

Chapter-23

Legal Awareness

Educate, awake and know your rights

Child is the future of our country. He is the future of the country. It is said that what child of today, will be the future of the country tomorrow. Therefore it is necessary that there should be all round development of child from physical, mental and intellectual point of view. It is because of this, that the constitution of India has given many important rights to the children and has given protection to the benefits of the children.

To make you familiar with your rights and to get the legal help, many programmes are performed in the whole state and their monitoring is also done by the legal service authority Act 1987 the basic system of this Act is as follows -

At National level - National legal service authority New Delhi.

At State Level - State legal service authority.

At District Level - District legal service authority.

At Block Level - Block legal service authority.

Important rights of children

Right to live -

In our Constitution in Article 21 every individual including children are given the right to live. Not only this they are given the right to live respectfully and with prestige. The child cannot be deprived of this right. It is the duty of the state to provide the necessary requirements of life.

Free and compulsory education -

Each and every child from 6-14 yrs of age has the right of free and compulsory education. The state Govt has ensured to give free primary education according to the Act of 2009. It is the duty of parents also to get the admission of their children in school.

Right against exploitation -

Acc. to Article 23 to 24 it is said that there will be neither the exploitation of child nor he will

be put on 'Force labour'. He cannot be molested or harassed for immoral business. They cannot be made slave or forced for hard labour also.

Safety of life in factories -

Acc. to industrial the children less than 14yrs of age cannot be employed in factories, industries and other risky works. It clearly means that children should be put on hard work so that their physical, mental, moral and intellectual development takes place.

Right of livelihood -

Every child has the right to get minimum requirements of life from their parents. Acc. to Act of 1973 in Article 125 it is said that it is the duty of parents to provide the means of livelihood for their legal or illegal children who are under age or cannot earn their livelihood. It is also mentioned that if the child is mentally retarded or handicapped such child whether legal or illegal should be looked after by their parent in the same way. The unmarried girl also comes in this category where parents have to bear this responsibility.

Right against child marriage-

The law of 2006 puts the ban on the activity of child marriage. All those children (boy) less than 21 yrs and girls less than 18 years cannot be married. This law is made so that all round development of children be made.

Right of child (adolescence) justice many times it happens that child commits a crime but still he is not known as criminal. A special law is made for the children to look after and protect the children in Act of 2000. Acc. to this act instead of criminal the child is known as Juvenile child or Anti social child. Generally such children are not given the punishment instead they are sent to reformatories. They are neither put in chain nor in jail. These children are under the age of 18 they are the children of adolescent age.

Girl infanticide -

Girl infanticide is the social evil and to stop this the Act of 1994 is passed which prevents the sex determination of child before pregnancy and before delivery According to which sex determination or examination is prohibited. Acc. to this act this crime is non -bailable, undignified and punishment from 3 to 5 can be given and penalty can be levelled from 10,000/- Rs. to 50,000 Rs.. Both the parties are said to be guilty. Due to the fall in the birth rate of a girl many social evils are taking place. It is the duty of every citizen to stop this activity.

Right to safeguard from Ragging -

Now a days there is a great trend of ragging in schools and colleges. By ragging we mean that some old students give physical and mental torture to new students. Many times it is seen that the old students ask the new students to kneel down and they are misbehaved. The ban has been put on such activities by supreme court and the state govt. and provision of punishment is also made.

Protection of children from sex crime through Act of 2017 (POCSO)

To stop the increased sex crime state govt has made strong and effective laws. It is applied on all those children who are sexually harassed and are below 18yrs the different activities given below are included in sex crime and are liable of punishment.

Any person who doubts the happening of a crime can inform the police. There is a provision of punishment from 6 month to one year and penalty. Different Programmes of law service authority.

1. Free legal help
2. Compromise
3. Lok Adalat
4. Victim retribution scheme, 2011
5. Para legal volunteer scheme
6. Legal service clinic
7. Rural legal service and help centres
8. website - www.rlsa.gov.in

Email - rlsajp@gmail.com

Helpline - 0141-2385877

0141-2227481

0141-2227602