

CHILD RIGHTS CLINIC

REPORT 2021-22



The Child Rights Clinic has been established with the primary objective of building of a ‘child-friendly’ society in the State. The motto of the Clinic is - **“WHERE CHILDREN ARE INSPIRED TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS.”**

The Clinic works in close association with the Department of Women and Child Development, Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Children’s Court Juvenile Justice Board, Child Welfare Committee, Goa State Legal Services Authority, Victim Assistance Unit of the State and all stake holders to strengthen the child protection system in Goa. As part of academic excellence, the Clinic also collaborates with leading foreign universities for sharing experiences and best practices on child protection systems.

Since its inception, the Clinic has done commendable work in the field of Child Rights. A lot of awareness was created through talks to school students, parents, teachers and general public and street plays which were performed in the different parts of Goa. The work was highly appreciated and CRC was bestowed with the prestigious **HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS’ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD 2019 on 29th August 2019.**

As part of academic excellence the clinic collaborates with leading foreign universities for sharing experiences and best practices. The college has signed a MOU with University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney Australia establishing the Child Rights Comparative Clinical Development Programme.

Director: Dr. Kim Couto

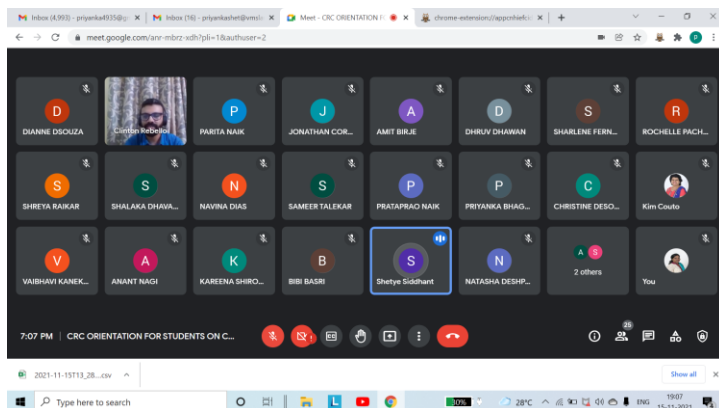
Assistant Director: Priyanka Shet

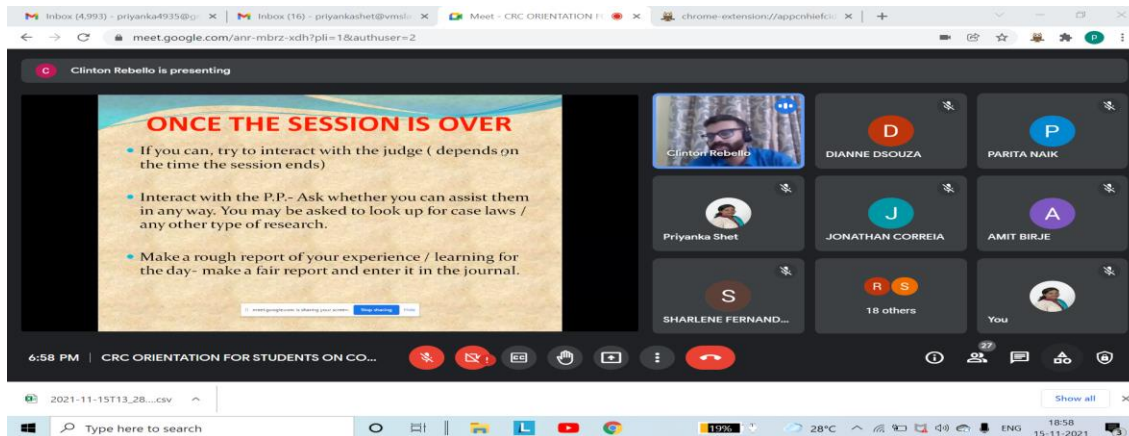
ACTIVITY 1-‘ORIENTATION SESSION ON COURT ATTENDANCE AND PROCEDURE FOR CRC MEMBERS’.

Guest Speaker: Adv. Clinton Rebello

Held On: 15th November, 2021

Summary: Adv. Clinton Rebello was welcomed and introduced by Prof. Kim Couto, Director of Child Rights Clinic as one of the founding student members of the Child Rights Clinic. The speaker elaborated on the key objectives of the clinic and the motivation behind him working for the clinic. To begin with, he explained the basic procedures that are followed in Children’s Court and showed pictures of the Court to make the students acquainted with the set up, visually. He explained as to where the judge, public prosecutor, defense counsel, student observers and general public are seated in the court room. He advised students to go through a ‘check-list’ that he elaborated on, before their visit to the court. Students must follow and keep in mind certain ‘general instructions’ while visiting the court. The speaker then proceeded towards explaining instructions at length which have to be kept in mind by the students while the ‘court is in session’ and concluded with instructions to be followed after the ‘court session is over’. The vote of thanks was given by Prof. Priyanka Shet, Assistant Director of the Clinic who thanked the guest for giving such an in-depth session on the instructions and procedures to be followed by the students. On that note, the session was concluded.





ACTIVITY 2- CHILDREN'S WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Held between: 18-22 November, 2021

Summary: As part of the Children's Week celebrations across India, the clinic decided to spread awareness amongst Children in Goa throughout the week through various activities. Under the aegis and tutelage of the faculty incharges, the student members enrolled in the three-year degree programme of the college convened on 18th November, 2021 to decide on activities to be conducted as part of Children's Week. It was decided that members either in pairs or individually will be engaging with underprivileged children in and around their localities and nearby markets and would give them interactive talks on safety of children, their right to education, child labour, sexual health and good sanitation habits with focus on state and central laws made for the protection of children. Members were given a free hand on deciding the topic on which they will be spreading awareness. Members Dhruv and Priyanka, Christine, Vaibhavi, and Navina conducted the activity successfully. Christine and Vaibhavi carried out the interactive session with 12 children, mostly in the age group of 9-15 years, residing in the Village of Loutolim, Margao on the topics of meaning and importance of a balanced diet, meaning of good and bad touch and concept of menstruation and menstrual hygiene. Navina carried out the interactive session with 12 children. Dhruv and Priyanka conducted their activity with 7 children, mostly in the age group of 4-14 years, residing in and around Defence Colony, Porvorim on the topics of Right to Education and good sanitation habits.



KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE

tell them it's NOT OKAY

- 1 When someone touches your private parts
- 2 When someone asks you to touch their private parts
- 3 When someone shows you their private parts
- 4 When someone asks you to show your private parts
- 5 When someone asks you to take off your clothes
- 6 When someone takes your photos or videos without clothes
- 7 When someone shows you videos or photos of people without their clothes on.

Keeping Our Children Safe is Our Responsibility

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KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

These are my lips
They help me speak, they help me kiss
I kiss my mummy, I kiss my daddy
But when my teacher, an uncle or an aunty ask
for a kiss
I give them a flying kiss, I don't kiss them on their lips
or anywhere else
I keep my lips safe

This is my chest
When I have a bath I clean my chest
But when my teacher, an uncle or an aunty touch my chest
I say NO and I tell my mummy about it.

These are my bottoms
They help me sit
I wear an underwear
to protect them
But when my teacher, an uncle or an aunty touch
or tickle my bottom
I say NO and I tell my mummy about it.

This is the part between my legs
I keep it clean.
I wear an underwear to protect it.
But when a teacher, an uncle or an aunty
touch the part between my legs
I say NO, NEVER and I tell my mummy about it.

My lips, my chest, my bottoms and the part between
my legs belong to me. I can touch them.
But no teacher, uncle or aunty should touch or
tickle me there.
I should not touch or tickle anyone on their lips, chest,
bottom, or the part between their legs.
These are important body parts and not to play with
I tell my mummy when someone troubles me.
I don't get scared because my mummy cares.
I don't get frightened because my mummy cares.

Teach your Children Good Touch & Bad Touch

Good Touch
It helps people to hug and love. It helps people who love you.
It helps people who are kind & nice. It helps people who are helpful & who give you a good night sleep.
It helps people who are kind and helpful.

Bad Touch
It hurts people. It makes people uncomfortable.
It makes people feel sad, scared or angry.
It makes people feel like they are being touched in a way that is not right.

Private body parts are the parts you cover with your swimming suit when you go swimming. No one should ever touch your private parts except your parents or Doctor as they help to keep you clean & healthy.

If someone gives you a bad touch, say "No, stop that, back off" or "Touch the teacher" or "Touch back to the teacher".
"Never agree to keep it secret. Tell someone you trust."

Remember your bad touch from you:
• Friends
• Teachers
• Relatives
• Other Young Adults

Dear Friend
When someone gives you bad touch, Don't be shy, tell your teacher. Tell someone you trust. Tell your parents. Tell your friends. Tell your friends. Tell your friends.

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ACTIVITY 3

Nature of Activity: ‘Goa Children’s Court Visits’

Held between: 17th November, 2021 to 20th May, 2022 between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Summary: As part of the compulsory activities to be conducted in an academic year by the Child Rights Clinic, its student members attended the proceedings of the Children’s Court situated in Shram Shakti Bhavan in Patto, Panaji. The purpose of attending the court is to better understand the procedures of the Children’s Court and the distinct methods adopted by it to facilitate justice for the child victims while keeping in mind the principle of best interests of the child. Court visits by the student members have been one of the highlights and privileges of being a member of the clinic and are unanimously regarded as a great learning experience by the students. In the academic year of 2021-2022, the court visits commenced from 17th November, 2021. The court was presided over by its President, Hon’ble Ms. Vijaya Ambre J. From November until 1st April, 2022 when

Hon'ble Ms. Sayonara Telles Laad J. took over from her as the President of the Court. Members visited the court in pairs from Monday to Friday for the evening session of the court and noted their observations and learnings in their journals, respectively. All members have completed 6 visits to the court in this academic year and have had a wide variety of experience of observing custody matters, arguments before charge, framing of additional charge, order on charge, bail matters, adjournments, different kinds of applications like exemption for accused's presence, chief and cross examinations, closed door hearings, depositions, recording of evidence, issuance of different kinds of notices, summons and warrants, final arguments. Throughout the duration of the visits, several members had the privilege of one-to-one interaction with the President of the court, Public Prosecutor and the court staff through which they gained insight into different stages of trials and the history and application of laws for protection of children.

ACTIVITY 4 WEBINAR ON 'RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND THE PANDEMIC'

Nature of Activity: 'Guest Lecture on Rights of Children and the Pandemic'

Guest Speaker: Prof. (Dr.) Asha Bajpai, Founding Dean, School of Law, TISS, Mumbai

Held On: 18th December, 2021

Summary: The session was conducted online through Google Meet platform with over 75 students and was compered by student member Mr. Dhruv Dhawan. The guest was welcomed by Dr. Kim Couto, Director of the Clinic. Dr. Kim greeted the guest and welcomed her with a brief introduction as to the history, objectives, workings and achievements of the clinic. This was followed by a detailed introduction of the guest by the student compere. The guest commenced her lecture by enlightening the audience on the different kinds of vulnerable children in society be it orphans, migrant children, missing or trafficked children, child labourers and children exposed to exploitation and stressed upon the ideology that though all children are not the same but they all need special rights and protection. Further, the guest initiated a discussion on the situation of children during the pandemic. She elaborated on the plight of migrant children and went on to talk about increase in child marriages due to dropping out of schools, poverty and malnourishment

caused due to stopping of mid-day meals during the pandemic due to which children had to fend for themselves by rag-picking and indulging in child labour. The speaker went on to talk about how domestic violence and child helplines were overwhelmed during the pandemic. Many children who had been victims of domestic abuse were now locked in at home with their abusers. On the other hand, the speaker noted that there was a significant increase in child pornography and how abusers are now using online tools to abuse children. On the positive side, many colleges and institutions lent a helping hand in these situations through webinars, counselling, covid resources, information on migrant labour acts, government schemes and with active functioning of legal aid clinics, virtually. The speaker stressed on the need for preparation for future pandemics and outbreaks and how awareness is the key to protecting children. Speaker gave suggestions to student members on how to bring effective change in the status of children post pandemic. The guest took several questions on solutions for beggary, safe abortion during pandemic and is it an essential health service, child/teen pregnancies and why are child engagements not prohibited when child marriages are prohibited. With this the lecture came to an end. The Vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Priyanka Shet, Assistant Director of the Clinic who thanked the guest for her insightful and meaningful words.

DEVI SHARVANI EDUCATION SOCIETY'S
V.M. SALGAOCAR COLLEGE OF LAW, CHILD RIGHTS CLINIC

PRESENTS,

LIVE WEBINAR

RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND THE PANDEMIC

GUEST SPEAKER



Dr. Asha Bajpai
Former Professor and Founding Dean,
School of Law,
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
India.

18TH DECEMBER 2021
at 3:00pm.

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*Registration closes on 17th December 2021

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SARA NASNODKAR Kim Couto DHRLUV DHAWAN Priyanka Shet Asha Bajpai

PRIYANKA BHAGAT Ashwin Naik 75 others You

4:30 PM | Rights of Children and the Pandemic

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ACTIVITY 5 – RTI

Nature of Activity: Major Programme

Held between: 12th-18th March, 2022

Summary: Pursuant to the meeting of the clinic dated 12th March, 2022, the Clinic under the guidance of the Assistant Director and Director of the Clinic has taken up a project with an objective to collate data with respect to the beneficiaries of various schemes being implemented in the state of Goa for the welfare of children, analyse and find gaps in implementation of such schemes and spread awareness about the same. Through the following process which was undertaken by each member at an individual level, the clinic sought to achieve the said objective and subsequently hold awareness sessions for different stakeholders be it the children, their parents or Govt officers involved in these schemes.

Every member prepared and filed an RTI application with the PIO of the local Panchayat/Municipality. To avoid duplicity in applications in one area, members had to coordinate with student incharge Ms. Christine De Souza. Where multiple members reside in one area, neighbourhood panchayats were allotted to make sure that maximum areas are covered. The reason for seeking information in the RTI application was cited as “academic purpose”

Questions to be asked in the RTI application were suggested by the Assistant Director and students and were subsequently drafted by Mr. Dhruv Dhawan. Questions that were asked in the RTI application are as follows:

1. Which welfare schemes pertaining to children are being implemented in the said Panchayat?
2. Among the above stated schemes being implemented which schemes are for the benefit and welfare of the girl child?
3. Kindly state the number of beneficiaries for each scheme mentioned above over a period of last 5 years?
4. Kindly state the number of applications received for each scheme and how many of the applications received have been granted, rejected or are pending.

Conclusion: All village panchayats who replied to the RTIs denied having any information pertaining to schemes for children. They forwarded and marked the applications to the Directorate of Women and Child Welfare. The Department did not reply to the RTIs within the time frame of 30 days except for the RTI of student member Mr. Pratap Naik who has been following up on data pertaining to the schemes from the Department.

ACTIVITY 6 – AWARENESS OF SCHEMES FOR CHILDREN PURSUANT TO REPLY OF RTI APPLICATION.

Nature of Activity: Major Programme

Held between: 6th-13th May, 2022

Summary: The student members of the Child Rights Clinic convened a meeting at 10:30 a.m. on 6th May, 2022 in the Moot Court Hall under the instructions of the Assistant Director of the Clinic, Prof. Priyanka Shet to discuss and deliberate on the activity to be conducted as part of the Major Programme for the Academic Year 2021-22. The members deliberated upon suggestions put forward by the faculty that pursuant to the RTI activity conducted by the clinic it is evident that Village Panchayats and Municipalities in Goa have failed in their duty of reaching out to children, school students and their parents with respect to Central and State government schemes for their benefit. Now, it is pertinent that members reach out to as many underprivileged children as possible and conduct awareness and educational sessions so that children and their parents are made aware of such schemes.

Thus, it was decided that as part of the major programme, student members of the clinic will go in groups comprising of maximum 5 students to villages and interact with underprivileged children. Members will research on schemes for the benefit of children and will get the script approved by the faculty before going to conduct the activity. Students were given a week's time to prepare and conduct the activity.

9th May 2022.

The first group to research on the activity, take approvals of the faculty and successfully complete the activity was of Ms. Priyanka Bhagat, Ms. Simran Khadilkar and Mr. Dhruv Dhawan who

conducted the activity with 21 children in and around Shanti Nagar, Porvorim on 9th May, 2022 and made the students fill survey forms to know their awareness with respect to the schemes. It was found that while parents of some children were curious to know about the schemes, both children and their parents were not aware of beneficial schemes. Members apprised them of the schemes and held an awareness session. Members also collected the Details of the Children and the forms to be submitted to the Child and welfare Department, Government of Goa.

14th May 2022

Project title: Community Sensitization of Child Welfare Schemes in Goa.

Project goal: To generate awareness among the under-privileged sections of the society regarding the necessary child welfare schemes aimed at full and wholesome development of children, designed to ensure that children are safe and that families have necessary support to care for their children successfully.

Area of the project: Indiranagar slum, Chimbél-Goa. Date: 14th May 2022 Time: 2:30-4:30pm

Executive summary: Members of the clinic commenced the project by inquiring with the parents having girl children below the age of 10 years regarding availing of the Sabla scheme. Most parents were unaware of it so we elaborated on how they need to open a bank a/c which gives them a higher rate of interest under the scheme. For convenience of these beneficiaries, Partita jotted down thoroughly on paper the instructions in local language on how to go about it either in the bank or the post office. Further, members informed them about the documents they would require in order to avail of any of these schemes for instance- birth certificate, marriage certificate, address proof, Aadhar card, etc. Most of the slum dwellers possessed an Aadhar card. Members also introduced them to SAG (Scheme for Adolescent Girls) which helped girls from 11- 18 years of age learn new skills if they had dropped out of schools or could not complete their education. The skills involve home skills, life skills and vocational skills. Most people like Ramesh Kumar, slum dweller having 2 girl children and one boy child was not acquainted with the Laadli Laxmi scheme which on availing gives a girl one lakh Rupees on turning 18 years old.

The Laadli Laxmi Scheme is being implemented through the branches of the following Banks. 1. State Bank of India 2. Bank of India 3. H.D.F.C. Bank. Members then, went on to explain the Griha Aadhar scheme which gave women Rupees 1500 monthly. Members informed them that

this can be benefitted by widows as well as divorcees and the total income of the husband and wife should not exceed rupees 3 lakh. Members explained how the form should be acquired and submitted from/to such centres put up at taluka level by the Director of Women and Child Development. The financial assistance of Rs.1500/- shall be paid every month directly into the savings bank account. Out of the many families we interacted with regarding this scheme, women from 2 families had already availed the Griha Aadhar scheme. Experience: It was an eventful experience for all the members. From financial inclusion to better health care, these Government schemes we believe, will not only encourage birth of a girl child but will further improve the overall quality of life for the society's less fortunate. Some families were reluctant to interact with us, however Students managed to advocate and educate around the child welfare issues and tried to change some of the public perceptions, especially given the fact that there was a lot of stigma attached to the birth of a girl child.



CHILD RIGHTS CLINIC ACTIVITY AT PONDA GOA

TEAM: VAIBHAVI KANEKAR, CHRISTINE DE SOUZA, NAVINA DIAS, JONATHAN CORREIA, SASHRIK TALAULIKAR, ANANT NEGI.

DATE: 14/05/2022

TIME: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

On behalf of the Child Rights Clinic of V.M. Salgaocar College of Law, Panaji, Child Rights Clinic Members conducted activity of creating awareness about the Government Schemes to underprivileged students from Ponda.

In the Taluka of Ponda, the villages of Curti and Talaulim were selected. A total number of 12 children from the age group of 6 years to 17 years of age were identified and were explained about the schemes according to their eligibility towards the schemes.

The team focused on 5 schemes by various departments of Government of Goa. Information regarding the same and their forms were also circulated and explained as well.

SCHEMES FOCUSSED AT:

1. ***Bachpan under Department of Social Welfare:*** Children who do not have both parents and guardian without financial support for livelihood or education below the age of 18 staying in Goa get Rs. 2000/- per month on a simple application form to the Department.
2. ***Scheme for Children of widow/orphan under Department of Scheduled Tribe:*** To meet the expenditure of food, clothing, shelter till age of 18 years any widow belonging to ST community having minor children, beneficiaries upto 2, any widow from non-ST community having minor ST children beneficiaries upto 2, any orphan from ST community not having any guardian or family to look after can apply under this scheme to get Rs.1500-2000/-
3. ***Schemes under Directorate of Woman and Child Development***
 - i. ***Anganwadi Service Schemes:*** For holistic development of children from the age of 6 months to 6 years and pregnant or lactating mother are given free health checkups and pre school services.
 - ii. ***Mamta:*** Benefit of one time of Rs. 10,000/- is given to all mothers giving birth to girl child upto 2 deliveries. Mother need to be resident of Goa at least for 3 years or married to resident of Goa supported by resident certificate.
 - iii. ***Adolescent girl scheme:*** For girl empowerment by all means, girl child from the age of 11 to 14 years is provided with nutritional and health skills including health hygiene via formal and informal education.

All the information was sought from the Goa Government online portal goaonline.com. It was also further confirmed by visiting the concerned departments providing schemes to confirm the current status of the schemes, if any other document, formality or eligibility is required or any other scheme is present not mentioned on the portal. Pamphlets were also circulated to the students for further dissemination and awareness of the schemes. We received two enquiries regarding the

Mamta Schemes. Overall, the experience of working towards creating awareness was inspiring with a realization of need of such activities even more.

