

Internationally Accepted Rights of The Child

The United Nations adopted 'Declaration of the Rights of the Child' on 20th November, 1959. The ten basic rights of children are listed below:

1. Right to name & nationality.
2. Right to have an atmosphere of affection, security & protection against neglect, cruelty and all types of exploitation.
3. Right to enjoy the benefits of social security including nutrition, medical care & housing.
4. Right for free education.
5. Right to have opportunities for play and recreation.
6. Right to receive special treatment, education & rehabilitation, if handicapped.
7. Right to be among the first to receive protection & relief in times of disasters.
8. Right to develop in a healthy atmosphere with freedom & dignity in order to become useful member of society.
9. Right to be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance & friendship to foster world peace & universal brotherhood.
10. Right to enjoy the aforementioned 'Rights' regardless of race, color, creed, sex, religion, ~~ethnic~~ ethnic or social background.

Child Act.

The Children Act, 1960 (amended in 1977) in India, provides for the care, maintenance, welfare, training, education & rehabilitation of the delinquent child.

It covers the neglect, destitute, socially handicapped, uncontrollable, victimised & delinquent child.

In Article 39(f), the Constitution of India provides that "the state shall in particular direct its policy towards securing the childhood & youth are protected against moral & material abandonment."

Juvenile Justice Act

The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 provides a comprehensive scheme for care, protection, treatment, development & rehabilitation of Juvenile delinquents. This act has come into force from 2nd October 1987, after rectification of the inadequacies of the Children Act (1960). This act was amended in 2000 & 2006.

This act defines a juvenile / child as a person who has not completed the age of 18 years. It has two chapters - one for juveniles in conflict with law & other for children in need of care and protection.

This act promotes proper care, protection

and treatment by catering to the developmental needs of children & by adopting a child friendly approach to the best interest of children & for their ultimate rehabilitation.

The needs of children & our duties towards them are enshrined in our constitution. The relevant articles are as follows:

- a) Article 24 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories.
- b) Article 35 prevents abuse of children of tender age.
- c) Article 45 provides the free & compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years.

Other important Act for child welfare are:

- The Child Labor (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986
- The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1970
- The Hindu Adoptions & Maintenance Act, 1956.
- Infant Milk Substitute, Feeding Bottles & Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply & Distribution) Act 1992.
- Pre-natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation & Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994.