CHILDREN AT RISK – PARTICIPATORY STUDY

in VIRUDHUNAGAR

CREATING
CHILD FRIENDLY SPACES

- 2016 -

CREATING CHILD FRIENDLY SPACES TO ADDRESS CHILDREN AT RISK

Description of the organization:

Resource Centre for Participatory Development Studies (RCPDS) is a Rights based Child Focused development, a non-profit based organisation established in the year 2000 and situated in Madurai (the main headquarters).The mission of RCPDS is to build a fairer, more sustainable child friendly environment using Rights Based Approaches, valid evidence with efficient participation from the multi-stakeholder community.

RCPDS commits itself to building a culture focused on child friendly spaces for every child whereby, children are assured of protection from all forms of abuse via the employment of rights violation in partnership with mainstream actors, policy makers, and duty bearers. RCPDS works to enable the underprivileged to attain their full potential and as a result, this paves the pathway to a more sustainable locally managed resource and service system.

Strengths of the organization:

RCPDS has an international reputation for its specialization in Participatory methodologies, Child Rights Approach, Mainstreaming Child Rights with new generation community based institutions and children movements for effective lobby and advocacy. Our Community, National, and International partnerships play a significant role in constantly inspiring us. We challenge the power centers and policy frame works with constructive criticism on social imbalances, various forms of child rights violations, food insecurity, and poverty with effectiveevidence to support our statements hence, strengthening our voices through the networks.

We are one of the long term partners to Kindernothilfe, Germany, which is a leading International Child Rights organization, with whose support we responded to the victims of tsunami, with special emphasis on dalits and children including rehabilitation. Since then our partnership extended to address the issues related to children with strong commitment to participation of children addressing issues in Tiruchuli, Narikudi and Kariapatti blocks of Virudhunagar district. We are also a front line player in the capacity building of fellow NGOs in Child Rights Approach, watershed management, food security and organic farming practices.

With the support of Ministry of Women and Child Welfare, Government of India, we play an important role in implementing 24 x 7 child protection mechanism such as Virudunagar Nodal organisation and training institution for line departments and it is through this we are able to increasingly apply the best practices models across the district for child protection. This in return helps to address the different kinds of difficulties faced by our children. The following list of various kinds of issues and vulnerability children faced in Virudunagar as reported from the SoS calls register..

- Children forced to work as labourer

- Early marriage

- Sexual abuse and trafficking

- Refusal to Girl Children education

- Social exclusion and discrimination in Educational Institutions

- Lack of access to schools due to remoteness and missing infrastructure facilities

- Lack of child participation space due to lack of adult perception

- No opportunity to develop individual talents and creative skills of children

- Food insecurity and access to nutritional support

- Agriculture and land use on the sliding trend due to increasing industrial sector

- Contract labour and money advancing system mislead parents

Description of Context and Problem Analysis

Definition of Child

The convention defines a 'child' as a person below the age of 18 unless the laws of a particular country set the legal age for adulthood younger. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, the monitoring body for the Convention, has encouraged States to review the age of majority if it is set below 18 and to increase the level of protection for all children under 18.

THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Definition of Childhood

Childhood is the time for children to be in school, to grow strong and confident with the love and encouragement of their family and also the extended community. It is a precious time during which children should live free from fear, safe from violence and protected from abuse and exploitation. Childhood means much more than just the space between birth and the attainment of adulthood. It refers to the state and condition of a child's life, with regards to the quality of those years.
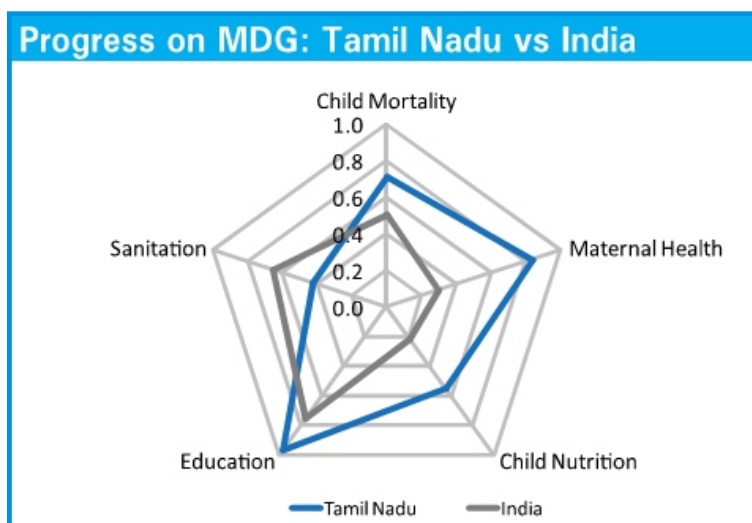
- UNICEF

Status of children from Indian National context

India is home to the largest number of children in the world, significantly larger than the number in China. The country has 20 % of the 0- 4 years' child population of the world. The number of live births in the country is estimated to be 27 million, which again constitutes 20 % of the total number of live births in the world. Although the number of births is expected to gradually go down in the coming years, the relative load of India in the world in terms of thechild population is not going to decreasesignificantly for a long time to come.

Therefore, the progress that India makes towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and targets related to children will continue to determine the progress that the world will make towards achieving the MDGs.

According to the latest estimates, 37 % of the population in India lives below the poverty line, signifying the inequity in thedistribution of wealth and household income. Despite the difficult fiscal situation, the Government of India has continued to increase allocation in social sector programs including health and education, in line with itscommitment to "Inclusive Growth."

When comparing India and Tamil Nadu, on the whole, the level of education, child nutrition, and mental health are high in the means of towards the goal and the level of sanitation is yet to be met.

Progress on MDG: Tamil Nadu vs India

Child Poverty

A condition that puts a lot of children at risk for many of the issues is poverty. Lack of access to basic requirements such as food, shelter, and clothing are the underlying cause of poor child health, poor child nutrition, child labor, child marriage and various other issues. It widens the economic, social, cultural, and gender disparities already present in society. Poverty essentially threatens every child right: survival, development, and protection. Poverty follows a vicious cycle as poor children grow up to be poor adults who then pass on debt to their children.

Children experience poverty differently from adults as it creates an environment which is harmful to their mental, physical, emotional and spiritual development. It cannot be simply understood in terms of household income or household consumption. UNICEF defines as "Children living in poverty experience deprivation of the material, spiritual and emotional resources needed to survive, develop and thrive, leaving them unable to enjoy their rights, achieve their full potential or participate as full and equal members of society."

Child Labor

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes the right of children to be protected from economic exploitation, from performing any work that is hazardous, interferes with their education, or is harmful to their health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

The Government of India continues to maintain its declaration made to Article 32 at the time of ratification to progressively implement the provisions of the article in accordance with its national legislation and international instruments to which it is a State Party. In India, an estimated 28 million children in the age-group 5-14 are engaged in work. This is based on the following definition used by UNICEF:

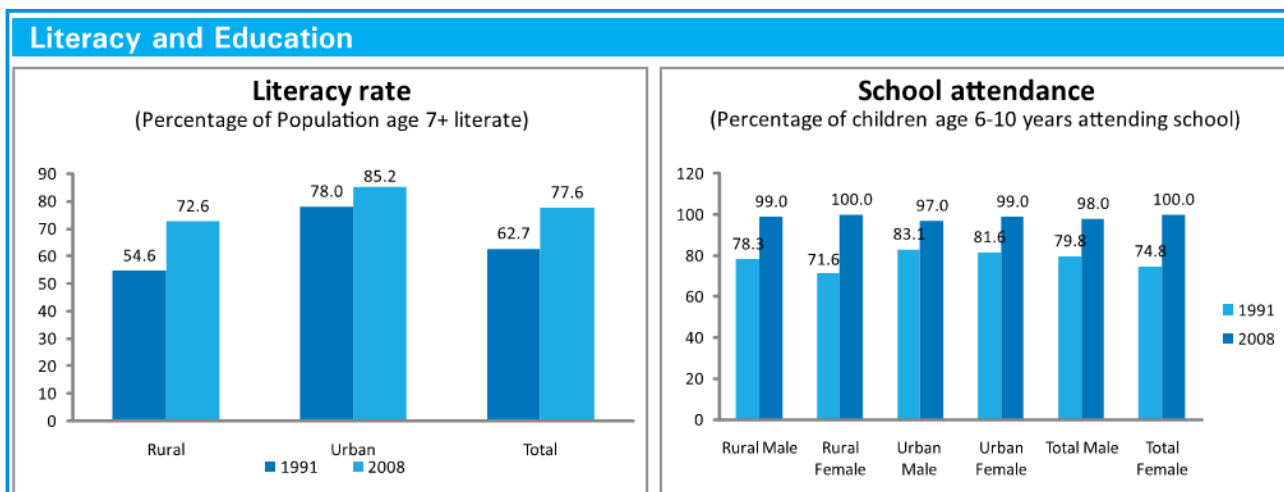**Age 5–11 years:** At least 1 hour of economic work or 28 hours of domestic work per week. **Age 12–14 years:** At least 14 hours of economic work or 28 hours of domestic work per week.

According to the Census 2001, only 5 % children were estimated to be working. However, the Census definition considered last one year as thereference period, even if a child was engaged for one day of economic activity, which included work for family business and farm. This did not include any household chores.

There is an inherent contradiction between the National Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 as the former does not ban all forms of child labour, but only hazardous labour. According to the notified occupations and processes for children below 14 years, the latter, on coming into force on 1 April 2010, has made free and compulsory education for all children without exception a justiciable right.

Child Education

Achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women are tantamount to achieving almost all the other MDGs. Education of children has an inter-generational impact on poverty. India has made rapid advances in universalizing primary education largely through the outcome of sustained interventions under SarvaSikshaAbhiyan (SSA) and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM).

Literacy rate level and school attendance level have been compared with the year 1991 and 2008 in respective of rural and urban region.

Enrolment of girls in primary school has been particularly good and seems to be catching up with that of boys. The primary completion rate has also improved significantly. According to the recent independent study by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, an estimated 3.7 %of children in the age-group 6-10 and 5.2 % in the age-group 11-13 were out of school in 2008. Around 8 million children in the age-group 6-13 are out of school, of which 6.7 million are from rural and 1.3 million from urban areas. Thereare a large number of students who enroll in school in the beginning of the year but do not attend classes and even drop out at a later stage during the course of the year.

This is also the case when it comes to the classes and school's facilities whereby the ratio of students and teachers in a school drastically varies. For example,improper maintenance of the school facilities, lack of toilets, or unclean toilets if there are toilets. Lack ofknowledgeable teachers to conduct classes and even if they are knowledgeable, they don't take classes properly as all they need is government's salary, in most of the cases.

Child Protection

The Millennium Declaration of 2000 explicitly addresses the need to protect children from conflict, violence, abuse and exploitation. Child Protection intersects with every one of the MDGs – from poverty reduction to getting children into school, from eliminating gender inequality to reducing child mortality. The strengthening of theevidence base in the area of child protection is one of the key challenges.The very nature of the different aspects of child protection such as violence, abuse,exploitation and trafficking which thrive on illegality and secrecy etc., makes it difficult for the government to collect reliable data.

The figure shows the statistical analysis of the increase in the birth registration rate in 2001 to 2007.

Awareness level has been increased among people due to continuous awareness campaign given by various non government organizations and government department

Child Marriage

The World Fit for Children 2002 calls for an end to harmful traditional or customary practices of early and forced marriage, which violate the rights of children and women. The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) mentions the right to protection from child marriage and calls legislation to specify a minimum legal age of marriage. In India, the minimum legal age at marriage for girls is 18 years and for boys, it is 21 years.
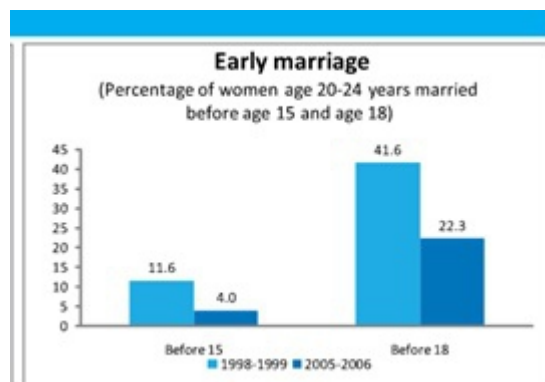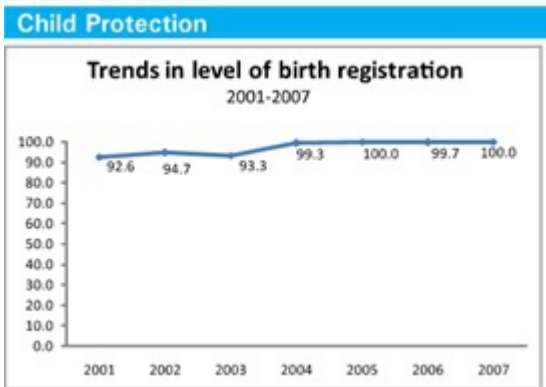
The Prohibition of the Child Marriage Act, 2006 requires States and Union Territories to appoint Prohibition Officers and frame rules for implementation. So far 10 states have framed rules and the exercise is yet to be completed in other states. The Supreme Court in October 2007 ordered the compulsory registration of marriages irrespective of religion. It directed the Centre and all States and Union Territories to amend the rules to this effect within three months, stating it would be of critical importance to prevent child marriage and ensure minimum age of marriage.

The figure shows the percentage of the early marriage which have been compared with the age limit of before 15 and before 18 in the year 1999 and 2006.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Poverty dumps a crowd of problems onto a child. Not only do these problems cause suffering, but they also conspire to keep the child poor throughout his/her life. In order to survive, a poor child in India will probably be forced to sacrifice education. Having not developed any skills necessary to survive in this society, the child will, as an adult, remain at the bottom of the economic heap.

Many of the children who have run away from home have done so because they were beaten or sexually abused. Tragically, this leads to further abuse through exploitative child labor and prostitution. Many of such abused children are so severely traumatizedto the point where some refuse to speak for months. To aggravate matters, children often feel guilty and blame themselves for their mistreatment. Such damage can take years to recover from in even the most loving of environments; on the streets, it may never heal. The incidence of Crime Committed against Children in India 11 years ago shows a gradual increase in the total Crime Committed, as seen in the table below

INCIDENCE OF CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST CHILDREN[*]						
SI. No.	Crime Head	Years				% Variation in
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Over 2004
1.	Rape	2532	2949	3542	4026	13.7
2.	Kidnapping & Abduction	2322	2571	3196	3518	10.1
3.	Procurement of Minor Girls	124	171	205	145	29.3
4.	Selling of Girls for Prostitution	5	36	19	50	163.2
5.	Buying of Girls for Prostitution	9	24	21	28	33.3
6.	Abetment of Suicide	24	25	33	43	30.3
7.	Exposure and Abandonment	644	722	715	933	30.5
8.	Infanticide	115	103	102	108	5.9
9.	Foeticide	84	57	86	86	0
10.	Child Marriage Restraint Act	113	63	93	122	31.2
	TOTAL	5972	11633	14423	14975	3.8

* National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India (2005): Crime in India

The table shows, the top crime committed can be listed out as Rape, Kidnapping & Abduction, Exposure and Abandonment and so. When it comes to the percentage of variation in 2005 over 2004, Selling of girl children for prostitution shows a tremendous percentage of 163.2. The crime incident rate might be decreased or increased over the years but these crimes were not in control.

Child trafficking is a big business in India, second in revenue only through drug trafficking. Many of the major operations are located in Central and East Asia. Children are abused and forced into child pornography and sold to pedophiles who use them as sexual slaves. These children are constantly drugged and severely tortured until they are no longer considered to be desirable. Then, they are sold into prostitution or used in the black market.

Though so much said from secondary sources and at the National levels from Government generated data, we have set off to conduct a sample study using participatory tools across 10 blocks of Virudunagar District wherein we work as Nodal organization for 24 x 7 National child protection services.

Children At Risk scenario and Issues identified as a result of study done in Virudunagar District

For study purpose the district is divided into two clusters based on the geographical location, livelihood pattern and issues faced by the children of that particular locality.

Children at Risk	
Cluster I	**Cluster II**
Narikudi, Tiruchuli, Kareeyapatti, Aruppukkotai	Virudhunagar - Sivakasi, Sattur, Venbakkottai
Child marriage, Early Pregnancy, Trafficking	Industrial labour, unorganized sector,

Cluster I

cover four administrative blocks with 58 village panchayats. Here the poverty level is high because of the dry farming lands which will become farming land only if the monsoonal rains are in time and if the river Vaigai and Periyar flow out. The villagers go for construction works during dry seasons and few have been migrating to the town ship. In these cluster, a vast range of issues identified through the participatory research done by RCPDS during this year (2016). Examples of such issues include child marriage, dropouts, early pregnancy, trafficking and sexual exploitation among the children.

Cluster II

cover next set of four administrative blocks which constitute 86 village panchayats. These panchayats are mostly popular for the textile mills, brick kilns, fireworks, crackers and match stick making industries. Here, the dropout rate is high, along with child labour and industrial labour. Also, there is a very little or negligible percentage of bonded labours in brick making industries.

STUDY PROCESS - METHODS AND TOOLS

The focus of this study as mentioned in the objective is to understand the level of vulnerability across the district and how it is perceived from children and other duty bearers. Hence each of the blocks in the District except for Rajapalayam block, identified for data collection.

The grouping for data collection and participatory facilitation is made in three parts:

1. Small group meeting with service providers, such as block level officers in education, labor inspectors, police officers, mukiya sevika, social welfare officers and health personnel as one group to respond to set of semi structured interviewing guide questions.

2. Based on the outcome from the first group, children who are at risk were organised in 10 small groups (issue based like dropouts together, child labor together, children who got married before they are 18 some years back, etc.) for each of the block and focussed group exercise was done to get their views on the reasons which made them to become victim to the situation, what services assistance they received from line department, why they were not interested in any form of rehabilitation, etc. This exercise was backed by matrix scoring and ranking of issues and service quality.

3. Based on the views and outputs received from the second group respondents local CBOs, NGOs (if there are any working with children), elected panchayat representatives were met with to register their response to children views, what they feel are the major gaps in service delivery system, what can change the face of children falling victims to identified risks in the block, etc.

The extracts of data collected from different sources as mentioned above consolidated and compared against the available data from child line and district head quarters records as secondary data for the past five years. (2011 – 2016) Thus the report considered both quantitative and qualitative data for analysis and narrative part.

Major take away from the study:

According to the research done by RCPDS in the year 2016 the collected data, it is stated that the dropout percentage is about 18% in Sivakasi and followed by Narikudi(14%) & Watrap (11%.) In government schools, as an attempt to put up a fake façade to the government, the teachers mark present for the students who had dropped out. Sadly, this is the ground reality.

Early Child Marriage is also high in the Virudhunagar villages, which is about 16% and followed by 14% in Sivakasi & 12% in Kariyapatti. Early child marriages happen in different forms, however, most commonly, between an elderly male and the female child. This leads to early pregnancy and in some cases, trafficking whereby they are sold off to the bigger cities.
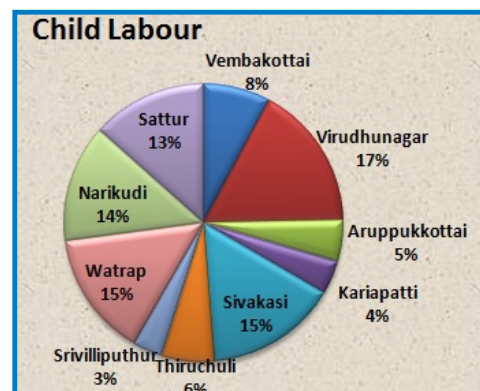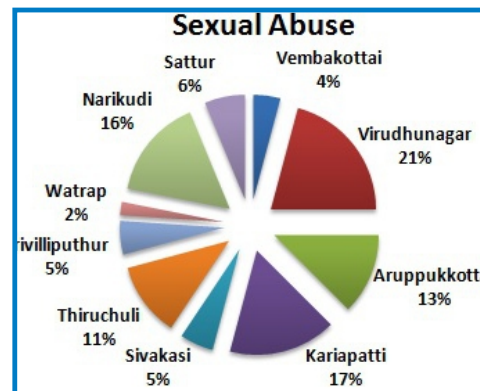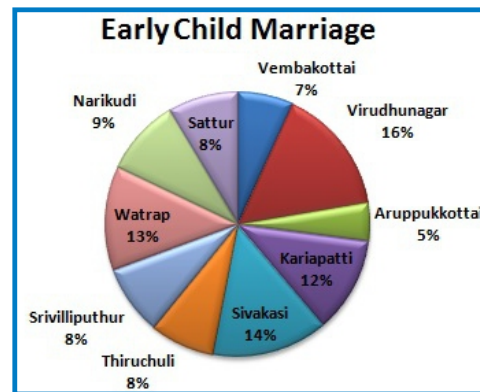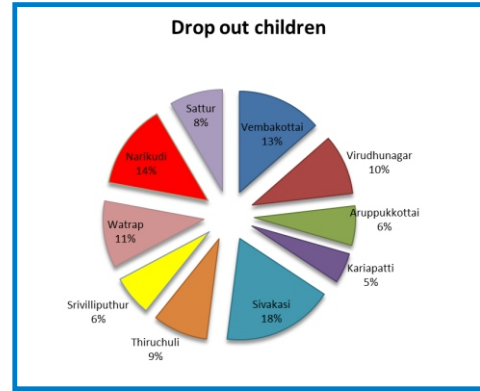
Here, Virudhunagar is recorded to be the highest with 21% for child sexual abuse. Most of the sexual abuse cases are commonly carried out by the family members, neighbours or well known, close relatives. Alarmingly, there are many such cases which are hidden by the family members.

Around 17% of child labour was reported from the Virudhunagar district and followed by 15% in Sivakasi & Watrap. Sometimes, bonded labour is never reported and in these cases, the children are found to be working to repay the parent's debt.

On the whole, 19% of children are found to be working for domestic help. 90% of working children are in rural India. 85% of working children are in the unorganized sectors. About 80% of child labourers are engaged in agricultural work.

A snap shot of reported cases registered with District line departments through Virudunagar district reveal the following cases across the study blocks.

A total of 3054 cases of different rights violation in various forms committed against children were reported from the year March 2011- September 2016. It may be seen from the table that Virudhunagar town including the block

Drop out children

Early Child Marriage
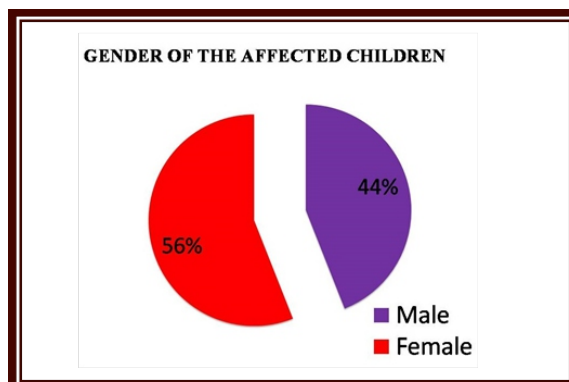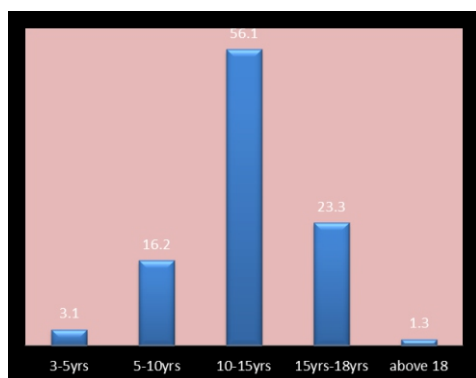

Sexual Abuse

Child Labour

being the main city centre as well District headquarters accounted for 18% of cases (539 cases) , followed by Sivakasi which accounted for (453) 14.8 %, 11.2% (341) of cases reported in Narikudi block and 11% of cases (323) in Watrap block of Virudhunagar District.

Block	Missing	Begging	Drop Out	Child Labour	ECM	Runway Child	Sexual	Bonded Labour	Physical Abuse	Corporal Punishment	TOT
Vembakottai	22	4	142	52	44	2	4		4	6	280
VNR	52	48	101	112	101	71	20	16	16	2	539
APK	12	19	66	32	30	4	12		4	3	182
Kariapatti	10	6	51	26	76	4	16		7	3	199
Sivakasi	25	16	186	102	92	8	5		18	1	453
Thiruchuli	16	7	92	40	51	6	11		16	2	241
Srivilliputhur	34	9	68	23	55	11	5		4	5	214
Watrap	11	9	112	97	82	1	2		3	6	323
Narikudi	14	3	143	91	61	7	15		4	3	341
Sattur	18	4	89	89	55	9	6		7	5	282
	214	125	1050	664	647	123	96	16	83	36	3054

It is clear from the above two figures that the overall percentage of the age of affected children from 2011-2016. (3054 cases) 56.1% of the affected children were highly affected in the age group of 10-15yrs. 23.3% of the children in the age group of 15-18yrs affected from various cases against children. Overall 56% of the cases against male children and 44% of the cases occurred against female children.

OUTCOME OF QUALITATIVE STUDY

Outcome of the qualitative data gathered by the study team by using different methods of Participatory Approaches like Key Informant Interview, Focus Group Discussion with key personnel such as government officials, Education department, Teachers, Health Workers, Victims, local boys and girls etc., working in the field of child rights & protection. Child and youth club members, adolescents group, child protection committee and women groups and community leaders were interviewed. Three individuals from each block were selected & interviewed. The collected data has been organised and compiled by the study team to verify the quantitative data available at Childline 1098 in the narrative form.

FGDs were organised among youth to create a friendly environment for extracting their view. They have assisted the study team in identifying the issues committed against children, causes and reasons behind it, initiatives against child issues from government side. The study team has conducted 1 -2 FGDs, each comprising 5-14 people, were conducted in each block using a check list form of questionnaire. A total of 10 FGDs were conducted separately with boys and girls, community institutions/local groups/community representatives.

The FGD covers on different issues on children like Dropout, Early Child Marriage, Child Labour, Juvenile, Trafficking, Physical and Sexual abuse on children, Corporal punishment at School etc.,

Data collected from different blocks were organised, compiled and prepared in the narrative form. The outcomes of the FGDs conducted with boys, Girls and victims are following

DROPOUT

The major reasons for dropout identified from FDGs are follows

- Poor Economic conditions of the family

- Not interested in Studies

- Corporal Punishment

- Family conflicts

- Non –child friendly school environment

The FDG conducted with youth group in Sivakasi block said that, the most of the children both male and female before completing their school education discontinued due to poor economic background of the family. The children who discontinued from school education will engage him/her as a labourer in a private company for minimum wages to fulfill their needs of the family.
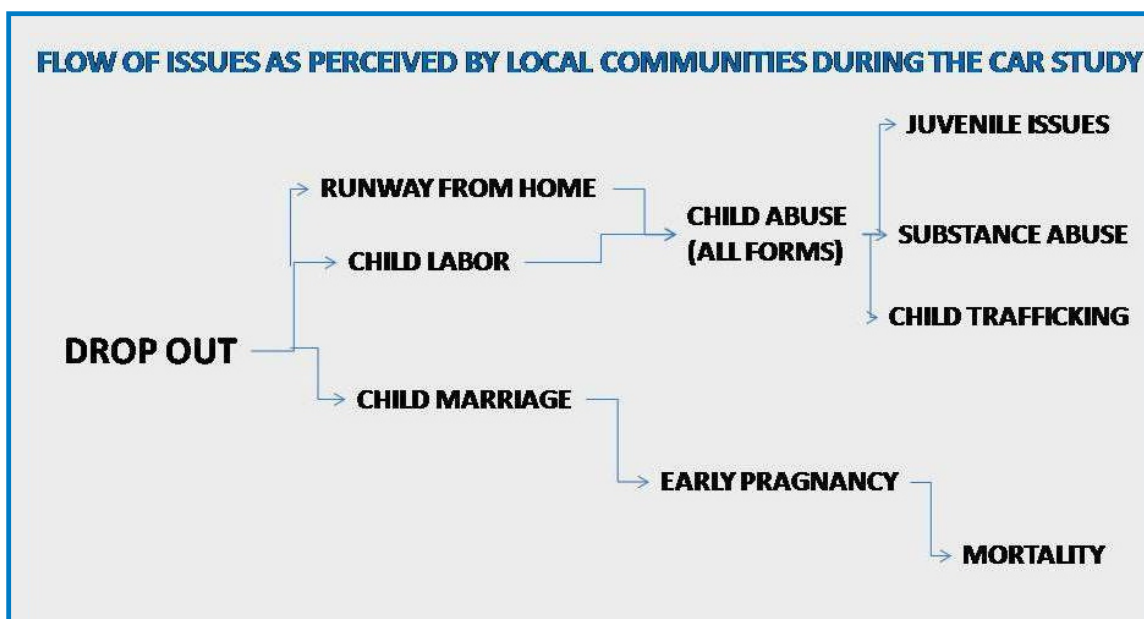
CHILD LABOURS

Dropout leads the children to work as a laborer and they engaged in anyone of the following work beedi-rolling, brick kilns, carpet weaving, construction, fireworks and matches factories, hotels, hybrid cottonseed production, leather, mines, quarries etc., The age group of the children comes under 14-18yrs. In Sivakasi & Sattur block, children mainly involved in fireworks and matches factories

In girls, the girl children stopped from school considering lack of bus facility, lack of social Security, poverty and family problem which leads to Child marriage.

CHILD MARRIAGE

In terms of girls dropout are the prime victims. Because once they stopped from school, they will get marry immediately or will engage in domestic work mainly for social security or family property concerns, false beliefs around virginity and strong cultural factors.

Thus, the flow of issues faced by children, start initially with children falling out of school system. The following is the flow which the community elders and parents of some of the victims perceived in local context:

FLOW OF ISSUES AS PERCEIVED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES DURING THE CAR STUDY

DROP OUT
- → RUNWAY FROM HOME
- → CHILD LABOR → CHILD ABUSE (ALL FORMS)
  - → JUVENILE ISSUES
  - → SUBSTANCE ABUSE
  - → CHILD TRAFFICKING
- → CHILD MARRIAGE
  - → EARLY PRAGNANCY
    - → MORTALITY

The outcome of the FGDs with boys and girls reveled that, the reason for child marriage is due to on the following reason.

- Parents compulsion
- Love affair
- Influence of mobiles, internet and TV
- To save dowry money
- Poor control of parents over children,
- Lack of education
- Poverty
- Social Pressure

Sometimes Dropout leads children to addict to **substance abuse** and get involved in various petty crimes which place them in trap to juvenile justice. Sometimes, children has been affected by contract labor, trafficked for prostitution and made to live under threatening conditions; exploited and abused emotionally, physically and sexually.

FGD with girls in Virudhunagar block reported that the age at marriage was 13-17yrs for girls. In an interview, the Protection officer in Virudhunagar District said that child marriage is more common in both upper & lower caste communities. Most of the girl children get married before complete +2.

Key Informant Interview with Service Providers

Key informant interview with government officials conducted in each block and the outcome of the interview compiled in narrative forms.

One of the officer from education department told that, the major reason for dropout, is giving preference to work on seeing others, 30% of the students stop their education due to poverty, lack of bus facility and in remote villages. Lack of frequency of buses leads parents to stop girl children go to school in considering the social security.

The outcome of the interview revealed that, the mobile phones and TV for early marriage based on love. They also claimed that early marriages were held to save money spent on a girl's dowry money. Parents have to pay more money if they organize the marriages of their children late. Greatest number of child marriages due to love affairs.

One of the police officials said that, age of children in India is 0-18 yrs. India has passed number of laws for protecting children. Art 24 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 in factories, mines, etc.,

Art 21A & RTE provide compulsory free education to children between the ages of 6 to 14. This free and compulsory education increases the children to feel very comfort and they have not even shown interest in studies.

KEY FINDINGS

Based on the field study and focus group discussions with various community level stake holders, victims themselves as well duty bearers the following basic factors have been identified as thrush hold for children dropping out of school system which eventually lead to many other inter-related forms of vulnerability and rights violation in Virudunagar District.

- Single parent and in most cases women headed households
- Family income level and poverty - necessitate the child to support the family in supplementing family income
- Academic and result (100%) oriented curriculum/school system
- Family disharmony fragmentation and addiction to substance abuse
- Lack of appropriate counseling opportunity
- Social discrimination and conflicts
- Issues related with Physical access to middle and high schools including trans
- Caring the siblings in family as both parents need to go for labor
- Cultural practices, misconceptions with puberty and property concentration which lead to ECM make girl children to drop out from school
- Lack of child friendly classroom environment (physical/emotional and neglect abuse)
- Lack of space for child expression/interest
- Occupational migration of parents with children
- Negative implications in the New Education Policy
- Complicated admission procedures and higher fee structure by schools (in spite of RTE and regulations)

- 56.1% of the affected children were highly affected in the age group of 10-15yrs. 23.3% of the children in the age group of 15-18yrs affected from various cases against children during the year 2011- 2016

- 44% of the cases against male children and 56% of the cases occurred against female children during the year 2011-2016.

- From 2011-2016, about 647 cases of early child marriage, 34.4% of the children dropout from school, due to drought leads migration of the family. Dropout rate is high in after completing high school education.

- A total of 3054 cases of different forms committed against children were reported from the year 2011-2016.

- Virudhunagar Block has received 539 cases over 2011-2016 followed by Sivakasi block (453) has accounted for 18 % and 14.8% respectively

- A total of 3054 cases committed against children received in Virudhunagar District. Out of which, 34.4% of the cases are dropout, 22% & 21% of the cases are child labour and child marriage.

- Sivakasi Block has received 186 cases of dropout, 102 cases of child labour and 92 cases of early child marriage.

- Virudhunagar Block has received 101 cases of dropout, 112 cases of child labour and 101 cases of early child marriage.

Stakeholders with whom interventions should be made

- **CHILDLINE,** which is supported by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development. RCPDS is he Nodal organisation for Virudunagar Disttrict. Through this role RCPDS could maintain good relationship and has a great network with various departments of TN Government and other stakeholders.

- **District Child Protection unit,** this system go hand in hand with CHILDLINE focus more onn rehabilitation of the vitim.

- The services and effectiveness of **Social Welfare Department** need to be strengthened since they are mandatory to providing special assistance, prevention of early child marriage and they join hands in dealing with the cases of Sexual Abuse, Physical abuse, and Child Labour rehabilitation process.

- **Revenue Department** plays a vital role in preventing early Child Marriages and links up basic certification and entitlements at the village level hence they have direct control over lielihood and rights ensuring.

- The **Anti-Human Trafficking and Police department** also provide their full support in the case of preventing Child marriages and Sexual Abuse.

- **Child Labour Department** helps in rescuingchildrenfrom work place in a timely manner.

- **Education Department:** CHILDLINE also jointly working with Educational Department in the case of enrolling Dropout children in schools, creating awareness among school children.

Strategic directions to address the issue of children at risk at the district level include ....

- Conversion of work conditions, support for the creation of alternative sources of income for those who are under poverty.

- Help in organizing them to strengthen financial background.

- Reintegration into the formal school system and keeping the drop out children to stay within the educational system.

- Informal options for education system so that children will stay connected and entrained.

- Advocacy - Networking

- Consciousness building / Prevention

- Crisis intervention / Protection / Counselling / Therapeutic follow ups

- Overcoming traumas / Therapy / Rehabilitation

- Legal counsel / Prosecution of perpetrators

- Campaigning against the reduction of the age for legal accountability for marriage life.