



Covid 19 & child rights: A critical analysis

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Abstract

As we all know we are passing through the most devastating stage of our life due to Covid-19 pandemic. And Children's are the most affected one of the society due to this world wide pandemic. It can have a grave psychological, emotional and somatic effect especially in a country like India. Due to pandemic they have been forced to stay at home, as an effect children's are suffering several mental abnormality. Children's who are effected by Corona Virus have lower mortality rate but it has far reaching negative impact. On an effect of Job loss of their parents, children's are facing premature child marriages, sexual molestation, child workers. Children's educational rights are curtailed due to shut down of educational institutions & they transmute there system into digital platform which increase chances of school dropout. A large number of Adult people's were dying by the effect of Covid-19 and as a result a big number of children's will be foundling and subjected to be exploitation and mistreatment. Children's are also getting migrated. So in every means right of the children are being violated. Our Govt. should take some steps to protect children rights by enforcing his legal machineries and make sure that children's are not getting abused in this empyrean period. It is an attempt by the author through this paper to understand Covid19 & Child Rights.

Keywords: Covid-19, pandemic, children, rights

Introduction

The upsurge of COVID-19 has devastatingly affected the intercontinental and national health system especially regarding children. It has heterogeneous impact on children regarding their psychological, physical, social, educational rights. In a developing country like India is agonising most. Throughout the period of pandemic the pressure upon the Middle-class and impecunious families due to their Job-loss have a direct impact upon their children's. On declaration of the Lock-down by the Govt. it's mandatory to stay at home, and this circumscribed procedure gravely effectuated children's natural right to corporeal activities, education, and play and free from sexual molestations. In consideration of this, through the present paper the author tries to understand COVID 19 & Child Rights.

Transgression of Child Hoods Edicational Right & Health Care

On a reason of COVID-19 closure of educational institutions many children's from penniless families facing food scarcity and mal nutrition. Countries like France, United kingdom have a policy to free and well subsidised school meals to fight with child penury. Not only has this United States of America had National School Lunch Programme which has a big impact to fight with the children's nutrition's. And developing county like India has a MID-DAY MEAL programme for children's at their schools which will provide them their daily calories. But schools are shut-down and recipient children's are consume less wholesome food and facing malnourishment. As per report of the UNESCO more than 1.5 billion students of 188 countries were stopped to going school due to pandemic effect. Govt's are initiated online educational system. But countries like India where internet is hardly available through over the country and costlier also. Most of the

children in India belongs from baseborn family and didn't have sufficient means to effort inter-net, computer, and laptops for online education.

Suggestions

It's expected after the cessation of the pandemic, educational institutions will resume their studies and govt. should take bounteous steps to secure a child's dream for education. Some children's belongs from impecunious families faced lot's of economic hardship during pandemic, govt should also look after this otherwise they wouldn't be in a position to educational intuitions or continue their child hood education any more.

Children at Menace of Child Labour, Forced Labour, Child Marriage

This COVID-19 epidemic has Plummet needs for labours more specially the vulnerable child labours but at the same time due to job loss of the parents and shut down of schools may escalate the supply of a child labour. Children's from privilege community may continue their education digitally, their parents provide them proper infrastructure for this. But on another side children's from vulnerable community are unable to continue their education due to indigence. And pandemic increases impecuniousness worldwide, as an extreme effect children's are forced to lead their child hood as a child labour. Pandemic with its related financial crisis including global job losses will put children in a greater risk of inequalities. In case of girl child, after dropped out of the school due to pandemic their parents forced them to marry at pubescent age.

Suggestions

Many countries in this world have taken fruiting measures to counter child & forced labour problem in the past decade and make a cessation on it. In this pandemic age govt. has more duties to perform regarding prohibition of child marriage & child labour. He has a key role to resist engagement of child labours in private institutions. Surveillance machinery should be introduced by the govt. to look after the situation whether children's have been engaged as child forced labour or not.

Deprivation of Liberty

The COVID-19 outbreaks aggravate the provocation that children face. Detention of a child found to be more problematic in the era of COVID-19 than the general population due to the congested conditions where they are inhabit for long duration. Research shows that any kind of detention increase chances of infection, exaggeration and ramification of contagious diseases within and beyond the detention facilities due to absorption of children's in a tiny space. As per report of the United Nation 1.5 million to 8 million children's in every year throughout the world were bound to lives their life in several type of detention facilities like as orphanage, immigration detention which will deprived their liberty. United Nations report also said nearly 3 lacks 30 thousand of children in every year forced to lead life in immigrations detention. This type of detentions not only deprived children's right of liberty but also it enhances mental perturbation within them. Children's are also getting smirch if they found Covid-19 positive in detention. This pandemic underscore the dependence of institutional detentions of the children's at Juvenile homes, immigration detentions and transferring them to home custody under the surveillance and care of their families.

Suggestions

The govt. authorities should take fruiting steps to protect the physical and mental health of the detainee which includes sanitization, Covid-19 detection test by implementing the guide line provided by Health authorities.

Child Maltreatment & Sexual Exploitation

Covid-19 pandemic makes people unwaged, redundant which increase economic hardship that makes lack of affectionate care of the parents over their children which stimulate risk of sexual exploitation and maltreatment of children's. Due to pandemic schools are getting closed, they have chosen online method for conducting their daily classes. Children's are spending more times on internet. Schools, Community Parks are closed. Children are getting isolated in their houses on a self detention condition which makes them distressed, angry. As an effect children's are familiar with social media platforms like face book, you tube, twitter which will affect their future in a larger way. These social media platforms promote sexual explicit contents directly or indirectly which will affect a child physiological condition in a drastic manner and increases the cases of sexual exploitation of the children. Report says in 2019 near about 69 million photos & videos of child sexual abuse found in United States of America only. On the other hand COVID-19 pandemic escalate the cases of child maltreatment & Domestic violation against child. Govt. enforced Lock-down to resist pandemic effect, but it creates social isolation, homes are getting over crowded which

instigate inward partner violence. Home confinement and closure of educational institution escalate level of pressure and perturbation of children's. In Europe and America child abuse are increasing due to online activities. In this regard we have taken example of West Africa, in the era of 2014-2015 when EBOLA epidemic attacked there it was contaminate the rate of Child sexual molestation and teenage pregnancy.

Suggestions

Govt. should take a meaningful step through a public campaign and goading the parents to discuss about internet safety with their children's and warned them about the pros and cons of social media. Technological giants should expense a part of their profit to entrench internet security measure so that the innocent child hood of children's would be safe from internet oriented sexual abuse materials and exploitations. Govt. should arrange training programmes for training the child service stuffs like as ICDS (integrated Child development Services) workers on COVID-19 related child protection risks including child maltreatment & sexual abuse concern how to secure their child hood.

Loss of Parents & Care Takers

Covid-19 pandemic precedence has concentrated on detection, prevention and retaliation. But beyond lifelessness it has secondary impacts, such as children's orphaned of their natural parents and caregivers. These orphaned children's often faced abuse, disagreeable consequences and institutionalism. Evidence says from March 2020 to April 2021 more than 11 Lacs children's experienced the demise of their both primary & secondary guardian which makes them orphaned. It is not very hard to assume that as orphaned child faced how much hardship to lead his life in this merciless world. COVID-19 not only makes them orphaned but also takes away their innocent child hood. UNICEF reported that at the time of EBOLA pandemic counties like Guinea, Libya, and Sierra Leone faced more than 11310 deaths, which makes more than 22000 children's partially or totally care giver less. But this time the effect is more grievous than previous. Counties like India as a developing country having no proper infrastructure suffered a lot in respect of Orphaned children's. Orphaned children are used for child trafficking, huckstering and begging on streets. They have been used as a forced labour. COVID-19 death Occurs within a week and families have less time to prepare their children for this sudden damage. Children's losing their parents has higher chances of experiencing mental health issues also. It also causes suicide, infectious deceases, adolescent pregnancy, and chronic deceases also. It is vital to specialise in relations commonly serving as primary caregivers for youngsters, including not only parents but also grandparents. Grandparents living in a cross-generational family and playing a important role as a secondary caretaker of grand children's. Grandparents who are most unprotected in COVID-19 also provide physical, emotional, financial care taking to their grand children's.

Suggestions

Govt. should take proper initiative to provide sufficient number of social workers to identify the orphaned child and take them in a proper shelter with a proper care. Govt. should also provide food, education facilities to them. Not

only Govt. Non-Governmental Organizations also come forward to take prolific steps towards this issue.

Children's Health Including Sexual and Reproductive Health

In this COVID-19 age peoples are concerned about corona detections & treatments. Total health enforcement machinery is dedicated only on COVID-19 preventions; it will affect other life saving services including child vaccinations & immunizations, detection of other life threatening deceases like as HIV, malaria, tuberculosis. The COVID-19 empyrean distorting health systems and replication of health stuffs and resources, dearth of medical supplies, interruption of some regular routine health care. In this pandemic it is very important to children's have easy access to regular health care's no matters whether it is COVID-19 related or not, like as- malaria, tuberculosis effected children's need to regular check-up and medication. In a country like India still children's have been effected by age old deceases like malaria. Large number of children's around the world and their care givers may experience depression, fear, and anxiety due to effect of lock-down, quarantines. It will change their daily life in a sudden drastic manner. If in a family parents are affected by COVID-19 and they have been shifted to quarantine centres, their children's are separated from them, living isolated condition at their houses without the care of their primary caregivers makes them vulnerable for exploitation. It will also badly affect their mental health. This pandemic could interfere the sexual & reproductive health services, supply of contraceptive pills, testing and examination of sexually transmitted deceases. Every one concentrated on COVID-19 detections and treatments, so others health issues in this period would be neglected. This type of sloppy attitude creates unsuitable needs for unexpected pregnancy, perilous abortion and venereal deceases.

Suggestions

Govt. should decrease interruptions in children's access to basic health care services not connected to this pandemic. Govt. should create new online methods to provide child friendly and reproductive health information including how they access these services in this pandemic period. They should ensure the safe abortion is treated as essential health service and ease accessible for everyone.

Children's of Homeless Families

This pandemic age creates challenges regarding children's of those families having no permanent shelters. It includes poor mental and physical health. Children's belongs from homeless families having greater chances to infect by COVID-19 due to bad health conditions. Parents of children from homeless families will have to face particular problems to keep children safe from covid-19. Homeless parents or care givers living with their child in a emergency shelters or camps, where there is no separate Bathroom facility or separate kitchen facility, and as result it increases the chances of infection from one to another person. If anyone tested COVID-19 positive in those shelters or camps, self-isolation is not possible there due to small space. Another problem is due to shortage of space home schooling of children's is practically impossible there. So, children's are facing educational disadvantages in this pandemic period. More families in a small place create

health hazards for children. Slum areas are more vulnerable such infectious decease like COVID-19.

Suggestions

Govt. should look after this in this pandemic age and arrange proper shelters for those homeless parents and caregivers, so that children's of those homeless families will survive in a healthy manner.

Migrated & Refugee Children's

Despite of menace of COVID-19 pandemic child protection unit's in several departments of France are abandoning unaccompanied migrant children who are forced to live in unsanitary and sometimes overcrowded places where they have no protection against transmission of virus or other illness. In the last year at the month of March First COVID-19 positive case was found at Cox Bazaar, Bangladesh where Bangladesh Govt. was continued refugee camp of RODHINGYA's. Most of the refugees are children's there. Those camps are highly populated. The Bangladesh govt was largely closed the refugee camps and restricted to use internet there and they were also banned for buying mobile phones and Sims. So, without the internet and communication method, education of refugee children's are in stack. Practically they are abundant from outer world and uninformed about Covid-19 condition.

Suggestions

Govt. with the help of International agencies should provide hygienic conditions to the child refugees, migrants with proper health care facilities, educational arrangements. Refugees and migrants should be informed about present COVID-19 situation so that can prepare themselves to fight against this pandemic. Govt. should arrange public health services for them. Internet services should be re connected in the refugee camps so that refugee children's would be able to continue their education through it.

Children with Disabilities

The current Corona Virus will disrupted life in every part of the world and inordinately affect those children's with pre-existing disabilities. COVID-19 upsurge challenges the soundness of children with disabilities around education, health, and social and family life proportions. It interpolates eminent mental, physical stress & derangement of their daily life routine. Children's who has existing mental health functioning difficulties might be affected by aggravation of symptoms in response of COVID-19 related information. Disable children's may need special take care to adjust them with this sudden disastrous situation and make them understand how to save themselves from this infectious virus. On an effect of restrictions implemented by Govt. Scholl's are closed. So, educations are deeply hampered for disable or specially challenged children in this pandemic age. Specially challenged students from remote places are unable to continue their studies through online method. Deranged every day routine affect the mental health of the students, especially those with intellectual disabilities. Non availability of proper teaching learning materials also effect the education of children's who are specially challenged like as children's with visual, hearing impairments need special TLM for their Learning. Specially challenged students who are belong from poor family unable to access modern technological devices, internet for their education. Teachers

are faced same problems to implementing online methods of instructions as student's access to device and internet and difficulties to understand the new method. Digital method offers limited interaction between Teachers and disables children's. Physical visits were not allowed due COVID-19 implemented restrictions. Parents and caregivers of the Children confessed increased house hold responsibilities stimulate their mental stress. Some places children's are being forced to discontinue their regular medical treatments for their deceases like- epilepsy of forego which needs regular medical supervision & rehabilitation therapy. Many children's with disabilities will receive therapeutic methods to develop communication skills which will help them to cope better at school and home. But pandemic interrupted these. These Specially challenged students would need now further help to improve their learning skills. In this certain prevailing situation high percentage of people suffering with disabilities living in developing countries. Some children's have autism continuum or having learning disabilities found it very hard to continue their online classes.

Suggestions

Govt. should look after that disable children's would continue to receive their regular therapies. All children's over the age of 12 should get COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they're eligible for this and once it's approved by the Govt. Due to pandemic changes of their school routines can be very harmful and it will creates mental stress for them. So not only teachers of Govt. Schools but also Private school teachers should take fruiting initiative to talk with the parents and caregivers of the Disable child to manage situations.

Covid-19 Third Wave & Children

Parents & Caregivers are getting traumatised about the news of third wave of covid-19. But still it is in deep confusion that whether covid-19 third wave will affect harsher than the previous one upon the children's or not. Experts have already presume that Third wave have anticipated children's most. Later It derives from the report of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission India Task force which includes several renounced Paediatricians all over the country, states that there is no such evidence that propound that child will be highly effected by the anticipated by the Third wave of COVID-19. Furthermore AIIMS Chief Dr. Guleria brings up that children's as usually they protected have mild infections of Covid-19 Virus. But the data was limited. Though the general peoples are passing their days within the fear of third wave. Worldwide mortality rate of the children's are low among the youngsters then adults. But kinds are more devastatingly mentally, emotionally distressed by the outcome of the pandemic. And children's are unable to express their feelings in such unprecedented situations.

Suggestion

At the verge of third wave, health infrastructure needed to be building up in a speedy manner. Health workers and Doctors are also need to be specially trained for upcoming third wave. Vaccine trials are upon the children's. Govt should look after this in a speedy manner. Govt. should initiate Covid task force to help trudge and create a good number of Hospital beds for children's.

Concluding Remarks

From the above discussion it is very pertinent to said that the present COVID-19 pandemic has great impact upon the children throughout the globe. And it is very covenant to say that children's are the most vulnerable section of the society in respect of COVID-19 attack. This pandemic has hits their right to health & self well being, right to education, right to liberty, right to freedom. The Governments of different countries and international organisations are worried about the immediate impact of this epidemic upon the children's. This pandemic accentuate the grave deficiency of different countries protection for children including improper health care system, inadequate social protection system, over populated detention facilities and lack of backup plan for sudden shut down of educational institutions. But every time has its advantages and disadvantages. At the one hand COVID-19 crisis vastly affected children's but at the other hand it can also benefit the children for the long term like as due to pandemic uses of internet by the students not only enhance their access to education but also enhance their ability to gather information. Financial crisis linked with COVID-19 may prepare the Govt. of several counties to build up their economical policies more strengthen then before.

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