International Journal of Contemporary Research In Multidisciplinary

Research Article

Comprehensive Review of Child Rights and Welfare Policies in India

Dr. Jiwan Jyoti[1*], Dr. Rajinder Singh[2]

[1]Assistant Professor in Public Administration, Khalsa College Patiala, Punjab, India
[2]Assistant Professor in Political Science, University College, Moonak, Sangrur, Punjab, India

Corresponding Author: *Dr. Jiwan Jyoti

Abstract	Manuscript Information
This research paper explores the various dimensions of child rights and welfare policies in India, drawing insights from existing literature. The study critically examines legislative frameworks, government policies, and programs aimed at child protection, education, health, and overall development. It incorporates an extensive review of the literature to identify the effectiveness and gaps in policy implementation. The paper concludes with recommendations for strengthening child welfare initiatives in India.	
	How to Cite this Article
	Jyoti J, Singh R. Comprehensive Review of Child Rights and Welfare Policies in India. Int J Contemp Res Multidiscip. 2025;4(S2):24–26.
	Access this Article Online
	www.multiarticlesjournal.com

KEYWORDS: Child Rights, Welfare Policies, Child Protection, Legislation, India

INTRODUCTION

Children are the foundation of a nation's future, and ensuring their rights and well-being is a fundamental responsibility of the state. Various researchers have explored the legislative, social, and economic aspects of child welfare in India. This paper synthesizes their findings to provide a holistic view of child rights and the effectiveness of welfare policies in India.

Legislative Framework for Child Rights in India: Several studies have analyzed the legal framework designed to protect child rights in India. Shantha Sinha (2012) emphasizes the role of legislation such as the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. Chinmayee Satpathy (2012) examines constitutional safeguards for children, highlighting the importance of ensuring their effective implementation. A.N. Singh (1996) [3] discusses the National Policy for Children, analyzing government initiatives and their limitations in reaching the target beneficiaries.

Challenges in Child Protection: Child protection remains a significant challenge in India. Dora Giusti and Annerudh Kulkarni (2012) discuss the importance of safeguarding children from abuse, violence, and exploitation in family, community, and societal settings. Sandip Das (2012) provides statistical insights into crimes against children, reporting a 24% increase in such cases in 2011 compared to the previous year. Mahendra Gaur (2008) discusses child protection schemes, including Juvenile Justice and the Integrated Program for Street Children, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses.

Health and Nutrition of Children: R. Kumar (2012) [12] highlights the importance of child immunization, addressing common ailments, and improving access to primary healthcare services. He also examines disabilities in children and primary health care in schools. T. Mamta and D. Sharda (2009) [13] focus on the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program, emphasizing the need for functional Anganwadi centers to provide essential health and nutrition services to children. Dinesh Paul (1990) argues that women's nutrition and well-being directly impact child development, stressing the need for gender-sensitive policies.

Education and Child Development Programs: Education plays a pivotal role in child development. S.L. Goel (2003) [16] discusses the objectives of the ICDS program, which aims to enhance the nutritional and health status of children through a six-package service model. Sarada and N. Rajni (2009) [15] examine national and international efforts for child welfare, including primary school education and pre-school education. Dolly Singh (2001) [6] examines issues related to child education, communication, and parental responsibilities, stressing the need for better educational interventions. V.K. Rao and S. Khushid-ul-Islam (1997) discuss early childhood care and education, emphasizing the importance of preschool development and remedial measures for learning disorders.

Child Labour and Exploitation: Child labor remains a pressing issue in India. M. Koteswara Rao (2000) and Jayantilal Bhandari (2000) analyze the causes of child labor, attributing it to poverty, unemployment, and social structures such as casteism. They advocate for stronger evaluation and monitoring of child labor eradication programs. W.S.K. Phillips (1994) [14] explores the impact of industrialization on family life, highlighting how socio-economic stress contributes to child labor and street children.

Gaps in Policy Implementation: A.N. Singh (1996) [3] and Anil Kumar (1996) [11] discuss inefficiencies in implementing child welfare programs, citing issues such as lack of coordination, funding inadequacies, and bureaucratic obstacles. W.S.K. Phillips (1994) [14] and M.D.A. Freeman (1983) analyze the broader sociopolitical factors affecting child welfare, emphasizing the need for a child-centric approach in policy formulation. Dolly Singh (1995) [4, 5] highlights deficiencies in

the ICDS program, stating that periodic assessments have revealed shortfalls in achieving targeted objectives.

CONCLUSION
India has taken significant steps in legislating child rights and implementing welfare programs, yet challenges remain in ensuring their effective execution and enforcement. Although laws such as the Right to Education Act (2009) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (2012) provide a solid legal foundation, their implementation varies across different regions and socio-economic groups. Issues like child labor, malnutrition, limited access to quality education, and child exploitation persist, underscoring the gap between policy formulation and its practical impact.

A major concern identified in this review is the lack of efficient monitoring and accountability mechanisms. Many child welfare programs face bureaucratic delays, insufficient funding, and inadequately trained personnel, leading to fragmented service delivery and difficulties in reaching marginalized communities. Strengthening oversight measures and conducting regular evaluations are necessary to enhance the effectiveness of these initiatives.

Furthermore, improved coordination between various stakeholders—government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations—is essential for better implementation. Since child welfare intersects multiple sectors, including education, healthcare, and social development, an integrated approach can help streamline efforts and prevent redundancies.

Public awareness and community participation are equally critical in ensuring the success of child welfare initiatives. Engaging local communities, parents, educators, and grassroots organizations can lead to more effective program implementation. Additionally, raising awareness about child rights, protection laws, and educational opportunities can empower individuals to demand better services and hold authorities accountable.

RECOMMENDATIONS
To improve child welfare programs in India, the following recommendations should be prioritized:
1. **Enhancing Monitoring and Accountability** – Establishing independent bodies for oversight and conducting regular impact assessments to evaluate child welfare initiatives.
2. **Improving Inter-Agency Coordination** – Strengthening collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations to maximize resources and efficiency.
3. **Expanding Community-Based Initiatives** – Encouraging grassroots participation by involving local organizations, self-help groups, and schools in child welfare programs.
4. **Increasing Public Awareness** – Running awareness campaigns to educate people on child rights, protection laws, and the importance of education and healthcare.
5. **Targeted Policy Reforms** – Refining existing policies to better serve vulnerable children, especially those from

disadvantaged backgrounds, tribal communities, and children with disabilities.

6. **Strengthening Law Enforcement** – Ensuring strict implementation of child protection laws and taking prompt action against violations of child rights.

By adopting these measures, India can foster a child-centric approach that not only protects children's rights but also promotes their overall well-being. While progress has been made, there is an urgent need for continuous policy enhancements, institutional reforms, and collective societal efforts to create a safer and more equitable future for all children.

REFERENCES

1. Rattan V. Women and Child Development. Vol. II. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company Ltd; 2000.
2. Sachdeva DR. Social Welfare Administration in India. Allahabad: Kitab Mahal Publishers; 2013.
3. Singh AN. Child Welfare Policy and Programme in India. New Delhi: M.D. Publication; 1996.
4. Singh D. Child Development Issues, Policies and Programmes. Vol. 3. New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers; 1995.
5. Singh D. Child Development Issues, Policies and Programmes. Vol. 2. New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers; 1995.
6. Singh D. Child Rights and Social Wrongs. Vol. I. New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers; 2001.
7. Singh D. Child Rights and Social Wrongs: Analysis of Contemporary Realities. Vol. 3. New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers; 2001.
8. Singh D. Violations of Child Rights: Initiatives and Institutions for Reforms. Vol. II. New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers; 2001.
9. Sinha MK. Rights of the Child. New Delhi: Manak Publications; 1991.
10. Kumar R. Child Development in India: Health, Welfare and Management. New Delhi: Ashish Publishing House; 1988.
11. Kumar A. Social Welfare Programmes Under Five Year Plan. In: Social Policy and Administration in India. New Delhi: M.D. Publishing; 1996.
12. Kumar R. Child Development. Vol. I. New Delhi: APH Publishing Corporation; 2012.
13. Mamata T, Sarada D. Child Rights. New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House; 2009.
14. Philips WSK. Street Children in India. Jaipur: Rawat Publications; 1994.
15. Rajni N, Sarada. Child Rights and Young Lives. New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House; 2009.
16. Goel SL. Social Welfare Administration: Organization and Working. Vol. 2. New Delhi: Deep and Deep Publications.
17. Gokhale D, Sharad, Shoni K, Neera. Child in India. Bombay/New Delhi: Somaiya Publications; 1979.
18. Imotemsu AO. Changing Dimensions of Social Work. New Delhi: Jnanda Prakashan.
19. Jha KJ. Encyclopedia of Social Work, Series: Social Welfare and Social Work. New Delhi: Anmol Publications; 2000.