

Bhubaneswar: The three day long convention on Ending Violence against children at Bhubaneswar organised by Odisha Alliance for Child Rights and National Action and Coordination Group to end violence against children in partnership with Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights , came to an end with children and adults sharing their observations , hopes , aspiration and concerns before a larger media .

Over the last three days children and adults had worked closely on issues that affect children the most like , child protection , child marriage , Child trafficking , child labour , migration, children children safety in educational institution .They also discussed on the safety and security of children in disaster situation .

Children by their natural physiological and social position are high on the vulnerability factor.Even during regular times their dependency on others and the instinct to be influenced by others heightens this vulnerability , children observed in their consultation . This confirms the fact that the vulnerability of children is much higher in a disaster situation, be it natural or man made .

While discussing on the issue of child marriage in the state which was affecting lives of children at large , it was learned that the matter of child marriage in Odisha was least discussed .Many communities practice child marriage soon after the girl child attains puberty .Further it has been a higher concern in district with high women illiteracy .

As a result of consultation both adults and children came up with their well documented recommendations which were shared before the invited guests . Children , in their recommendations had pointed out the challenges of reaching of the benefits of government schemes to the grassroots in addition to the lack of accessibility to children even when they reach the point of implementation .They had observed that there was a need by the system to see that the provisions were reaching the children . Promotion of 1098 , the phone number of ChildLine be made more extensive by creating awareness on the service at the anganwadi & school level , they felt . While child labours were rescued from different places , the system had no adequate space & provision to rehabilitate them properly .This was the reason why children return to become child labour .They suggested for opening centres for rehabilitation at district level with support to be there with the children till they were in the development process without compromising their childhood opportunities .Children came up with suggestion that there was a need of opening of child protection committee at the village level with children being must members in them .

Efforts of children and adults working together in realising a greater reality was appreciated by all including the guests on the dais .Addressing the valedictory session Sj. Subash Singh ,Chairman, Building and Construction workers welfare board emphasised on the spending of MP ,MLA Lad fund for building school infrastructure.

The valedictory function was presided by Ranjan Mumar Mohanty ,Chairman,Odisha Alliance for child Rights and addressed by Dr. Chiranjeev Kakoty,Cairmaan,NACG-EVAC, Sj.Prasanth Reddy,IAS,Director,Social welfare,Women and children Development Department,Mr.Chudamani Seth,IAS,Director, Elementary Education. Usharani Behera moved vote of thanks.