

PRESS RELEASE
DELHI COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

23 October, 2021

Sub: Launch of inaugural issue of the Children First Journal which aims to deepen the discourse on children's issue & their rights

New Delhi

Justice Ravindra Bhat (Judge Supreme Court), Mr. Manish Sisodia (Deputy Chief Minister, Delhi) and Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque (UNICEF India Chief) launch DCPCR Launches Children First: Journal on Children's Lives on 23rd October at India Islamic Cultural Centre.

This is the inaugural issue of the journal that DCPCR will be publishing half-yearly. The first theme of the issue is the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the lives of the children.

The first issue of DCPCR's Journal received submissions from more than 100 authors from all across the country of which 26 pieces including research, commentary, articles, voices from the field and book reviews have been published.

The authors come from reputed institutions such as IITs, IIMs, TISS, DU, Azim Premji University and NGOs such as Educate Girls, Save the Children, CRY Pratham and Teach For India. The published themes touch several dimensions of children's lives ranging from challenges of online education to social-emotional growth struggles during pandemic to learning losses on account of school closures, social audits and POCSO victims' plight. The published pieces range from stories from a govt school in Delhi and states such as Andhra Pradesh to struggles of rural tribals of Rajasthan and communities of Assam.

The Journal features illustrations from the children only. DCPCR received nearly 1100 submissions of which nearly 10 illustrations have been used in the Journal including that of the cover page.

Launching the Journal, Justice Ravindra S. Bhat (Judge, Supreme Court) appreciated DCPCR for bringing focus to children's issues and amplifying their voices. He especially spoke of the plight of the children who lost their parent(s) during Covid-19 pandemic and urged all institutions to rise to the occasion.

Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Manish Sisodia called the name “Children First” representative of the need for reorganising priorities. He said the name brings out the intent of keeping every Children First, rendering the name the most appropriate! He said that in a few decades when we look back at having changed the governance of children, this journal would have played a crucial role. He urged reconsideration and reflection of the conventions, systems and barriers that disable realisation of children’s true potential.

The launch event featured a panel discussion on the theme of “Reconstructing Lives of Children during COVID Era” involving Dr. Yasmin (UNCIEF Chief), Prof. Srikrishna Rao (NLU Vice Chancellor), Ms. Atishi (MLA, Delhi), Dr. Rashmi (IAS), and Dr Vandana Prasad (Editor, Journal/Public Health Expert) moderated by Anurag Kundu (Chairperson, DCPCR).

The event witnessed a rich audience ranging from many sitting judges, Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) to IAS/DANICS officers, academics, professors, NGOs and think tanks.

The event was anchored by Delhi Govt school teacher and a student Khushi.

Ms. Ranjana Prasad (Member, DCPCR) who managed the entire event and also leads education and health division at DCPCR expressed sincere hope that the journal would keep core issues of children at the centre. Next issue of the Journal is focused on education and health issues, she said.