civil Hospital Karachi: Sept 1-2; (vi) Sindh Govt Children Hospital, N'Karachi: Oct 28-29; (vii) Sindh Govt Qatar Hospital: Nov 25-26.

2. Children's Day Celebrations: A three-day programme was organized for this mega event by Konpal.

(i) Nov 18: Media awareness programme through Children of Konpal Club. Children visited offices of the print and electronic media and presented their recommendation related to child rights and abuse.

(ii) Nov 19: Demonstration at the Karachi Press Club to protest injustice to children and to raise voice against child abuse. More than 200 people, including 100 children, participated.

(iii) Nov 20: Seminar cum workshop on child abuse for Health Care Providers (Nurses and doctors) at the PMA house. More than 200 HCP attended the seminar. Wide coverage was given in the media of these activities.

3. Hospital Child Protection Committee: This

committee has been most active during the current year. The committee met every month regularly during the current year. More than 150 cases were brought to the attention of HCPC during current year.

4. Formation of HCPC in other hospitals: The focal person PPA, CRC, Sindh and Konpal chairperson in collaboration with other partners has formed the following HCPC in Sindh. Their name and functional status are as follows:

(i) HCPC/CHK: Fully functional/main referral centre - Prof Aisha Mehnaz.

(ii) HCPC, Sindh Govt Lyari Children Hospital: Functional - Dr Ashfaq Mala.

(iii) HCPC Sindh Govt Children Hospital: Committee formed -

Dr. Khalid Zuberi.

(iv) HCPC, Liaquat University Hospital: Committee formed - Prof Salma Shaikh.

(v) Chandka Medical College: Committee formed - Prof Khursheed Abbasi.

(vi) Sindh Government Qatar Hospital: Committee formed - Dr Azra Jamal.

Other activities

5. Awareness raising seminar for parents and teachers at Habib Public School, Karachi.

6. Awareness raising programmes on radio and TV.

The members of Konpal and PPA CRC has actively participated in awareness raising on child rights and abuse on radio and TV channels. Prof Aisha Mehnaz, Dr Ashfaq Mala, Dr Nusrat Shah, Ms Farah Iqbal, Ms Jacoline Sommer Mr Mohammed Ali and others participated in these events on PTV, TV One, Vibe TV, Sama TV, FM 107 and other media channels.

7. Konpal Children's Club: Konpal Children Club has been formed. Children of the club actively participated in the Children Day activity and in the 9th National Conference on Child Rights, Abuse and Neglect held at CPSP on Dec 19-21.

8. Networking with other NGOs: Konpal is actively working with other NGO in collaborative work and the formation of Civil Society Organization.

9. Konpal Bulletin is being regularly published, covering all the activities of PPA, CRC and Konpal. It also contains awareness messages and information on CRC and child abuse and neglect.

The bulletin is widely distributed to the participants of workshops and stake holders.

10. 9th National Paediatrics Conference was organized by PPA, Child Rights Committee in collaboration with Konpal in the most becoming fashion from 19-21 Dec 2008 at CPSP.

The conference was well covered by the print and electronic media. Over 300 participants including large number of people from civil society organizations and social activists attended the conference and actively participated in the four panel discussions and seven scientific sessions.

11. Konpal members attended a number of workshops organized by various INGOs, NGOs and other organizations.

