



National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on Protecting the Rights of Children Living with Disability (Focus on CiCL and CNCP) and Intersectionality of Disabilities: 2024 – A Report

September 28-29, 2024





**Juvenile Justice Committee
Supreme Court of India**

Ninth Round of National Consultation

**National Annual Stakeholders Consultation
on Protecting the Rights of Children Living with Disability
(Focus on CiCL and CNCP)
and Intersectionality of Disabilities: 2024 – A Report**

September 28-29, 2024

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List of Acronyms

AI	Artificial Intelligence
ANMs	Auxiliary Nurse Midwives
ASHAs	Accredited Social Health Activists
AWCs	Anganwadi Centres
AWWs	Anganwadi Workers
BNS	Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita
BNSS	Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita
CCI	Child Care Institution
CiCL	Children in Conflict with the Law
CNCP	Children in Need of Care and Protection
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
CwDs	Children with Disabilities
DCPU	District Child Protection Units
DDRC	District Disability Rehabilitation Centre
JJB	Juvenile Justice Board
JJC	Juvenile Justice Committee
MWCD	Ministry of Women and Child Development
NALSA	National Legal Services Authority
NCERT	National Council of Educational Research and Training
NCPCR	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NIMHANS	National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences
NIPCCD	National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development
POCSO Act	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
PwDs	Persons with Disabilities
RBSK	Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram
RPwD Act	Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act
SAMVAD	Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress
SCPCR	State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UDID	Unique Disability Identification
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Summary



The Ninth National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on 'Protecting the Rights of Children Living with Disability (Focus on CiCL and CNCP) and Intersectionality of Disabilities', convened by the Hon'ble Supreme Court Juvenile Justice Committee in association with UNICEF India, served as a high-level platform for judiciary, government, and civil society stakeholders to advance the protection rights of Children Living with Disabilities.

The said National Consultation, held on September 28-29, 2024, was the culmination of a series of state-level consultations led by the Hon'ble High Courts, relevant government departments, UNICEF and organizations of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) between Aug-Sept, 2024. These consultations played a pivotal role in shaping the agenda, identifying key thematic areas for deliberation, and defining strategic advocacy/programmatic priorities within the respective states and nationally.

The Consultation reinforced a strategic and intersectional approach to addressing the rights and entitlements of Children in Conflict with the Law (CiCL) and Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP), identifying systemic and social barriers to their realization and charting actionable pathways for policy and programmatic reforms. Key deliberations focused on strengthening legal safeguards, enhancing institutional responses, promoting parental support and family-based care, and fostering multi-sectoral collaboration to drive sustainable, rights-based services and solutions. The Consultation aimed to enhance the protection of children with disabilities (CwDs) within the frameworks of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (JJ Act) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act). The **National Consultation on Protecting the Rights of Children Living with Disability (Focus on CiCL and CNCP) and Intersectionality of Disabilities**, held on September 28-29, 2024, brought together a diverse group of high-level stakeholders, including:

Judges from High Courts and members of Juvenile Justice Committees (JJs) and Judicial Committees

Senior officials from key ministries and state departments

Chief and State Commissioners for PwDs

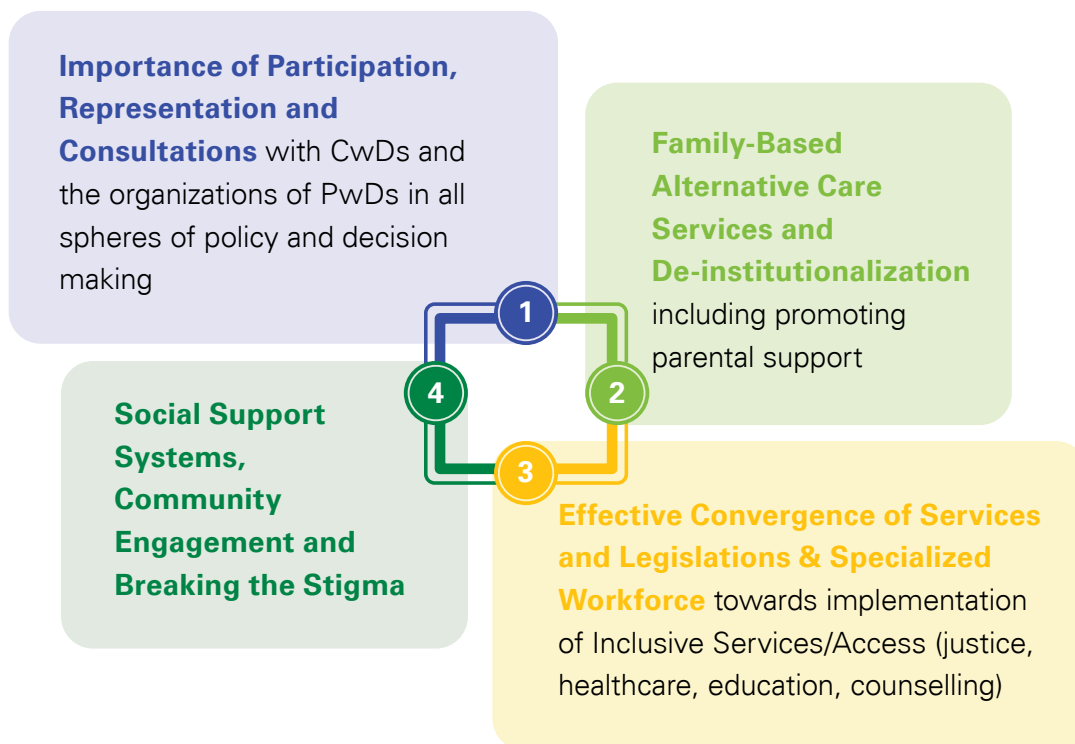
Representatives from the Supreme Court of India, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs)

Legal experts, law schools, and civil society organizations

With strategic focus on CNCP, CiCL, and child survivors of sexual violence, the Consultation sought to deepen understanding around the lived realities of persons with disabilities (PwDs)/CwDs along with corresponding systemic processes and social responsibility with greater inclusivity.

Key Areas of Priorities

Key areas of priorities can broadly be structured into four key thematic areas:



1. Importance of Participation, Representation, and Consultations

- ▶ Introduce participatory mechanisms to engage CwDs in shaping legal and policy reforms.
- ▶ Establish Accessibility Committees in all High Courts, including legal professionals with disabilities and a full-time nodal accessibility officer.
- ▶ Promote positive representation of CwDs in media to counter stigma and increase visibility of role models.
- ▶ Develop specialized training and research materials on CwDs through the National Resource Centre on Child Protection at National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD).

2. Family-Based Alternative Care Services and De-institutionalization

- ▶ Strengthen service linkages for families to ensure comprehensive support for CwDs.
- ▶ Develop national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for uniform screening and assessment of CNCP and CiCL.
- ▶ Mandate immediate health, mental health, and education assessments for all children upon entry into the child protection system.
- ▶ Conduct social investigations before making placement decisions for CwDs.
- ▶ Map District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) with Child Care Institutions (CCIs) to ensure integrated healthcare services.

3. Effective Convergence of Services, Legislations & Specialized Workforce

- ▶ Develop a statutory grid to harmonize the JJ Act, POCSO Act, and Mental Healthcare Act, ensuring complementarity and minimizing legal contradictions.
- ▶ Develop a single-window system to streamline legal protections, services, and entitlements for CwDs.
- ▶ Ensure disability certificates remain valid until Unique Disability Identification (UDID) is fully optimized.
- ▶ Develop a cross-sectoral coordination framework among ministries and departments to streamline child protection services and schemes.
- ▶ Institutionalize disability-sensitive training for police, judiciary, Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), healthcare professionals, and educators.
- ▶ Conduct accessibility audits of institutions and public spaces to ensure compliance with universal design standards.
- ▶ Equip service providers with skills to offer psychosocial care for CNCP and children affected by abuse and violence.
- ▶ Standardize child competency assessments to ensure appropriate legal testimonies, incorporating child psychology expertise.
- ▶ Mandate forensic interviewing protocols with mental health professional support for child witnesses under POCSO proceedings.

4. Social Support Systems, Community Engagement, and Breaking the Stigma

- ▶ Conduct legal awareness campaigns to inform families and communities about their rights and available government programmes.
- ▶ Leverage panchayat systems in rural areas to extend awareness initiatives to grassroots levels.
- ▶ Ensure National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) educational content and platforms (e.g., Diksha, Nishtha) are available in sign language.
- ▶ Mandate sign language interpretation in schools, courts, and public spaces.
- ▶ Implement legal mandates for disability-friendly infrastructure, including certified ramps and mobility access in schools and public institutions.
- ▶ Establish Victim Resource Centres to provide holistic legal and psychological support for CwDs who have experienced abuse.
- ▶ Conduct technology audits of e-filing systems and digital solutions to enhance accessibility.
- ▶ Establish regular interaction mechanisms between Chief and State Commissioners for PwDs to improve case resolution efficiency.

Resolutions passed as Way Forward

1. Necessary policy and legal steps be taken by every state government to ensure accessibility and inclusion of CwDs by removing all barriers that hinder realization of their rights.
2. A State Action Plan be developed and adopted for protection of CwDs, which would be reviewed and monitored jointly by the states and JJC's of the High Courts.
3. Informed by these state action plans and the National Consultation, a national roadmap be adopted for advancing the protection of CwDs with actionable and time-bound commitments.
4. All schemes for CwDs be prominently displayed on the websites of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and state legal services authorities.
5. Data on children in juvenile justice systems be streamlined on the basis of indicators that have been established, ensuring systematic data updates, monitoring, and corrective measures.
6. Efforts be made to ensure that CwDs grow in a nurturing family environment. All approaches and processes be followed to achieve this and more.
7. The handbook on disabilities and the statement titled 'Invisible No More' must be read by all concerned, disseminated, and followed in our day-to-day lives as we engage with CwDs in our respective positions and capacities.



A Handbook Concerning Persons with Disabilities was also released. The aim of the Handbook is to aid and sensitize the legal community as well as other stakeholders in using inclusive terminology when referring to disabilities. (The Handbook can be accessed by clicking [here](#))

A documentary film was played during the inaugural session, which dealt with inculcating an inclusive approach for CwDs, which is respectful of their place and their opinions, so that the rights of every child are advanced in the country. (The film can be accessed by clicking [here](#))

Invisible No More: A Statement for Inclusion, by Children with Disabilities was released. The document intends to pave a more inclusive path for collective action to address barriers faced by CwDs and inclusion in all aspects of society, across education, recreation, livelihood opportunities, community living and protection. (The statement can be accessed by clicking [here](#))



Detailed Annual Consultation Report 2024



About the Consultation



The Hon'ble Supreme Court Juvenile Justice Committee in association with UNICEF India, organized the ninth round of the two-day National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on September 28-29, 2024 with the theme '*Protecting the Rights of Children Living with Disability (Focus on Children in Conflict with Law and Children in Need of Care and Protection) and Intersectionality of Disabilities*'.

Context

India's Commitment to Advancing the Rights of Children with Disabilities

India has been at the forefront of global commitments to disability rights, being an early signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)—the first human rights treaty of the 21st century—which it ratified on October 1, 2007. The CRPD sets a transformative human rights framework, with Article 7 explicitly recognizing the rights of CwDs and mandating States to:

- Ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for CwDs on an equal basis with other children.
- Uphold the best interests of the child as a primary consideration in all actions concerning them.
- Guarantee their right to freely express views on matters affecting them, with appropriate support based on their age and disability status.

Building on this commitment, India enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, which expanded legal recognition to 21 disabilities and strengthened the State's role in protection and empowerment. This is complemented by key national legislations, including the National Trust Act (2018) and the Mental Healthcare Act (2017), collectively establishing a comprehensive safety net for CwDs.

Critical Protection Challenges for Children with Disabilities

Despite socio-legal advancements, CwDs globally continue to face systemic barriers, exacerbating risks of violence, neglect, exploitation, and institutionalization:

1. Heightened Exposure to Violence and Deprivation

- ▶ Negative societal attitudes and stigma significantly increase risks of physical, emotional, and sexual violence against CwDs.
- ▶ Discriminatory discipline practices, including violent punishment and neglect, remain pervasive due to a lack of accessible positive parenting strategies.
- ▶ Long-term consequences of violence include poorer health outcomes, reduced educational attainment, and lower economic opportunities, reinforcing intergenerational cycles of poverty.

2. Overrepresentation in Institutional Care (UNICEF, 2022)¹

- ▶ Global estimates indicate that one in three children in institutional care has a disability.
- ▶ Children with intellectual disabilities and mental health conditions are disproportionately placed in CCI, with estimates suggesting they constitute up to 25% of the total institutionalized population.
- ▶ Institutionalization has devastating impacts: mortality rates for CwDs in institutional care are 100 times higher than for other children.

3. Gendered Disparities and Increased Vulnerability²

- ▶ Girls with disabilities face heightened risks of early marriage and exploitation. A UNICEF 2022 study across four countries (Uganda, Haiti, Pakistan, Mali) found that girls with disabilities under 15 years were 1.7 times more likely to be married, while those aged 15–17 were 1.5 times more likely to enter child marriage.
- ▶ Gender, disability, and poverty intersect to create multi-layered disadvantages, limiting access to education, healthcare, and social protection systems.

India's most recent national household-level disability data stems from the 2011 Census, predating the RPwD Act. According to this data:

- 2.21% of India's population (26.8 million people) was recorded as PwDs.
- Of these, 7.62% (2.04 million) were CwDs.

The Need for a Multi-Sectoral Response

India has made significant legal and policy strides in advancing the rights of CwD. Translating these commitments into action has involved targeted investment, strengthened accountability, and inclusive governance frameworks which prioritize voices and lived experiences of CwDs in decision-making.

A coordinated, rights-based, and intersectional approach would add to efforts to strengthen the protection of CwDs:

1. Importance of Participation, Representation and Consultations with CwDs and the organizations of PwDs in all spheres of policy and decision making.
2. Family Based Alternative Care Services and De-institutionalization including promoting parental support.
3. Effective Convergence of Services and Legislations & Specialized Workforce towards implementation of Inclusive Services/Access (justice, healthcare, education, counselling).
4. Social Support Systems, Community Engagement and Breaking the Stigma.

Updated, disaggregated data on CwDs—especially post-2016 which factors in the 21 disability categories factored by the RPwD Act will further support to bridge this gap and ensure evidence-driven policy action.

¹ UNICEF *Children with Disabilities Factsheet, 2022*

² UNICEF *MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey), 2022*

Deliberations and Consultations to Inform the Implementation Strategy

Deliberations and consultations were held at the national and state level through 2024, leading to the Ninth National Annual Stakeholders Consultation hosted and organized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. This marked the ninth edition of the Consultation which is convened annually by the Supreme Court as part of its commitment to promote children's rights by engaging key stakeholders to deliberate on advancing these rights. The event marked the culmination of a robust consultation process aimed at shaping an inclusive and barrier-free world for CwDs, engaging a diverse array of stakeholders.

In March 2024, an online consultation was held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in association with UNICEF where inputs were sought from High Court POCSO and Juvenile Justice Committees in designing the theme and sub themes under protection rights for CwDs. A technical working group comprising PwDs and organizations of/for PwDs to ensure meaningful engagement and focus; as well as technical resource persons for the state-led discussions was fostered.

The themes were broadly identified as included below, with the option to adapt it to state contexts during the State-Level Consultations:

1. Availability of services to inform judicial processes for CiCL, and child victims including survivors of sexual violence.
2. Availability of professional functionaries/specialized and skilled workforce.
3. Availability of services for the well-being of CwDs who are in CCI (across the categories of Children's Homes, Observation Homes, Special Homes and Place of Safety).
4. Availability of pertinent data on CwDs disaggregated for boys, girls and transgender children.

Leading up to the National Consultation, State-Level Consultations on the protection of the rights of CwDs within the justice system were facilitated by the JJs of 25 High Courts in association with UNICEF and including active participation from PwDs/CwDs, judges, lawyers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders like the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR), Department of Persons with Disabilities, Department of Women and Child Development, Department of Health, Medical and Family Welfare, and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, among others ("**State-Level Consultations**").

The State-Level Consultations critically examined the challenges children encounter, particularly CwDs, in accessing justice, education, healthcare, and social services, and focused on formulating future recommendations. The outcomes, captured in comprehensive state-wise reports ("**State Reports**"), formed the basis for informed deliberations at the National Consultation.

The Consultations sought to delve deeper into measures undertaken and/or established at the state level for CwDs across legal categories defined by the JJ Act – CNCP and CiCL. It aimed

to review existing schemes, services, mechanisms established and set targets (through the development of an action plan) based on the state and national commitments to CwDs within the Juvenile Justice system. These state-level deliberations and consultations informed the priority areas identified for deliberations at the National Consultation.

Ninth National Annual Stakeholders Consultation

The National Consultation on Strengthening the Protection Rights of Children with Disabilities was convened to advance the effective implementation of the JJ ACT and the POCSO Act with a focus on CNCP and CiCL, and victims of sexual violence. This high-level dialogue aimed to identify systemic gaps, enhance legal and institutional responses, and ensure the convergence of child protection and disability rights frameworks.

The Consultation brought together a diverse and influential group of stakeholders, including:

- Chief Justice of India and senior members of the judiciary, including Supreme Court and High Court judges.
- Minister for Women and Child Development and senior representatives from central and state ministries.
- Members of JJC's and Judicial Committees of High Courts.
- Chief Commissioner and State Commissioners for PwDs, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Department
- Members from the NCPCR and SCPCR's.
- Members from the academia, disability rights experts, civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, and UNICEF representatives.

This multi-sectoral representation facilitated a cross-disciplinary approach to address critical challenges, share best practices, and propose concrete policy recommendations.

The Consultation was structured around four technical sessions, designed to address key legal, policy, and service delivery dimensions:

1. Global Instruments, National Legislations, and Government Schemes – Examining international frameworks, national laws, and policy commitments toward the rights of CwDs.
2. Family-Based Alternative Care Services and Social Support – Strengthening family-based care, de-institutionalization, and community-driven support mechanisms.
3. Mental and Physical Health, Education, and Effective Convergence – Enhancing access to inclusive healthcare, education, and cross-sectoral service delivery.
4. Ensuring Convergence between Relevant Legislations – Addressing overlaps and gaps between the JJ Act, POCSO Act, and disability rights laws to ensure harmonized implementation.

Each session provided a platform for dialogue and presentation on practical implementation challenges, policy gaps, and solutions to ensure that legal and institutional frameworks are responsive, inclusive, and effective in safeguarding the rights of CwDs.




The deliberations reinforced the urgency of strengthening convergence across legal, institutional, and service delivery systems. The Consultation underscored the critical need for a cohesive, rights-based, and child-centered approach, ensuring that CwDs are not only protected but also empowered to access justice, social services, and community support systems without discrimination.

Thematic Areas Covered

The consultation explored:

- 1 Global instruments and national framework for protection of the rights of CwDs
- 2 The central and states schemes, services and provisions for CwDs
- 3 Family-based alternative care services and social support for CwDs
- 4 Mainstreaming diagnostic services, strengthening services and ensuring inclusive education; and ensuring convergence between relevant legislations (*please refer to Annexure 1 for the agenda of the National Consultation*).

Through the two-day Consultation, three key cross-cutting themes emerged as an urgent requirement to improve the delivery of services and protect the rights of CwDs. These were:

 <p>Improvement in data collection system for real-time aggregated data to fully appreciate the barriers encountered by CwDs.</p>	 <p>Capacity building of all stakeholders to understand the unique challenges faced by CwDs.</p>	 <p>Facilitating access to ensure efficient delivery of schemes and services for the benefit of CwDs and their families.</p>
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This report captures the main recommendations that emerged from all the presentations and discussions during the four technical sessions and the key highlights of the proceedings of the National Consultation.

Recommendations and Resolutions



The enriching deliberations at the National Consultation led to a host of proposals for creating an enabling environment, which would facilitate the implementation of the legal processes and programmatic support for inclusion of CwDs in the mainstream. These recommendations were given a further impetus by the closing remarks by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B. V. Nagarathna, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee and Judge, Supreme Court of India, who concluded the proceedings of the consultation by making key resolutions to reaffirm the commitment for the protection of children, especially CwDs. These resolutions and the recommendations have been captured below.

Recommendations

1. Importance of Participation, Representation, and Consultations with CwDs and Organizations of PwDs

- Child Participation in Legal and Policy Reforms
 - ▶ Design participatory processes to engage CwDs in shaping solutions and policies.
 - ▶ Ensure the correct and standardized use of language (e.g., “persons with disabilities” vs. “differently-abled”) for effective communication.
- Inclusion of PwDs in Justice & Governance
 - ▶ Set up Accessibility Committees in all High Courts, including:
 - ◆ Lawyers with disabilities to flag accessibility issues.
 - ◆ A full-time nodal accessibility officer to institutionalize accessibility efforts.
 - ▶ Develop resource hubs to consolidate institutions working on disability rights and accessibility solutions.
- Capacity Building and Sensitization
 - ▶ Sensitize and train key stakeholders (police, judiciary, CWCs, JJBs, hospitals, teachers, social workers) on disability-inclusive approaches.
 - ▶ Ensure participation of relevant stakeholders in the JJ Act training module on Mission Karmayogi.
 - ▶ Use the NIPCCD as a hub for:
 - ◆ Research and documentation on CwDs.
 - ◆ Developing specialized training modules.
 - ◆ Facilitating resource-sharing for states.

- Positive Representation and Awareness
 - ▶ Enhance positive media representation of children with disabilities to counter stigma.
 - ▶ Make investments in public awareness campaigns to reshape societal attitudes toward disability.
 - ▶ Promote role models and mentors with disabilities to inspire children.
- Accessibility Audits and Inclusive Infrastructure
 - ▶ Conduct accessibility audits of juvenile justice homes and child protection institutions by professionals and PwDs.
 - ▶ Ensure accessibility audits are budgeted as a dedicated line item in government annual budgets.
 - ▶ Implement remedial measures after accessibility issues are flagged.

2. Family-Based Alternative Care Services and De-Institutionalization

- Legal Freedoms and Adoption
 - ▶ Ensure that CwDs are made legally free for adoption/foster care at the earliest.
- Strengthening Alternative Care Models
 - ▶ Develop a comprehensive checklist for CWCs to support CwDs and their families with access to schemes and programmes.
 - ▶ Conduct social investigations before making placement decisions for CwDs.
 - ▶ Expand focus beyond medical check-ups to include nutrition, health, hygiene, and education in care homes.
- Strengthening Family Support Systems
 - ▶ Support families of CwDs through service-level linkages to maximize their development.
 - ▶ Develop a single-window system consolidating legal protections, services, and entitlements for CwDs.

3. Effective Convergence of Services and Legislations for Inclusive Access (Justice, Healthcare, Education, Counselling)

- Legal and Institutional Frameworks
 - ▶ Develop a statutory grid to ensure the JJ Act Mental Healthcare Act, and POCSO Act work cohesively.
 - ▶ Create a case management system for POCSO and the RPwD Act, modelled after the Commercial Courts Act.
 - ▶ Formulate an umbrella legislation or agency to streamline support for victims of child sexual abuse.
 - ▶ Increase utilization of Children's Courts and expand their role in handling child-related cases.
 - ▶ Implement a system for recording victim impact statements to centre judicial decisions around victims' perspectives.

- ▶ Ensure implementation of Section 84 of the RPwD Act by designating Special Courts in every district.
- Access to Justice for Children with Disabilities
 - ▶ Design systems and methods to improve access to justice, including:
 - ◆ Technological solutions (text logging, screen readers, accessibility for persons with hearing impairment/persons with vision impairment)
 - ◆ Accessibility audits of digital systems (e.g., Supreme Court's e-filing system).
 - ◆ Partnerships with organizations like Substream to develop disability-friendly tech solutions.
 - ◆ Cataloging interpreters for effective testimony and legal assistance.
- Child Protection and Healthcare Services
 - ▶ Ensure immediate screening of CiCL and CNCP upon entry into the system, covering mental and physical health, education, and rehabilitation needs.
 - ▶ Develop SOPs for screening children at the national level.
 - ▶ Maintain state- and district-level lists of certified experts for child assessments, with regular training.
 - ▶ Strengthen access to healthcare services such as Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) for early identification and intervention.
- Education and Disability-Inclusive Infrastructure
 - ▶ Ensure NCERT educational content and platforms (Diksha, Nishtha) are available in sign language.
 - ▶ Incorporate sign language as both a medium and a subject in schools.
 - ▶ Equip schools and public spaces with sign language interpreters and reading units to facilitate learning.
 - ▶ Develop stringent certification mechanisms for ensuring disability-friendly school infrastructure.
- Transportation and Public Services
 - ▶ Make public transport and infrastructure accessible to CwDs to ensure ease of movement.

4. Social Support Systems, Community Engagement, and Breaking the Stigma

- Public Awareness and Grassroots Engagement
 - ▶ Develop awareness campaigns to educate families on their legal rights and available government programmes.
 - ▶ Establish Victim Resource Centres to provide legal and psychological support for CwDs who have experienced abuse.

- ▶ Leverage panchayat systems in rural areas to enhance grassroots awareness and improve accessibility of services.
- ▶ Promote state-level best practices for national replication.
- Social Change and Community Support
 - ▶ Bring fundamental changes in the perception of care spaces to value disabled lives.
 - ▶ Shift from a charity-based model to a rights-based model, ensuring that CwDs are not treated as passive recipients of support but as active rights-holders.
- Convergent Governance for Child Protection
 - ▶ Strengthen multi-sectoral coordination among ministries and departments to enhance accessibility of services.
 - ▶ Map DDRCs and CCIs to ensure integrated healthcare for CwDs.
 - ▶ Establish regular interaction mechanisms between the Chief and State Commissioners for PwDs to streamline grievance redressal.

Resolutions

1. Necessary policy and legal steps be taken by every state government to ensure accessibility and inclusion of CwDs by removing all barriers that hinder realization of their rights.
2. A State Action Plan be developed and adopted for protection of CwDs, which would be reviewed and monitored jointly by the states and JJCs the High Courts.
3. Informed by these state action plans and the National Consultation, a national roadmap be adopted for advancing the protection of CwDs with actionable and time-bound commitments.
4. All schemes for CwDs be prominently displayed on the websites of NALSA and state legal services authorities.
5. Data on children in juvenile justice systems be streamlined on the basis of indicators that have been established, ensuring systematic data updates, monitoring, and corrective measures.
6. Efforts be made to ensure that CwDs grow in a nurturing family environment. All approaches and processes be followed to achieve this and more.
7. The Handbook on Disabilities and the statement titled 'Invisible No More' must be read by all concerned, disseminated, and followed in our day-to-day lives as we engage with CwDs in our respective positions and capacities.



Summary of Deliberations

Inaugural Session

The National Consultation on Protecting the Rights of Children Living with Disability (Focus on CiCL and CNCP) and Intersectionality of Disabilities was inaugurated by a distinguished panel, including Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Hon'ble Chief Justice of India; Smt. Annpurna Devi, Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Government of India; Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B. V. Nagarathna, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee and Judge, Supreme Court of India; and Ms. Cynthia McCaffrey, Country Representative, UNICEF India. Their collective insights set the stage for a robust discussion on advancing inclusive legal, policy, and institutional mechanisms for CwDs.



Delivering the Opening Address, **Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B. V. Nagarathna** underscored the critical need for robust data, evidence-based policymaking, and a research-driven approach to child protection. She emphasized that CwDs are not only more vulnerable to neglect and abuse but also face compounded barriers in accessing essential services, education, and justice.

Highlighting the intersection of vulnerability and systemic barriers, she stressed that policies must transition from being merely accommodative to actively inclusive, ensuring equal access to:

- Social services and child protection mechanisms
- Assistive technology and communication formats
- Institutional support for parents and caregivers

Drawing inspiration from renowned physicist Stephen Hawking, she noted that disability should not define a child's potential—rather, it is the ecosystem of support, opportunity, and access that determines their ability to thrive. She expressed hope that this Consultation would lead to concrete action plans that dismantle systemic barriers and promote inclusive growth and empowerment.



In her Introductory Remarks, **Ms. Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF India's Country Representative**, reinforced the fundamental principle that “Children with disabilities are children first.” She urged all stakeholders to move beyond a welfare-based approach to a rights-based approach, where CwDs are empowered to live, learn, and participate fully in society.

She outlined four key reasons why protecting CwDs must be prioritized:

1. It is a moral and legal imperative—every child has an inherent right to protection, development, and dignity.
2. It makes socioeconomic sense—investment in inclusive education yields three times higher returns for CwDs.
3. There is a critical human capital deficit—neglecting disability inclusion results in wasted potential and deepened inequalities.
4. The impact of disability is immediate and lifelong—early interventions are essential to mitigating long-term disadvantages.

Ms. McCaffrey commended the Government of India, particularly the Ministries of Women and Child Development and Social Justice and Empowerment, for their commitment to strengthening child protection systems. She called for multi-sectoral collaboration to ensure that CwDs are not left behind.



In her Special Address, **Hon'ble Smt. Annpurna Devi, Minister for Women and Child Development**, reaffirmed the Government of India's commitment to ensuring the rights and well-being of CwDs. She highlighted the significant increase in child protection funding, with allocations rising from INR 60 crores in 2009-10 to approximately INR 1,500 crores in 2024-25.

She outlined key government initiatives, including:

- Strengthening the implementation of the JJ Act, 2015, with a renewed focus on state-, district-, and sub-district-level child protection mechanisms.
- Mission Vatsalya, which prioritizes family-based care over institutionalization for CiCL and CNCP.
- The 2023 Anganwadi Protocol, which enhances early identification and intervention for CwDs.

Smt. Annpurna Devi urged state governments to establish dedicated child protection structures and monitor the functioning of CCIIs and Mission Vatsalya. Drawing inspiration from India's Paralympians, she reaffirmed the government's resolve to leave no child behind in its vision for inclusive development.



Delivering the Inaugural Address, **Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Hon'ble Chief Justice of India**, offered a deeply personal perspective, sharing his experiences as a father of two fostered daughters with a genetic condition. He underscored the multifaceted challenges faced by CwDs, spanning medical diagnostics and treatment; education and learning opportunities and employment and societal inclusion.

He also shared how two interns with disabilities at the Supreme Court played an instrumental role in advancing accessibility reforms in the judiciary, highlighting the need for representation and participation.

Justice Chandrachud emphasized that barriers extend beyond physical accessibility—they are deeply embedded in societal biases, stereotypes, and systemic neglect. For CwDs, and especially CiCL, these barriers are compounded by legal and institutional complexities that often fail to recognize their unique vulnerabilities.

Justice Chandrachud laid out four key priorities to drive systemic change:

1. Strengthening Data Systems
 - ▶ Developing real-time, disaggregated data on CwDs to identify gaps and track progress in service delivery.
2. Ensuring Access to Justice
 - ▶ Establishing procedural accommodations such as interpreters, modified questioning formats, and intermediaries to support children in legal proceedings.
3. Building Institutional Capacity
 - ▶ Training judicial officers, law enforcement, child protection personnel, and social service providers to understand and respond to the unique needs of CwDs.
4. Addressing Intersectional Discrimination
 - ▶ Recognizing the compounded vulnerabilities faced by CwDs due to gender, caste, socioeconomic status, and ethnicity, and integrating an intersectional lens into policy and programme design.



Technical Session 1

Global Instruments, National Legislations, Central and State Schemes and Services



The session focused on the global instruments (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Human Rights Framework, Global Data, and national legislations (RPwD Act (2016), the National Trust Act (1999), the Mental Healthcare Act (2017), and the JJ Act (2015) and the POCSO Act (2012)), schemes and services of Central and State Governments on child protection and children with disabilities.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon

Judge, Calcutta High Court



In the opening session, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, Judge, Calcutta High Court, highlighted the significant contribution of UNCRC and UNCRPD in transforming the lives of children, including those with disabilities, around the world. Stating the importance of acknowledging diversity within disabilities, while emphasizing the equal treatment of all categories, he pointed that a critical first step in achieving this is early identification, detection, and intervention for PwDs.

He also elaborated India's wide-ranging national legislations aimed at protecting the rights of CwDs, and stressed that the RPwD Act 2016 signals a paradigm shift, by adopting a human rights approach with an emphasis on accessibility and inclusiveness. With respect to national schemes for CwDs, he stated that though several schemes are being implemented to support inclusive education, health, and rehabilitation for them, challenges remain in ensuring that services reach every child with disability, equally and without discrimination.

Mr. Gopal Mitra

UNICEF – Global Head on Disability and Development in Programme Group, New York Headquarters



Mr. Gopal Mitra, UNICEF – Global Head on Disability and Development in Programme Group, New York Headquarters, stressed that upholding the rights of CwDs requires dedicated and collective action. He brought attention to the enormous progress made over the years, yet, he stated, as per global data, CwDs are 34% more likely to be stunted, 22% less likely to have foundational literacy skills, and 51% more likely to feel unhappy and less likely to be registered at birth. He stated that in 2017, an estimated 2.7 million CwDs were in institutions, adding that research confirms the harmful effect of institutions to the cognitive, social, and emotional development of children, including those with disabilities.

He elaborated on the robust framework provided by the UNCRC and UNCRPD to uphold the rights of CwDs, with UNCRPD being the first international treaty to have an explicit article on CwDs and UNCRC clearly stating that CwDs should not be placed in juvenile detention centres and recommending alternative mechanisms for CiCL.

Talking about India, he added that having taken concrete steps to harmonize these conventions into its domestic policy framework, transcending these commitments into real changes in the lives of CwDs requires continued and relentless action. Drawing lessons from his work and experience at UNICEF, he stated that institutions are not the answer for CwDs and justice for CwDs needs to be reimagined, focusing on diversion, child-friendly courts, and free legal representation.

Mr. Praveen Kumar G

Lead Advisor, Social Inclusion, VSO International



In his presentation, Mr. Praveen Kumar G, Lead Advisor, Social Inclusion, VSO International focused on stigma and the social construct that we live in, and their impact on CwDs. Despite schemes and programmes, the reality is a cause for worry with CwDs being stigmatized, abandoned, abused and neglected and disabled girls in particular being 4-5 times more vulnerable to sexual harassment than their non-disabled peers.

He brought attention to issues of access to justice, stating that despite the use of technology to enable access for persons with vision impairment, persons with hearing impairment still face access-related challenges. Extending this thought, he suggested that several organizations provide innovative solutions, which would help remedy such access-related issues and services of such organizations should be sought.

Further, he spoke about standardization of terminology in courts when dealing with PwDs, and ensuring non-discrimination and protection from violence, threats and inhuman treatment with respect to them.

With respect to providing solutions, he stressed that while designing solutions for CwDs, their participation should be ensured. In addition, he called for capacity building of all stakeholders. He also suggested convergence among various acts and programmes. Lastly, he called for building and accessing resource hubs to create solutions for PwDs.



Mr. Praveen Prakash Ambastha

Deputy Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Praveen Prakash Ambastha, Deputy Chief Commissioner for PwDs gave an overview of the provisions related to CwDs in the RPwD Act, 2016, The National Education Policy and The Mental Healthcare Act. Mr. Ambastha referred to the Preamble of RPwD Act, which emphasizes women and CwDs, and aims to ensure that they enjoy all rights along with others without any discrimination and are able to freely express themselves. National Education Policy mandates the government to standardize using sign language and develop national and state curriculum materials besides teaching in the local sign language. The Mental Healthcare Act, Section 18, ensures the right to access mental healthcare.

He stated that inadequate access to schemes and services, particularly digital accessibility; attitudinal barriers and discrimination against PwDs; coupled with the need for strengthening focus on improving the sensitivity of non-disabled persons; and regular contact among hospitals, social workers, and government staff on issues related to CwDs are the main challenges in implementing of the acts and the schemes for the benefit of PwDs and CwDs.

He also expressed the need to develop a mechanism for the Chief Commissioner to interact and coordinate with the State Commissioners to ensure smooth workflow of grievances across state-central matters.

Lastly, he recommended: creating accessible physical infrastructure for education; capacity building of teachers and having trained teachers with certification; delivery of platforms such as Diksha and Nishtha in sign language to improve accessibility; delivery of NCERT content in sign language; and acceptance of sign language not only as a medium but also as a subject.



Ms. Preeti Pant

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development

In her presentation, Ms. Preeti Pant, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), focused on centrally sponsored Mission Vatsalya scheme implemented by MWCD, which aims to provide parental, statutory care and rehabilitation services to children in difficult circumstances, which include CNCP as well as CiCL.

She explained the funding pattern for the schemes in states and Union Territories, along with the institutional and non-institutional care mechanisms and the number of institutions supported by the Centre. Ms. Pant focused on the inclusivity aspect of the scheme encompassing all CNCP and in special circumstances, further adding that the scheme provides support for institutions mandated under the JJ Act, namely: State Child Protection Society; State Adoption Resource Agency; CWC; JJB; District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) and Special Juvenile Police Units in districts.

She also spoke about the focus on technology in the implementation of the scheme to enable real-time monitoring of activities undertaken by the states and the endeavour to develop a comprehensive platform where all orders of the JJB and CWC are uploaded and available in real-time. She elaborated on the provisions for CwDs under Mission Vatsalya and detailed out the facilities provided as part of the special unit for CwDs.

Her presentation ended with the roadmap for the future, which focused on mapping rehabilitation centres, easing the adoption process for CwDs and creating easier access to the training module on JJ Act.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anand Pathak

Judge, High Court of Madhya Pradesh

In his concluding remarks, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anand Pathak, Judge, High Court of Madhya Pradesh** called for a statutory grid to reconcile all the statutes into a cohesive framework. He also called for technological initiatives, elaborating on the initiatives and innovative concepts being taken up in the Madhya Pradesh High Court. He concluded by urging everyone to remember their roles as healers and leaders in society.



Technical Session 2

Family-Based Alternative Care Services and Social Support for Children with Disabilities



The second technical session of the National Consultation focused on experience sharing on representation and social support, and its impact on CwDs. It highlighted the important issue of strengthening skill sets of child protection workforce with regards to CwDs and the initiatives being taken in this regard. The findings of a formative study on parental perceptions of CwDs were also shared during the session.

Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Revati Mohite Dere

Judge, Bombay High Court



In her opening remarks, Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Revati Mohite Dere, Judge, Bombay High Court, emphasized the profound impact of parental acceptance and highlighted the challenges faced by parents, including financial strain and societal stigma, and stressed the importance of early identification of disabilities. She stated that acceptance is essential to foster a child's development, social skills and adaptability and stressed on the crucial role played by government support and services in easing the burden of parents and a supportive and inclusive environment for CwDs. In addition, she underscored the importance of positive representation of CwDs in media, education and public life.

Ms. Alka Malhotra

Social Behaviour Change Specialist, UNICEF India



Ms. Alka Malhotra, Social Behaviour Change Specialist, UNICEF India, presented top-line findings from a formative study undertaken by UNICEF, with YoungLives – a research organization, and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, to understand individual perceptions of parents/stakeholders and their journeys as they deal with CwDs (Box on page 24-25 provides the key highlights of the study). The study showed that only 5% of families knew about their entitlements under the RPwD Act, 2016. Mothers showed the most positive attitudes, as per the study. The study reinforces the need for empathy in service providers, and information dissemination on the provisions of RPwD Act and the schemes and programmes for CwDs among the service providers and families.

Mr. Rahul Bajaj

Advocate



In his presentation, Mr. Rahul Bajaj, Advocate, set out the legal position with respect to representation and social support of CwDs, and general problems and proposed solutions for legal interventions that can be undertaken to address challenges faced by CwDs. He pointed to some crucial solutions to overcome the challenges including accessibility audits with respect to juvenile justice homes and NCPCR and SCPCR and home-based education. He also suggested strengthening Disability Commissions and ensuring accessible school infrastructure and highlighted access to cultural and recreational spaces for PwDs as an important component of RPwD.

Ms. Sara Sunny

Advocate



Ms. Sara Sunny, Advocate, shared her journey as an advocate with hearing impairment, underscoring that representation “shapes how children with hearing impairment see themselves and their potential.” She highlighted challenges like discrimination and lack of accessibility, advocating for community support and inclusive education.

Dr. Sanghamitra Barik

Joint Director, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development



In her presentation, Dr. Sanghamitra Barik, Joint Director, NIPCCD, elaborated on the various training programmes being organized by NIPCCD for three Missions: Mission Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti, along with various laws and legislation concerning children and women in India, especially on JJ Act and the POCSO Act. She also focused on the inclusion of disability in these trainings. She elaborated on the Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi initiative of MWCD, under which 17,820 functionaries and 12,132 Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) have been trained on screening, identification and recording information on CwDs and taking care of these children in the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). She informed the participants on the future plans of NIPCCD to set up a National Resource Centre on Child Protection, which would be accessible to states and will promote technical support, resources and information on child rights and protection.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biren A. Vaishnav

Judge, High Court of Gujarat



In his concluding remarks, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biren A. Vaishnav, Judge, High Court of Gujarat, called upon all the participants at the Consultation and asked everyone to look at themselves as a stakeholder and build an awareness campaign for families that are in need of relevant information and support. He highlighted the importance of awareness campaigns to change societal attitudes and support families.

Formative study on parental perceptions of CwDs

Study taken up in three states (Rural Ahmedabad in Gujarat, Rural Patna in Bihar and South 24 Parganas in West Bengal).

Objective: Understanding parental perceptions and their lived experiences – knowledge, attitude, and perception and challenges in accessing services vis-à-vis their child's disability.

Stakeholders: Undertaken with 150 parents of CwDs, 150 parents of children without any disabilities, and around 150 mid-level service providers at the village level (public health service providers, child development project officers, district child protection officers, and managers at district early intervention centres) and service providers at the

village level (Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), AWWs, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and teachers). and teachers).

Key findings of the study

Parents/families of CwDs

- Only 5% of the family members and only 21% of the stakeholders responsible for communicating the Act to the community knew about the RPwD Act, 2016.
- Families more knowledgeable about health, education, pension/ cash transfer schemes and therapy services but with limited knowledge of legislations, government and education services and cash transfer.

Service-related stakeholders significantly better informed

- Almost 75-80% knew about education and government services that assist CwDs.
- Almost 74% knew about speech, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and 52% knew about legislation.

Attitude towards CwDs

- The attitude of members of families and their engagement with CwDs is positive.
- Being the primary caregiver, the mother has the most positive attitude.
- At the community level, female caregivers and already marginalized people have a more positive attitude towards CwDs..

Implicit biases (undertaken only with stakeholders and not family or community members)

- Frontline service providers such as ASHAs and AWWs have the most progressive attitudes and no inherent preference for able-bodied.
- Some other professionals, such as the ward members, Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, and senior public health professionals more positively inclined toward able-bodied persons.
- Teachers have an inherent bias towards able-bodied children.

Parental journey

Pre-diagnosis

- Initial denial in families
- Family compels parents to take action
- First point of contact, often, is the AWW

Future planning

- Parents have found ways to support the child but don't give much thought to future planning.

Recommendations

- Need to build empathy in higher-level service providers and among teachers to remove the unconscious bias against Cwds..
- Ensure dissemination of information regarding the provisions of the RPwD, 2016, to stakeholders as well as parents to enable them to plan for the future of CwDs.
- Strengthen and support the family with service-level linkages.

Technical Session 3

Mental & Physical Health and Education:
Effective Convergence and Implementation



Technical Session 3

Mental & Physical Health and Education: Effective Convergence and Implementation



Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Lisa Gill

Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court



The third technical session focused on the sub-category of CiCL and CNCP within the category of CwDs. In her opening remarks, Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Lisa Gill, Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court, spoke about envisioning a future without distinction between children and emphasized the need for early detection, standardized national procedures, and consistent support across states to ensure that CwDs receive the assistance they need.

She added that while key schemes and services including Mission Vatsalya and Mission Poshan are in place but what is needed is a shift in societal attitude, execution of the legislation and a fine-tuning of the whole system.

Dr. Shekhar Seshadri

Advisor, SAMVAD at NIMHANS



Dr. Shekhar Seshadri, Advisor, Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress (SAMVAD) at National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), elaborated SAMVAD's approach to disability. SAMVAD is a national initiative and an integrated resource for child protection, mental health and psychosocial care, established by MWCD, Government of India. He explained the Ten Question Screening

Tool, developed to be used at the panchayat level in the aspirational districts of the country to compile panchayat-wise data on different kinds of disabilities, and also the detailed assessment methodology used by SAMVAD to decide whether a child has intellectual disability, learning disability, autism or mental illness etc., whether the child needs the attention of either the CWC or the JJB, along with comprehensive recommendations.

He went on to speak about children with intellectual disability and autism with challenging behaviours, how caretakers sometimes unknowingly use corporal punishment, and the risks of abuse and neglect because of higher susceptibility to physical, emotional, and sexual abuse that necessitate enhanced care and protection. Moving to a rights-based approach to working with CwDs he mentioned that different sections of the JJ Act, the RPwD Act, the Mental Healthcare Act and POCSO Act bring focus on intersectionality among the various stakeholders that support CwDs and to capacitate the child protection system to understand mental health to understand principles of child protection.

He added that for CwDs, developmental needs, rehabilitation, and care and protection concerns should be considered in the context of their disability, along with other vulnerabilities. With respect to who can testify in court, he stressed that, based on earlier judgments, adopting a standardized methodology will assist the judiciary ask relevant questions. He ended his presentation by discussing the capacity building initiatives of SAMVAD in four key areas – child protection, education, policy and law. Over the last four years SAMVAD has built capacities of 160,000 service providers in these areas.

Ms. Merry Barua

Founder Director, Action for Autism, National Centre for Autism



Ms. Merry Barua, Founder Director, Action for Autism, National Centre for Autism, focused on the fact that despite greater awareness and changes in the lives of disabled people, they are still viewed as valueless lives requiring charity and pity. She stated that though we have good laws, challenges are faced during implementation of these laws. She further delved into the stigma associated with disability and how anybody with a psychosocial or intellectual disability is shunned in society. Children with developmental disabilities, according to her, are the most vulnerable within the category of disabled children. Thus, when these children are in conflict with law, they face more barriers in accessing services.

She added that the condition of care homes for CwDs needs tremendous improvement. She further elaborated the challenges faced by children with autism, underscoring the necessity of awareness, early intervention, and inclusive education and called for specialized training for educators, legal professionals, and caregivers to create supportive environments for autistic children.

Mr. Dipendra Manocha

*Director, Developing Countries Programme, DAISY Consortium
and Founder, Saksham*



Mr. Dipendra Manocha, Director, Developing Countries Programme, DAISY Consortium and Founder, Saksham, spoke about the role of assistive technologies in empowering visually impaired children. He emphasized the importance of creating accessible formats and environments to enable equal participation and reduce barriers faced by these children. He narrated his journey as a student with hearing impairment and how the impairment deprived him of further education in science and mathematics, his favourite subjects. Further, he elaborated on the efforts of Saksham, which is deeply involved in technology solutions, inclusive education and entertainment.

In 2003, three students from Saksham appeared in Class 12 exams in different streams – Science, Humanities and Commerce and all the students studying under the Saksham inclusive education programme write their assignments and examinations themselves, without the help of scribes due to the emphasis on assistive technology to enable them to read and write themselves. He added that the initiatives being taken at Saksham are a drop in the ocean when observing the situation in the schools outside the campus. Despite policies and provisions for special educators in schools, the ground reality is different, with lesser remuneration for special educators and on an average, there being one special educator for almost 200 CwDs.

Through these examples of inaccessibility, he brought focus on the need to create physical and information infrastructures, which are accessible for everyone to provide meaningful services and achieve the outcomes that we are aiming for. He suggested that compliance with accessibility guidelines, be it for a website or a software for the judicial system management, or any other kind of procurement in institutions be made mandatory.



Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rekha Palli

Judge, High Court of Delhi

In her closing remarks Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rekha Palli, Judge, High Court of Delhi, stated that what is needed is empathy for CwDs and not compassion. She reiterated the need to strengthen screening, diagnosis, and assessment with respect to mental health, where the first and foremost step is identification and acknowledgement of a problem. She brought focus on continuity of care and support which is not sporadic and limited to certain settings. Stakeholders were urged to cultivate a network of dedicated individuals who will consistently care for these children and help them integrate into the mainstream, reinforcing the vision where every child is simply seen and nurtured as a child.

Technical Session 4

Ensuring Convergence Between the Relevant Legislations



Technical Session 4

Ensuring Convergence between Relevant Legislations



The presentations and discussion in the session threw light on the convergence of relevant legislations, with a specific focus on legislative provisions for the protection of CwDs and exploring intersectionality among the Acts to ensure a victim-centric approach.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. Narendra

Judge, High Court of Andhra Pradesh



In his opening remarks, Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. Narendra, Judge, High Court of Andhra Pradesh, emphasized the need for an umbrella legislation to unify the plethora of services and legal remedies, proposing a single authority to streamline aid for victims without bureaucratic hurdles. Such an entity would ensure smooth relief services to the victims without putting them in distress. He concluded his opening remarks by highlighting five key benefits of such convergence – improved consistency and fairness; enhanced child protection and welfare; last mile reach; more effective re-administration and re-integration; and better cooperation.

Mr. Anant Kumar Asthana

Advocate



Mr. Anant Kumar Asthana, Advocate, in his presentation brought attention to the Goa Children's Act, 2003 – a kind of umbrella legislation that attempts to deal with a range of issues, be it CiCL, CNCP, sexual offences, trafficking, child abuse, discrimination, and other such issues, but added that the Act did not gain the momentum it was expected to.

Elaborating on the JJ Act and the POCSO Act for CwDs, he highlighted that the JJ Act does speak the same language as the other Acts such as the Mental Healthcare Act or the RPwD Act, since they are modern laws, which are in congruence with the conventions. He also added that when seen from the lens of JJ Act, RPwD is narrow in its scope and does not recognize stigma and disqualification as a disability for a CiCL. Bringing attention to the intersection between Mental Healthcare Act and POCSO Act, he referred to a case adjudicated in the Delhi High Court and then the Supreme Court, where both the courts took the same approach of denying POCSO protection to a 38-year-old woman, with a much lesser mental age, being cognizant of the wider legal ramifications of considering the mental age. He underscored the importance of counselling in the field of disability and mental health. He also highlighted an important question concerning CwDs – whether they can automatically be considered as CNCP under the JJ Act.

Dr. Maheshwar Singh

National Law University, Delhi



Dr. Maheshwar Singh, National Law University, Delhi shared statistical insights on the prevalence of disabilities among children, quoting the Census 2011 figures, stating that there are 2.4 million children with disabilities in India, with 69% in the rural areas and the remaining 31% in urban areas. He went on to explain how the percentage of CwDs increases with an increase in their age group, with the percentage rising to almost 50% in the 10-19 age group from only 9% in the 0-4 age group.

Dr. Singh quoted the appropriate clauses in the RPwD Act, which underline equality for and non-discrimination towards women and CwDs, and also appropriate government measures to take care of women and CwDs.

He explained that the National Law School has a policy named the Saksham Policy wherein students with different disabilities such as hearing impairment, visual impairment or cognitive disabilities have been given the provision for extra coaching. He also brought attention to the RBSK early intervention programme where CwDs are to be followed up at early intervention

centres – called District Early Intervention Centres – where newborns are screened for initial signs of autism, congenital cataract, congenital hearing impairment, and other congenital issues. The National Trust Act, 1999 is for the welfare of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, and multiple disabilities. Within the Act there are multiple schemes such as DISHA (early intervention and school readiness scheme), VIKAAS (daycare scheme) and SAMARTH (respite care residential scheme), among others for CwDs. He brought focus on the challenges faced in getting the rights of PwDs realized and lack of awareness about the rules, regulations, schemes, programmes and institutions, which is one of the reasons that hinders the realization of rights of PwDs.

Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya

Judge, High Court of Telangana



Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya, Judge, High Court of Telangana, explored the convergence of five key legislations – The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023; Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) (the Criminal Procedure Code); the JJ Act, 2015; the POCSO Act, 2012; and the RPwD Act, 2016.

She went on to explain the key points of convergence in the five Acts and how their intersectionality could be used to take the mandate of child protection forward. These points of convergence are victim compensation, medical examination and treatment, free legal aid and expeditious case disposal.

She emphasized the judiciary's role in minimizing secondary trauma for victims and proposed solutions like victim impact statements, judicial sensitization, and better case management. She shared an innovative acronym to represent the role of judiciary – CRISPA: (C: Case Management, R: Restorative Practices, I: Information, S: Sensitization, P: Protection, A: Awareness). In her presentation she brought attention to some of the initiatives that have been taken by the state of Telangana.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajanthri

Judge, Patna High Court



In his closing remarks, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajanthri, Judge, Patna High Court, called for an interdisciplinary collaboration, improved governance, and raising societal awareness to effectively protect and support CwDs, ensuring that legal provisions translate into tangible benefits.



Closing Session



Ms. Soledad Herrero

Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF India



Extending her appreciation to the Supreme Court and High Court Justices, government officials, judicial representatives, academic institutions, CSOs, PwDs, and UNICEF colleagues, Ms. Soledad Herrero, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF India, delivered the concluding remarks of the National Consultation on Protecting the Rights of Children Living with Disability (Focus on CiCL and CNCP) and Intersectionality of Disabilities.

Synthesizing insights from national and state-level deliberations, including stakeholder discussions in High Courts across the country, she underscored the collective responsibility to translate commitments into action. Emphasizing the urgency of a rights-based, child-centric approach, she outlined key strategic recommendations to shape policies, institutional frameworks, and service delivery systems. Ensuring a dignified life for CwDs means empowering them to shape policies, not just receive services. This requires embedding participation in legal frameworks and service delivery. Strengthening family support is also crucial to prevent separation, through social protection and counselling. Ms. Herrero emphasized multi-sectoral coordination across justice, healthcare, education, and social welfare to ensure holistic, child-centred services. She also highlighted the urgent need for disaggregated, real-time data to drive informed policies, resource allocation, and impactful interventions.

Mr. Anil Malik

*Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development,
Government of India*



Mr. Anil Malik, Secretary, MWCD, Government of India, reiterated the Government's commitment to the principle that no child be left alone, and there be no barrier or discrimination. He elaborated on the amendments to the JJ Act and the POCSO Act to this end, the amendments on the anvil, and the establishment of fast-track courts for speedy disposal of POCSO cases, though the conviction rate is still low.

Touching upon the district-level child protection mechanisms, he stated that across all districts there are 775 CWCs and 762 DCPUs that are in constant touch with the JJ Board. He also added that the government is extending the non-institutional care framework, fulfilling the demand from states and districts for sponsorships, foster care, and adoption.

The adoption portal, CARINGS, has streamlined the adoption process with less than 2,500 children available for adoption and more than 35,000 prospective adoptive parents registered to adopt. He also shared that the number of adoptions of children with special needs is going up by the year.

Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal

*Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with
Disabilities, Government of India,*



Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, spoke about the initial response of parents to their child with disability and stressed that parent help groups are crucial to support them and build their awareness. He also underscored the importance of early detection and intervention, which can make a significant difference. According to him, in education, both inclusive and special schools have their place and he referred to the Supreme Court's ruling mandating special educators in all schools as a step in the right direction. In the same vein he sighted the importance of assistive technologies when it comes to PwDs and CwDs and he said that the Department is focusing on well-made, affordable, made-in-India products.

The three 'A's' – Awareness, Accessibility, and Affordability – were earmarked as key by him.

He expressed concern that while we have good laws, their enforcement is lacking and called for swift and clear implementation and effective enforcement mechanisms, with improvement in compliance and stronger legal mechanisms. Also, the disability community is diverse and scattered, which makes cohesive advocacy challenging. According to him, visibility through achievements in sports, academia, and employment could help.



Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B. V. Nagarathna

In her closing remarks, Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B. V. Nagarathna, stated that the focus of this endeavour is on strengthening the demands of the JJ Act by facilitating rehabilitation of children within its scope and one of the critical focus areas is to understand and contribute to the design of a social support structure that originates from parental support to a skilled child protection model.

Justice Nagarathna highlighted the need for concrete actions as an aftermath of almost six months of discussions, coordination and deliberations. In this regard, she stated the resolutions which must be taken collectively towards realizing an inclusive and equitable nation for CwDs.

She expressed hope that all the High Courts would take immediate steps towards forming accessibility committees and help desks for PwDs coming to the courts and concluded the proceedings of the Consultation by resolving to reaffirm the commitment for the protection of children, especially CwDs. She concluded by highlighting key resolutions as the way forward outlined on page 4 of this report.

Annexure 1

Agenda of the Consultation

NATIONAL ANNUAL STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION ON 'PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN LIVING WITH DISABILITY (FOCUS ON CiCL AND CNCP) AND INTERSECTIONALITY OF DISABILITIES'

Ninth Round of Consultation under the aegis of the Juvenile Justice Committee,
Supreme Court of India in association with UNICEF India

Date: September 28 – 29, 2024

Venue: Auditorium, C-Block, Administrative Buildings Complex,
Supreme Court of India, Mathura Road, New Delhi

Minute to Minute Programme

INAUGURAL SESSION Saturday, September 28, 2024	
TIME	PROGRAMME
09:00 – 09:30 hrs	Arrival of Participants and Registration
10:00 – 10:10 hrs	Welcome of Guests
10:10 – 10:20 hrs	Opening Address Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V. Nagarathna Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee & Judge, Supreme Court of India
10:20 – 10:30 hrs	Introductory Remarks Ms. Cynthia McCaffrey Country Representative, UNICEF India
10:30 – 10:40 hrs	Documentary Film
10:40 – 10:50 hrs	Special Address Hon'ble Smt. Annpurna Devi Minister for Women and Child Development, Govt. of India
10:50 – 10:55 hrs	Release of "Handbook Concerning Persons with Disabilities" by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India
10:55 onwards	Inaugural Address Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India
	Group Photo
11:30 – 12:00 hrs	Tea

DAY- 1	Saturday, September 28, 2024 Technical Session - 1 (12:00 - 13:10 hrs)
TIME	PROGRAMME
12:00 – 13:10 hrs	Technical Session - 1 Plenary: Global Instruments, National Legislations, Central and State Schemes and Services Session will focus on: 1. Global Instruments (UNCRPD, UNCRC Human Rights Framework and Global data). 2. National Legislation (RPwD, NTA, JJA/POCSO/MHA). 3. Schemes & Services of Central and State Governments on Child Protection and Children with Disabilities.
12:00 – 12:10 hrs	Opening Remarks by Chair Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, Judge, Calcutta High Court
12:10 – 12:20 hrs	Experiences of Negotiating an Ableist World: Barriers and what helps remove them Mr. Praveen Kumar G., Lead Advisor, Social Inclusion, VSO International
12:20 – 12:30 hrs	Global Instruments, Human Rights Framework and Global Data on Children with Disabilities Mr. Gopal Mitra, UNICEF- Global Lead on Disability and Development in Programme Group, New York Headquarters
12:30 – 12:40 hrs	Current Context and Roadmap for the Future: Central and State Schemes, Services and Provisions for Children with Disabilities: (Associated Schemes and Services under RPwD Act for Children) Mr. Praveen Prakash Ambastha, Deputy Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities
12:40 – 12:50 hrs	Current Context and Roadmap for the Future (Central and State Schemes) Ms. Preeti Pant, Joint Secretary, MWCD
12:50 – 13:00 hrs	Interaction /Suggestions Moderation by Chair
13:00 – 13:10 hrs	Closing Remarks by Co-Chair Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anand Pathak, Judge, High Court of Madhya Pradesh
13:10 – 14:00 hrs	Lunch

DAY- 1	Saturday, September 28, 2024 Technical Session - 2 (14:00 - 15:10 hrs)	
TIME	PROGRAMME	
14:00 – 15:10 hrs	Technical Session - 2 Plenary: Family Based Alternative Care Services and Social Support for Children with Disabilities Session will focus on: 1. Sharing of formative study on parental perceptions of children with disabilities. 2. Experience sharing on representation and social support and its impact on children with disabilities. 3. Commitments to build a skilled child protection workforce.	
14:00 – 14:10 hrs	Opening Remarks by Chair Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Revati Mohite Dere, Judge, Bombay High Court	
14:10 – 14:20 hrs	Presentation on Parental Perceptions on Children with Disabilities (Formative study conducted by UNICEF and Young Lives with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) Ms. Alka Malhotra, Social Behaviour Change Specialist, UNICEF India	
14:20 – 14:40 hrs	Experience Sharing on Representation and Social Support and its impact on Children with Disabilities	
	14:20 – 14:30 hrs	Mr. Rahul Bajaj, Advocate
	14:30 – 14:40 hrs	Ms. Sarah Sunny, Advocate
14:40 – 14:50 hrs	National Commitment on Building a Skilled Child Protection Cadre and Allied Workforce Dr. Sanghamitra Barik, Joint Director, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development	
14:50 – 15:00 hrs	Interaction/Suggestions Moderation by Chair	
15:00 – 15:10 hrs	Closing Remarks by Co-Chair Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biren A. Vaishnav, Judge, High Court of Gujarat	
15:10 – 15:40 hrs	Tea	

DAY- 1	Saturday, September 28, 2024 Technical Session - 3 (15:40 - 16:55 hrs)
TIME	PROGRAMME
15:40 – 16:55 hrs	Technical Session - 3 Mental & Physical Health and Education: Effective Convergence and Implementation Session will focus on Children with Disabilities within CiCL and CNCP categories: 1. Mainstreaming services including Early Screening, Diagnoses, Referral Pathways, Medical Services 2. Strengthening screening, diagnoses, assessments with respect to mental health, preliminary assessments 3. Strengthening services including referral services/medical management, remedial support with respect to mental health 4. Inclusive Education and Technology Enabled Assistive Services
15:40 – 15:50 hrs	Opening Remarks by Chair Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Lisa Gill, Judge, High Court of Punjab & Haryana
15:50 – 16:15 hrs	Mental Health Services including Screening, Diagnoses, Assessments, Preliminary Assessments (with focus on CiCL and CNCP) Dr. Shekhar Seshadri – Advisor, SAMVAD, NIMHANS
16:15 – 16:25 hrs	Mental Health Services including Referral Services/Medical Management, Remedial Support (with focus on CiCL and CNCP) Ms. Merry Barua, Founder Director Action for Autism, National Centre for Autism
16:25 – 16:35 hrs	Role of Inclusive Education and Technology Enabled Assistive Services for Children with Disabilities Mr. Dipendra Manocha - Director, Developing Countries Program, DAISY Consortium and Founder, Saksham
16:35 – 16:45 hrs	Interaction/Suggestions Moderation by Chair
16:45 – 16:55 hrs	Closing Remarks by Co-Chair Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rekha Palli, Judge, High Court of Delhi

DAY- 2	Sunday, September 29, 2024 Technical Session - 4 (10:00 – 11:10 hrs) Venue: Auditorium, C-Block, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India
TIME	PROGRAMME
10:00 – 11:10 hrs	Technical Session - 4 Ensuring Convergence Between the Relevant Legislations Session will focus on: 1. Legislative provisions for the protection of children with disabilities 2. Intersectionality- Mapping of Acts to ensure a victim centric approach
10:00 – 10:10 hrs	Opening Remarks by Chair Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. Narendra, Judge, High Court of Andhra Pradesh
10:10 – 10:20 hrs	Provisions of the JJ Act and POCSO Act for Children with Disabilities Mr. Anant Kumar Asthana, Advocate
10:20 – 10:30 hrs	Provisions of the RPwD Act, NHM, National Trust Act for Children with Disabilities Dr. Maheshwar Singh, NLU Delhi
10:30 – 10:45 hrs	"Intersectionality - Mapping of Acts to ensure a victim centric approach" Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya, Judge, High Court for the State of Telangana
10:45 – 11:00 hrs	Interaction/Suggestions Moderation by Chair
11:00 – 11:10 hrs	Closing Remarks by Co-Chair Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajanthri, Judge, Patna High Court
11:10 – 11:50 hrs	Tea

DAY- 2	Closing Session (12:00 – 13:30 hrs)
TIME	PROGRAMME
12:00 – 12:10 hrs	Welcome of Guests
12:10 – 12:20 hrs	Recap and Way Forward Ms. Soledad Herrero, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF India
12:20 – 12:30 hrs	Special Remarks Mr. Anil Malik (IAS), Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India
12:30 – 12:40 hrs	Special Remarks Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal (IAS), Secretary, Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of India
12:40 – 12:50 hrs	Special Remarks Mr. Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson, National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, Govt. of India
12:50 hrs onwards	Closing Remarks Hon'ble Mrs. Justice B.V Nagarathna, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee and Judge, Supreme Court of India
	Lunch

Annexure 2

Summary of Challenges Emergent from Reports Submitted to the Juvenile Justice Committee after the State Consultations

Need for Strengthened Child-Centric Legal Processes

- Limited awareness and training among law enforcement and judiciary in handling cases involving CwDs.
- Lack of specialized legal aid units and interpreters for children with communication impairments.

Need for Strengthened Access to Education

- Lack of trained special educators and assistive learning devices in many mainstream schools.
- Inadequate home-based education support and financial assistance for CwDs.

Need for Improvements in Accessibility and Rehabilitation Services

- Insufficient barrier-free infrastructure in CCIs, schools, and public spaces.
- Limited specialized rehabilitation centres for children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

Need for Improved Multi-Sectoral Coordination

- Lack of structured collaboration between health, education, and child protection agencies.
- Inadequate tracking and convergence mechanisms to ensure holistic child support services.

Need for Improved Identification and Assessment

- Delays in early disability screening and lack of standardized data collection mechanisms.
- Incomplete registration of children under the Unique Disability Identity (UDID) system.

Need for Strengthened Social Protection and Family Support

- Limited financial support for families and caregivers of CwDs, increasing institutionalization risks.
- Lack of targeted adoption incentives for CwDs.

Need for more Capacity and Skills

- Shortage of trained professionals (special educators, sign language interpreters, mental health experts).
- Inadequate sensitization of frontline workers in handling child protection cases involving disabilities.

Data Systems for Policy Implementation

- Absence of integrated databases linking healthcare, education, and social services for real-time tracking.
- Limited use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital tools for evidence-based decision-making.

Summary of Emerging/Work in Progress Promising Practices from States as submitted to the Juvenile Justice Committee after the State Consultations

Strengthening Child-Centric Legal Processes

- **Assam & Maharashtra:** Establishment of JJBs and POCSO courts with trained professionals and interpreters.
- **Odisha & Bihar:** Trauma-informed care integrated into CCI for children affected by abuse.
- **Sikkim & Jammu & Kashmir:** Appointment of para-legal volunteers and support persons for legal representation of CwDs.
- **Karnataka:** Development of SOPs for police to handle and record statements from CwDs under the POCSO Act.

Way Forward: Increase accessibility within legal institutions, ensure continuous capacity-building for law enforcement, and establish specialized legal aid units for CwDs.

Accessibility and Rehabilitation Services

- **Chandigarh & Tamil Nadu:** Implementation of barrier-free infrastructure in CCIs, schools, and public spaces.
- **Kerala:** Establishment of specialized homes for children with mental health needs under the Nirbhaya Scheme.
- **West Bengal:** Development of a unified directory of support services for CwDs.
- **Arunachal Pradesh:** Psycho-social rehabilitation centres for children with intellectual disabilities.

Way Forward: Enhance multi-sectoral rehabilitation programmes and create more inclusive spaces to cater to the needs of CwDs.

Strengthening Multi-Sectoral Convergence

- **Madhya Pradesh & Uttarakhand:** Digital platforms for case management and monitoring of child protection services.
- **Odisha & Nagaland:** Cross-departmental coordination between health, education, and social welfare sectors to ensure holistic child support.

- **Meghalaya:** Bi-annual convergence meetings to track access to specialized services for CwDs in the juvenile justice system.
- **Haryana & Punjab:** Integrated care plans linking the JJ Act and the RPwD Act.

Way Forward: Institutionalize multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms and develop a structured convergence framework to improve child protection systems.

Ensuring Inclusive and Equitable Education

- **Kerala & Nagaland:** Integration of CwDs into mainstream schools with special educators and assistive devices.
- **Odisha & Maharashtra:** Early intervention centres providing therapy services for children with developmental delays.
- **Punjab & Haryana:** Scholarship schemes and financial assistance for students with disabilities.
- **Uttarakhand:** Home-based education and specialized training for teachers to ensure accessible learning.

Way Forward: Strengthen home-based education and expand financial support to ensure equitable access to quality education for CwDs across all states.

Enhancing Identification and Assessment Mechanisms

- **Jammu & Kashmir:** 100% registration of PwDs under the UDID card system.
- **Odisha & Bihar:** Early disability screening under RBSK for children aged 0-18.
- **Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh:** Establishment of district early intervention centres for early diagnosis and continuous support.
- **Manipur:** Creation of specialized adoption agencies for CwDs under the JJ Act.

Way Forward: Strengthen data collection and assessment mechanisms by improving early screening programmes and ensuring universal registration of CwDs.

Expanding Social Protection and Family Support

- **Maharashtra & Rajasthan:** Monthly pension schemes for CwDs under state social security programmes.
- **Kerala & Tamil Nadu:** Financial aid for caregivers and families to support home-based care for CwDs.
- **Assam & West Bengal:** Special adoption incentives to encourage the adoption of CwDs.

Way Forward: Expand family support programmes and develop comprehensive financial assistance schemes for caregivers to prevent institutionalization of CwDs.

Capacity Building and Training for Stakeholders

- **Karnataka & Assam:** Specialized training for police, judiciary, and social workers on handling cases involving CwDs.
- **Chandigarh & Madhya Pradesh:** Inclusion of disability rights training in academic curricula for law, social work, and psychology.
- **Uttarakhand & Odisha:** Certification programmes for sign language interpreters and mental health professionals.
- **Mizoram & Tripura:** Training of AWWs for early detection and intervention in rural areas.

Way Forward: Standardize and expand training modules to ensure all child protection stakeholders are equipped to handle cases involving CwDs.

Data Systems for Evidence-Based Policy Making

- **Maharashtra & Tamil Nadu:** Development of a state-wide database integrating data from healthcare, education, and child protection services.
- **West Bengal & Karnataka:** Use of AI and digital tools to track child protection cases and ensure timely intervention.
- **Odisha & Bihar:** Periodic disability census to assess service gaps and inform policy decisions.
- **Jammu & Kashmir:** Implementation of a real-time tracking system for CwDs in institutional care.

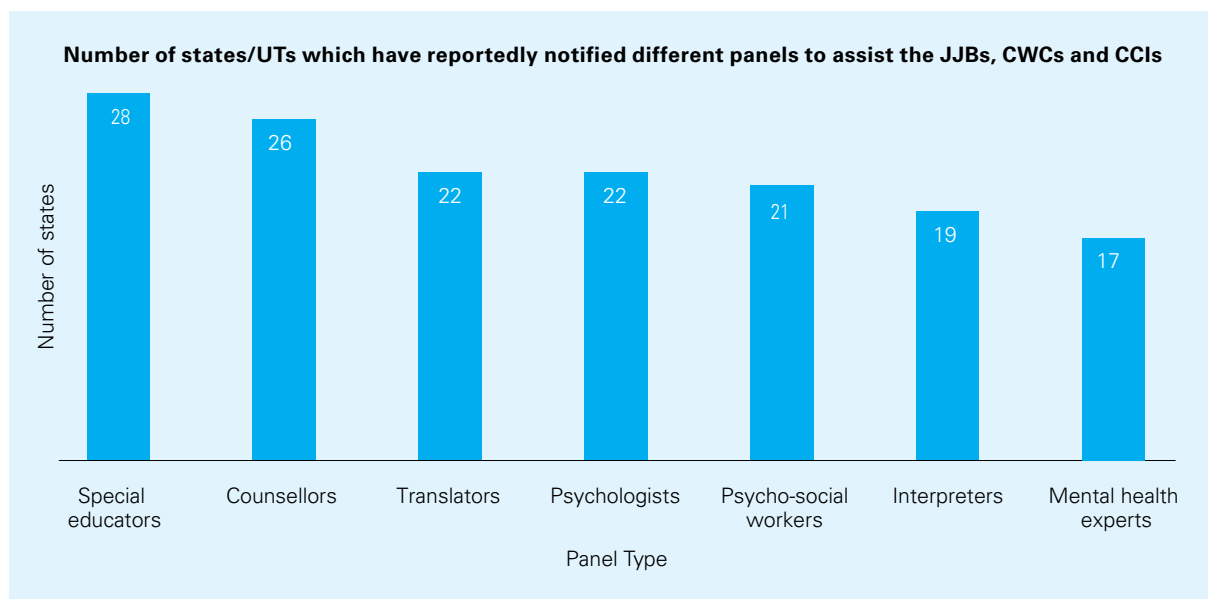
Way Forward: Enhance real-time data tracking systems and create integrated databases to support evidence-based policymaking.

Annexure 3

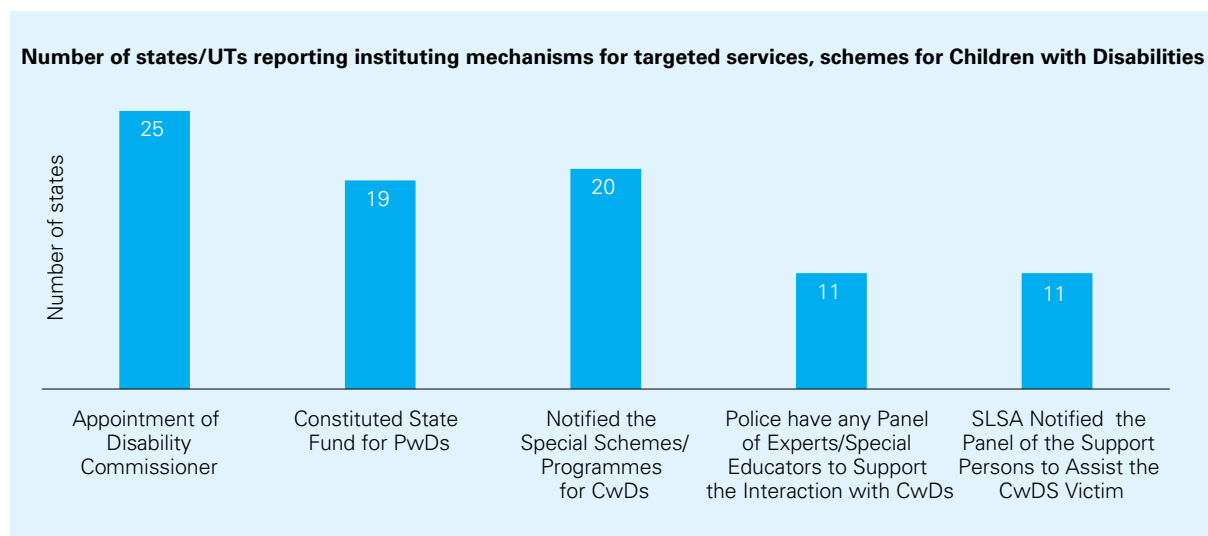
Analysis of Self-Reported Data from across all states of India (High courts and relevant line departments) on CiCL & Children with Disabilities in the Juvenile Justice System

Interventions in Early Diagnoses, Referral Services and Deinstitutionalization

Notification of Different Panels to Assist the JJBs, CWCs and CCIs



Availability of Different Panels to Support Children with Disabilities



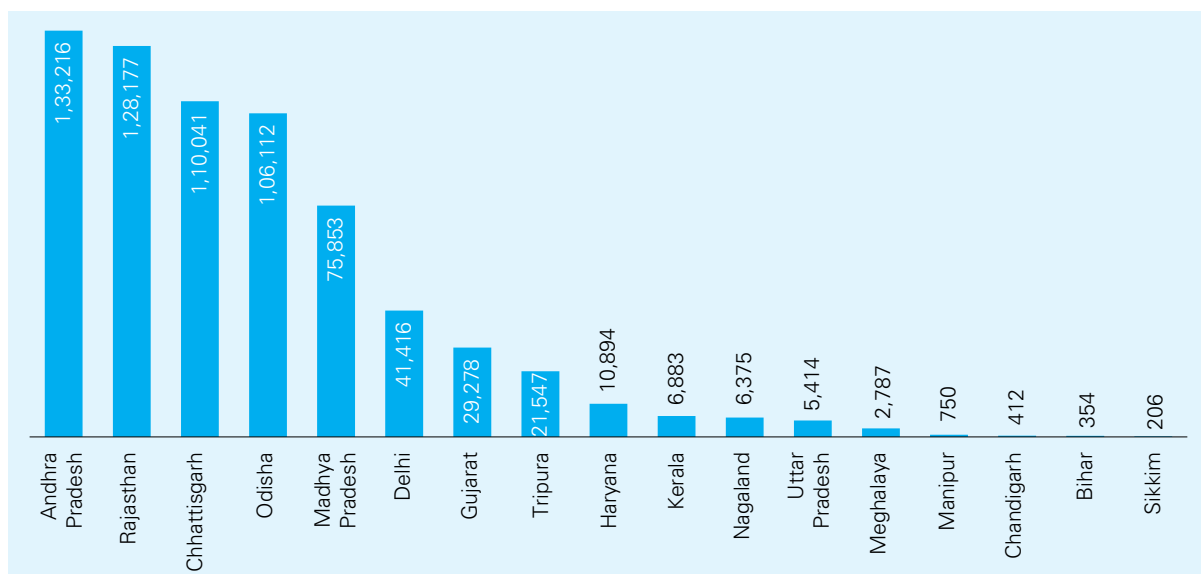
Number of States/UTs with Targeted Interventions and Referral Services for Children with Disabilities

Intervention	No. of states
Visits and check-ups by child development/mental health experts including from RBSK established in CCI for early diagnoses of physical and mental status of the children	24
Referral and medical processes been institutionalized in case of diagnoses of disability	23
Specialized trainers and experts deployed to assess the educational needs of children with special needs	23
State maintains a database of healthcare and counselling centres, de-addiction centres, hospitals, open schools/ education facilities, vocational training programmes and centres, recreational facilities (performing arts, fine arts) for CwDs	24
DWCD established effective linkages with the Public Health Department (Mental Health Mission) to ensure assessment of children living in CCIs	23
Every district has the facility for disability certification	30
State notified the guidelines for experts and professionals to assist child victims	16
State notified the panel of the Support Persons to assist child victims who are Children with Disabilities	20

Number of Children with Disabilities Deinstitutionalized (During July 2022- June 2024)

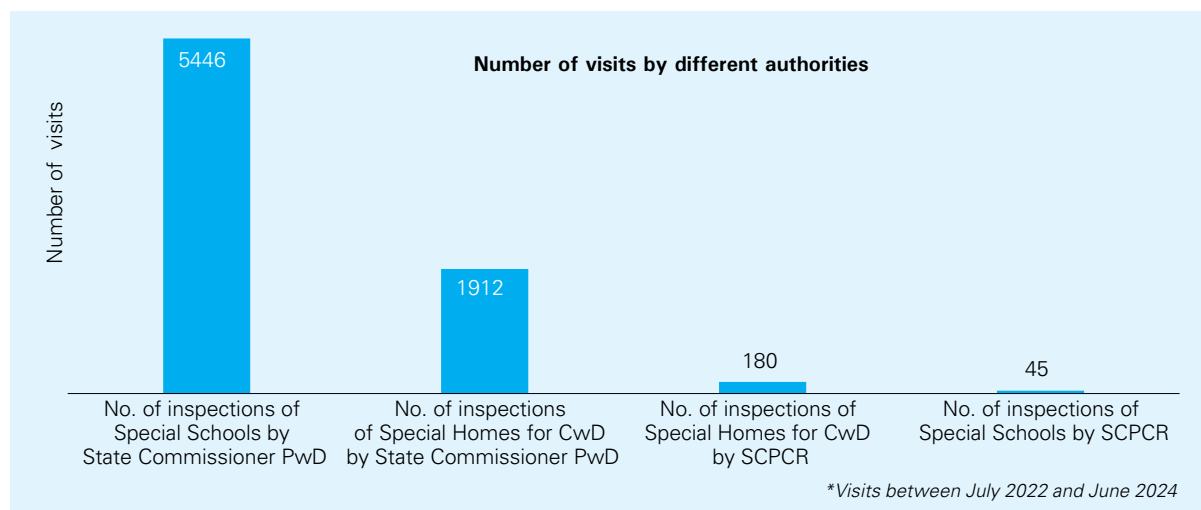
Deinstitutionalizations pathway	Number of children
CwDs linked with the kinship care/sponsorship schemes	453
CwDs placed in adoption	482
CwDs placed in foster care	105
CwDs placed under Limited Guardianship	306
Total	1346

Children with Disabilities linked with Social Protection Schemes (State-Wise)



- 17 States/UTs have reported the data.
- Total 6,79,715 CwDs linked with the Social Protection Schemes between July 2022 and June 2024.

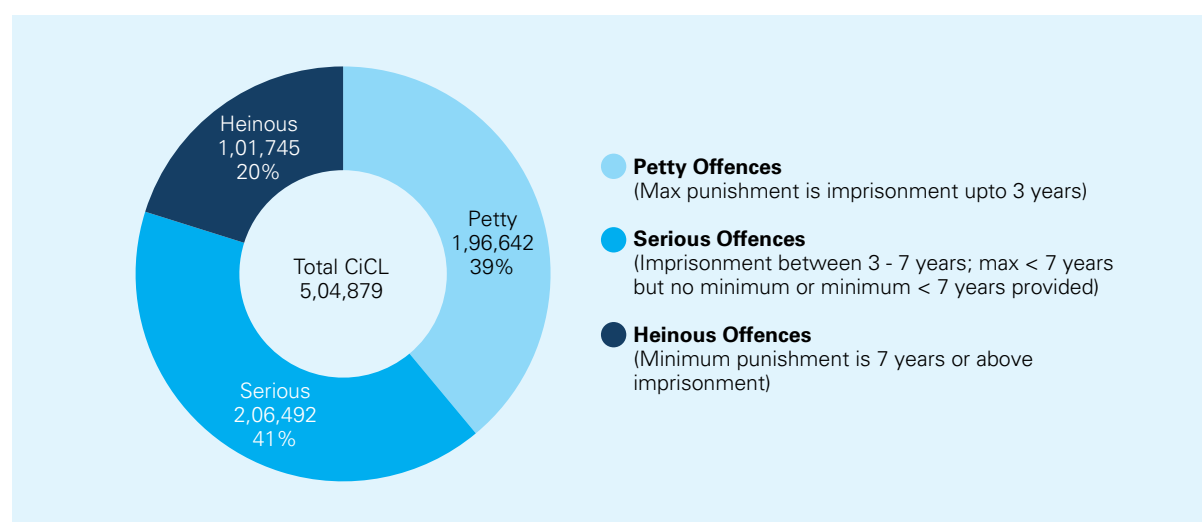
Visits by Different Authorities*



Scheme/Service Access for Children with Disabilities

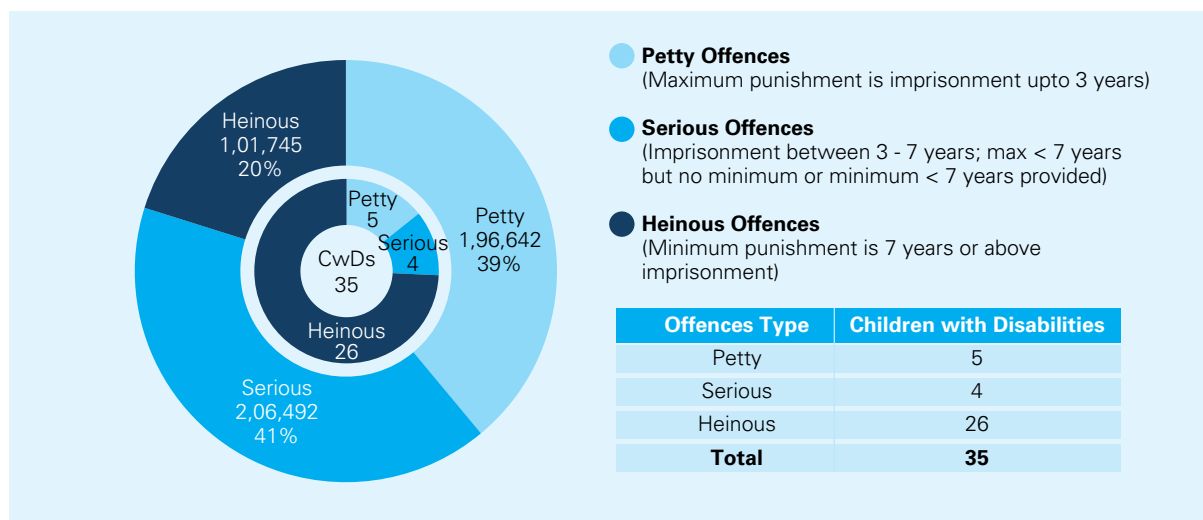
	Observation Homes	Special Homes	Place of Safety	Fit Institute
Number of CwDs living in CCI	41	195	3	1012
Number of CwDs who have requisite assistive services	5	47	0	341
Number of CwDs who have received disability certificate	0	0	0	0
Number of CwDs receiving disability pension	3	6	0	251
Number of CwDs linked to Special Education	16	28	0	509
Number of Fit Facilities recognized for CwDs	2	0	0	-
Number of Special Homes for CwDs	9	5	0	19

Number of Children Reported to be in Conflict with the Law (CiCL) Across Different Offence Categories



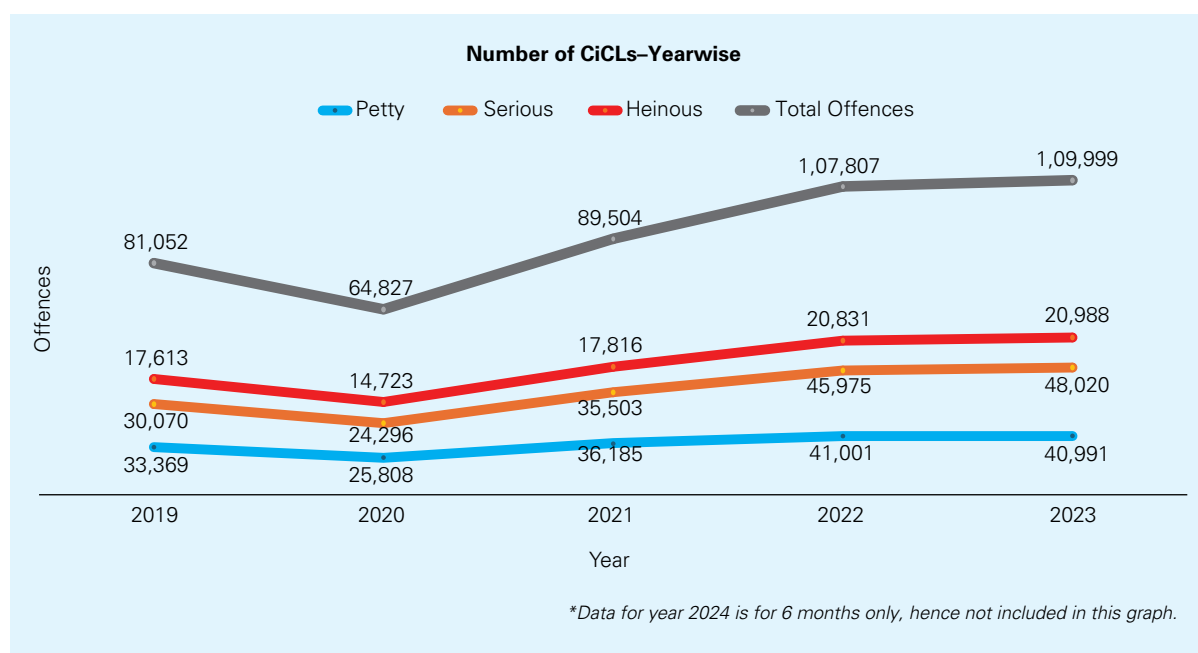
- Total 5,04,879 (5.05 lacs) CiCLs have been reported.
- Two out of every five cases is that of children reported to have committed a petty offence; and only one out of every five children reported to have committed a heinous offence.

Number of Children Reported to be in Conflict with the Law (CiCL) and Children with Disabilities across Different Offence Categories



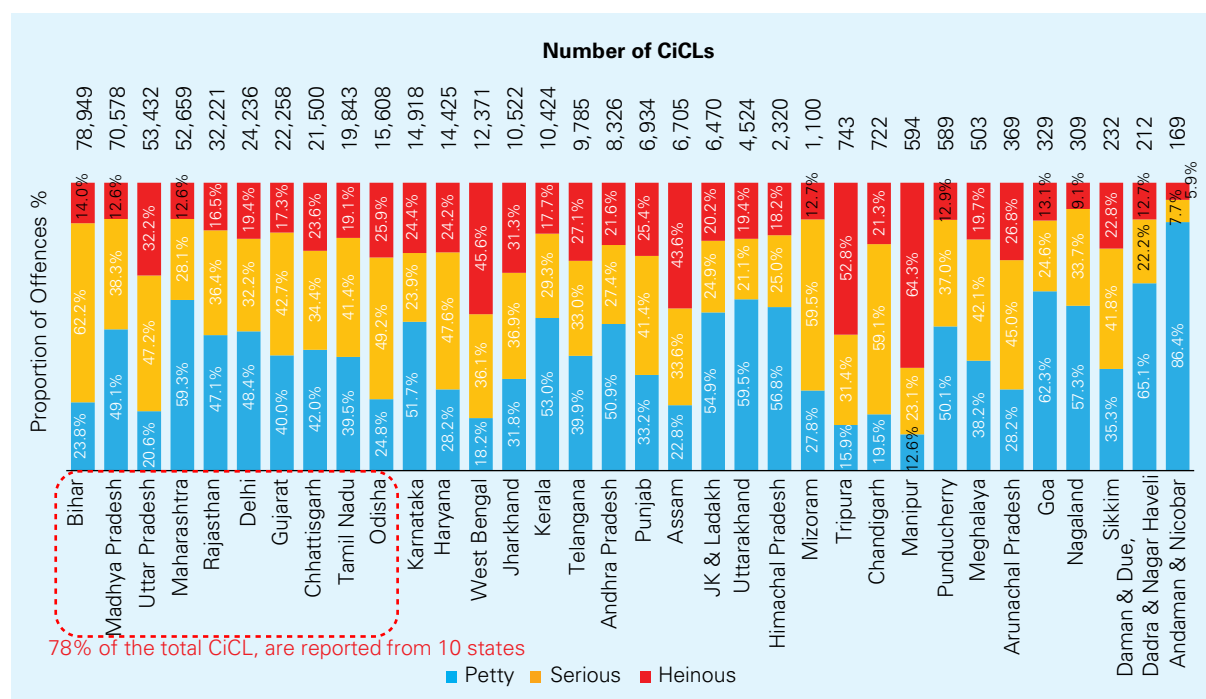
- Out of the total, only 35 (0.007%) CiCL have been reported as CwDs.

Year-wise* CiCL Reported across Different Offence Categories



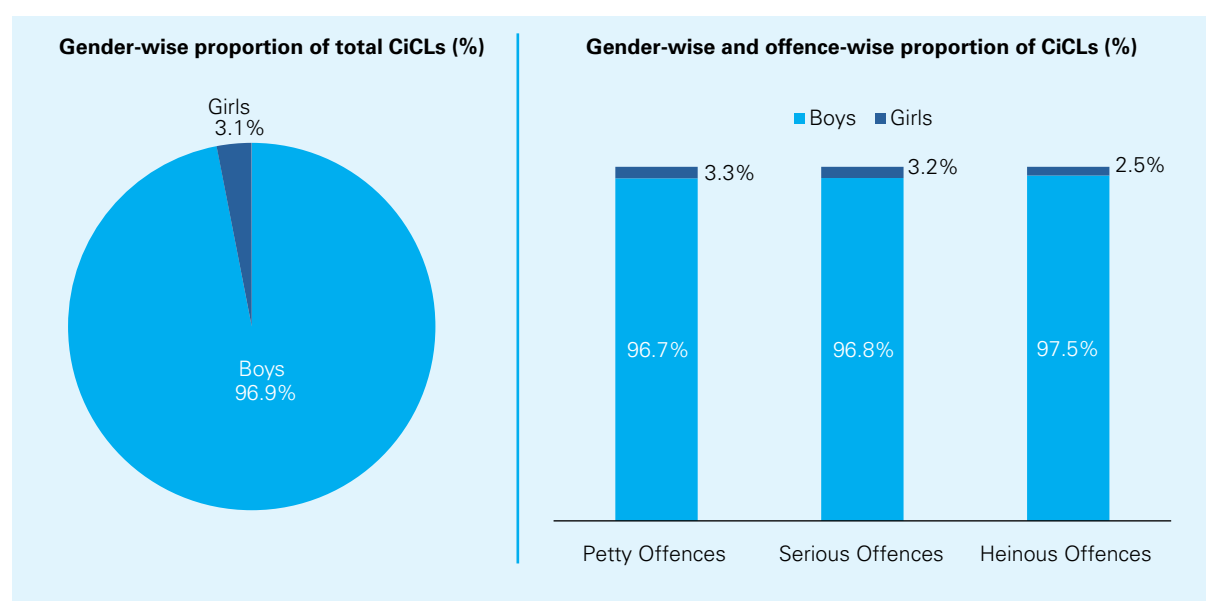
- Overall, there is an increasing trend (except in the year 2020) in reporting the number of CiCL across all type of offences.

State-wise CiCLs and their Proportion across Different Offence Categories



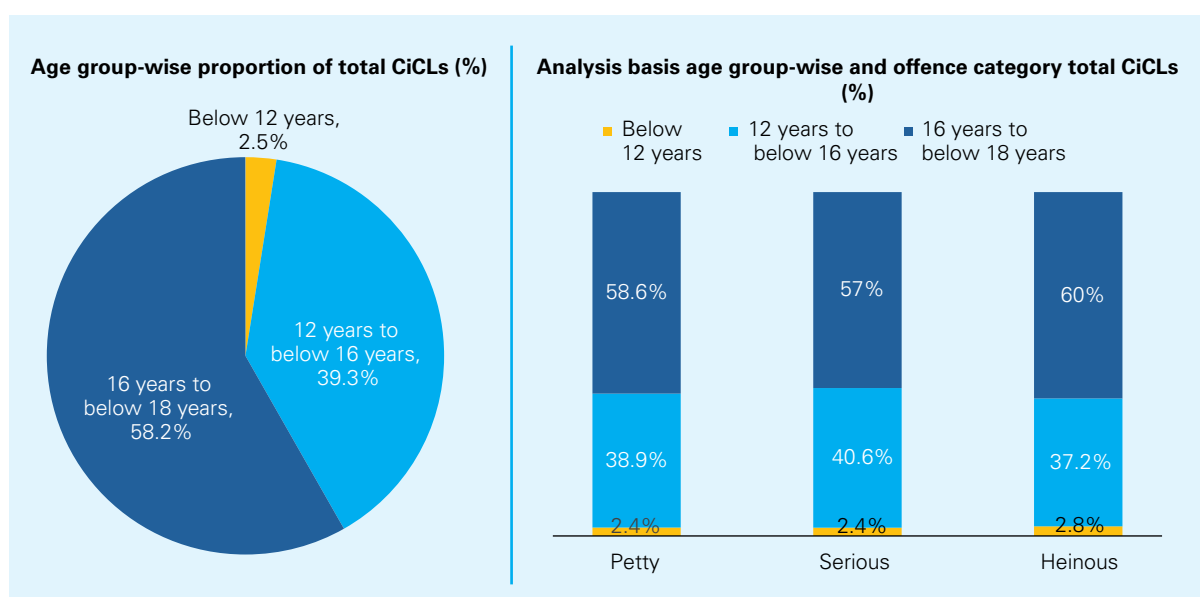
- Bihar has reported the highest number (78,949) of CiCLs. Lakshadweep (UT) has no reported cases.
- 78% of total CiCL have been reported from 10 states (Bihar, MP, UP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha).

Gender-wise Disaggregation across Different Offence Categories



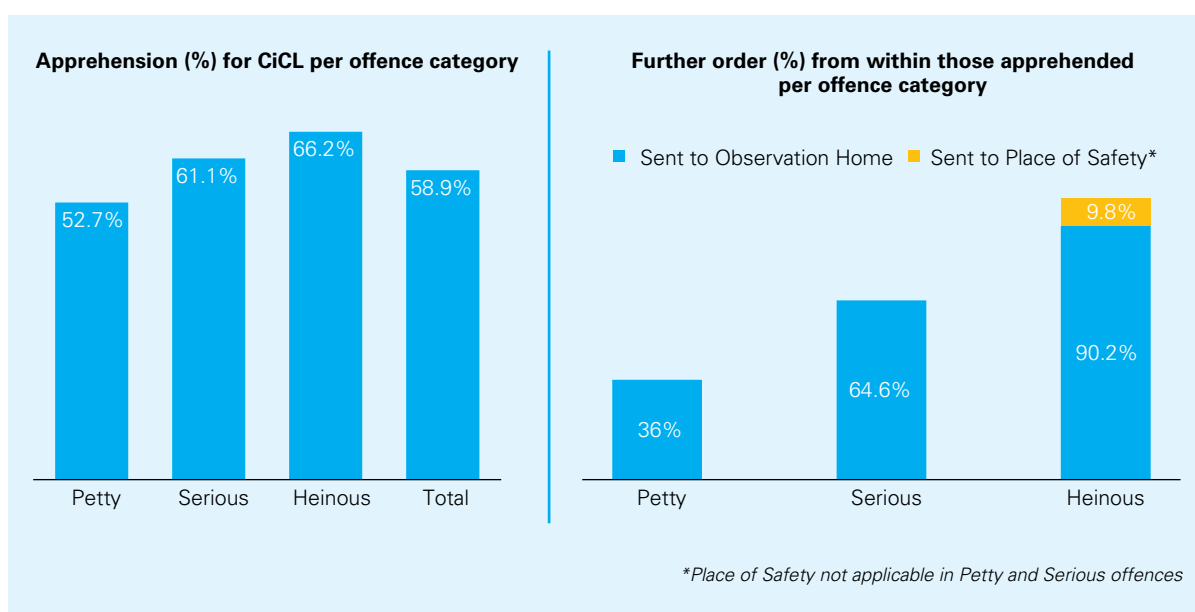
- Out of total CiCLs, 97% CiCLs are boys.
- In petty offences–3.3%, serious–3.2% and heinous offences –2.5% girl CiCLs have been reported.
- Out of the total reported CiCL, 20 are transgender.

Disaggregation Per Age Cohort across Different Offence Categories



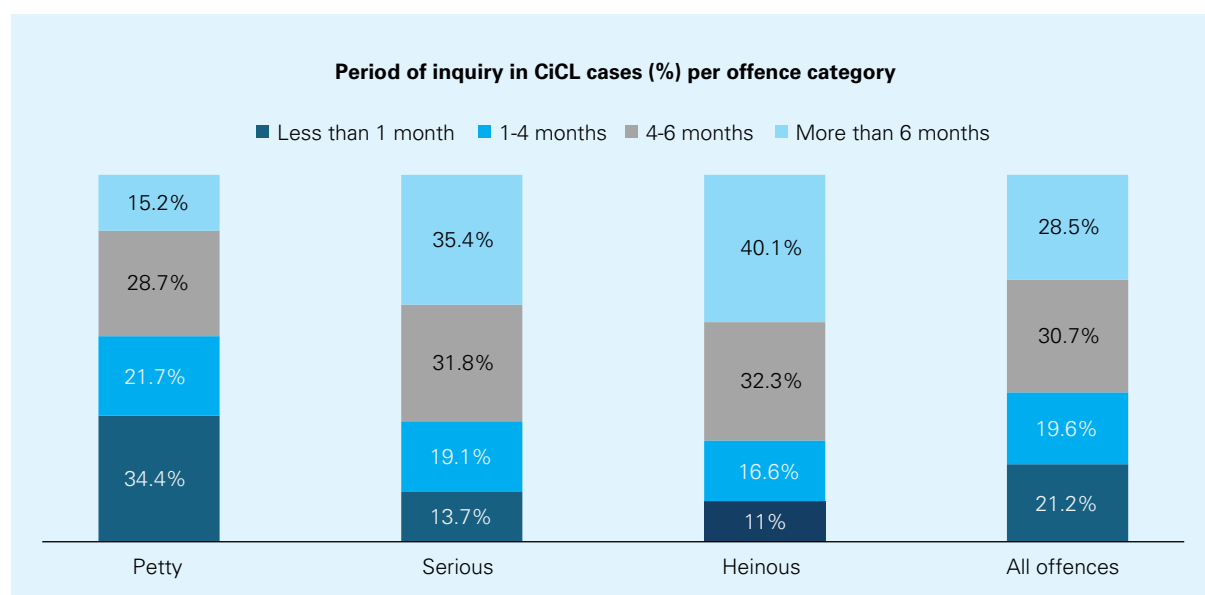
- Only 2% CiCLs are reported to be less than 12 years.
- Out of the total CiCLs, 58% CiCLs are in the age cohort of 16-18 years.

Case Status (Apprehended and Sent to Observation Home) across Different Offence Categories



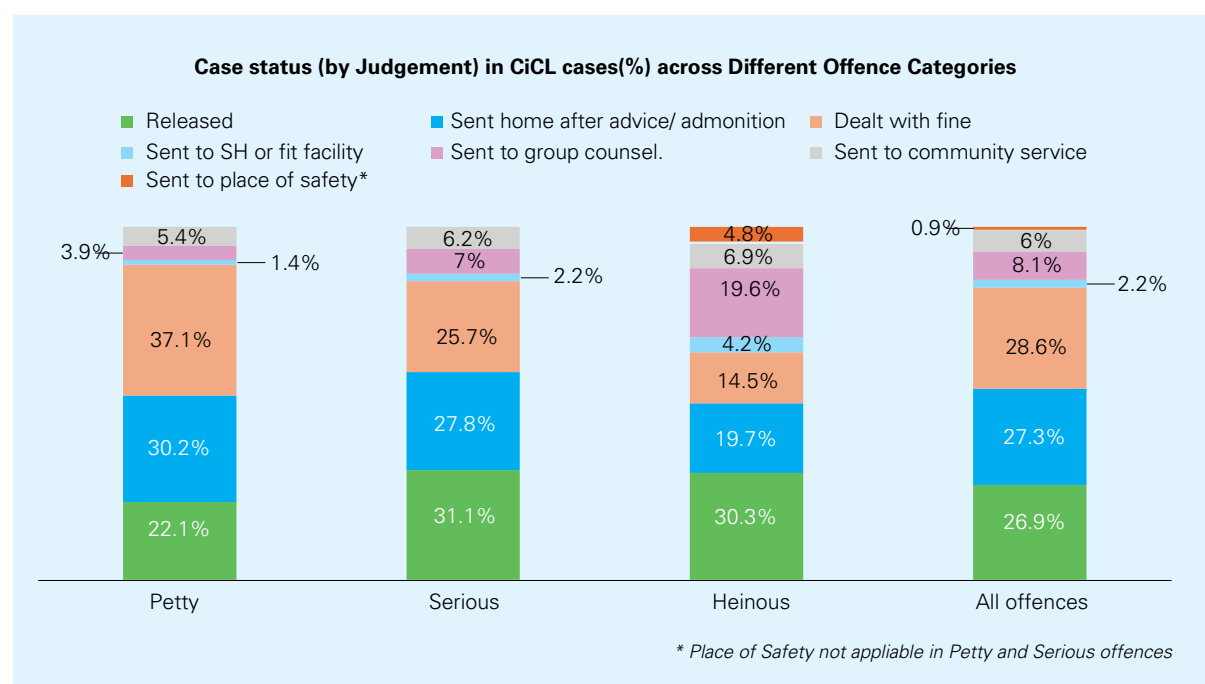
- Overall, 59% CiCLs have been apprehended (out of total CiCL reported).
- Out of total apprehended CiCL reported in heinous offences, 10% CiCL sent to place of safety.

Period of Inquiry in CiCL Cases across Different Offence Categories



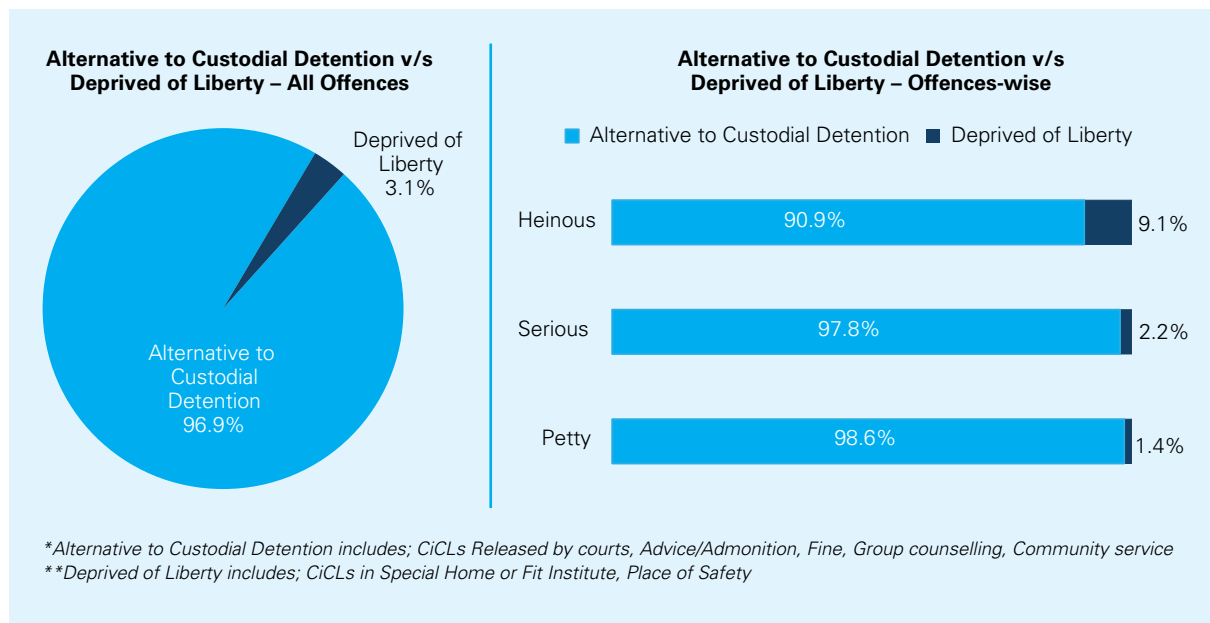
- Overall, 29% CiCLs inquiry was done for more than 6 months.
- For 40% CiCLs, reported in heinous offences, inquiry was done for more than 6 months.

CiCLs Case Status (Final Order)



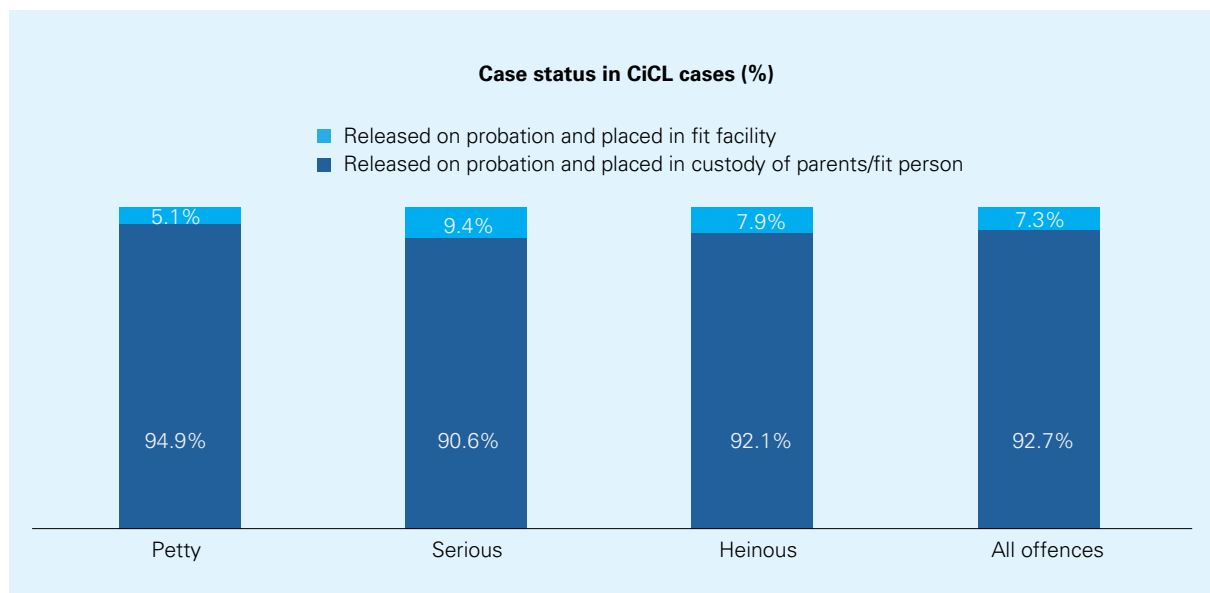
- Overall, 27% CiCLs have been released by JJB/Children Court as cases un-occurred/ quashed/discharged.

Alternative to Custodial Detention* vis-à-vis Deprived of Liberty**



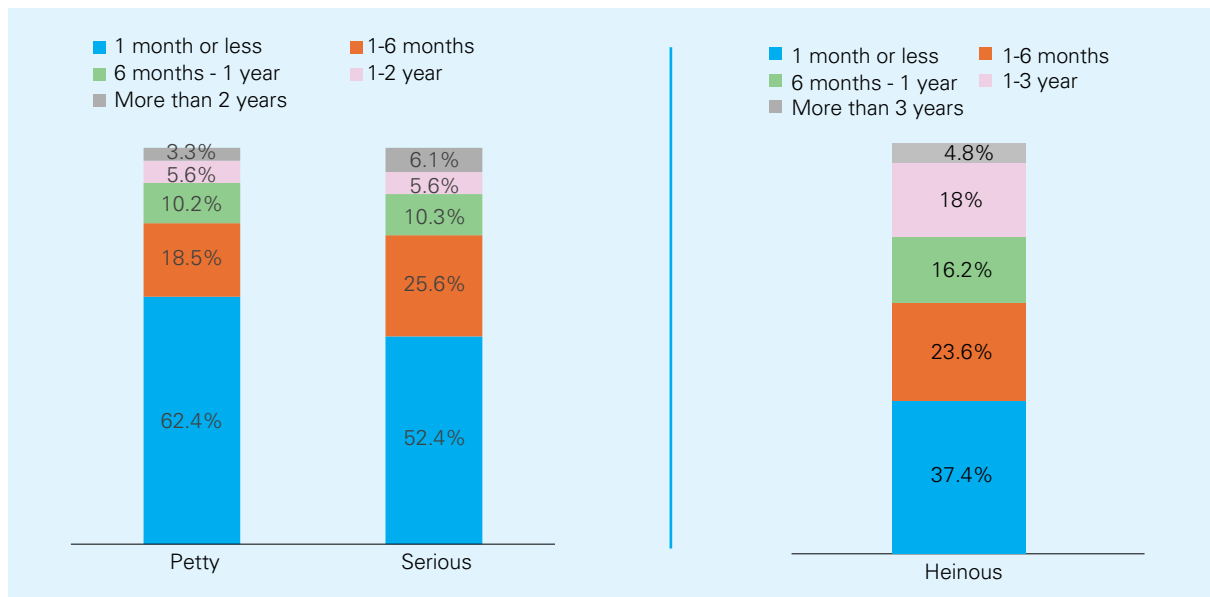
- Overall, 97% CiCLs have been sent Alternative to Custodial Detention and, remaining 3% CiCLs are deprived of liberty.
- 9.1% CiCLs reported in heinous offences have been deprived of liberty.

Case Status across Different Offence Categories

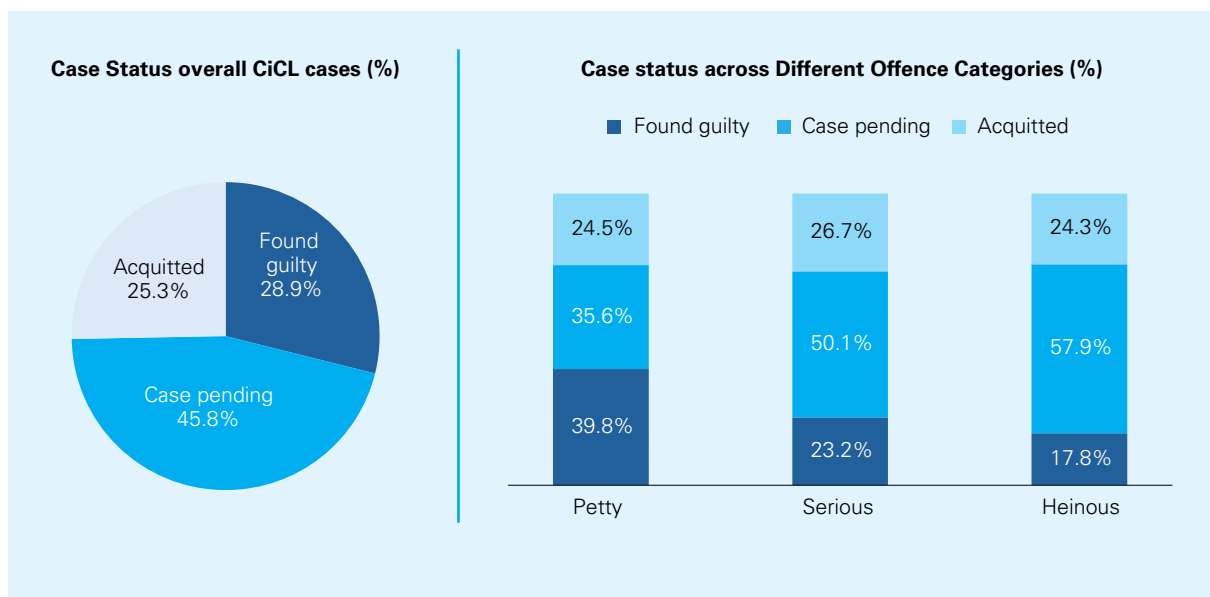


- Overall, 93% CiCLs have been released on probation and placed in custody of parents/fit person either during the inquiry or final disposal.

Period of Institutionalization (Detention) across Different Offence Categories

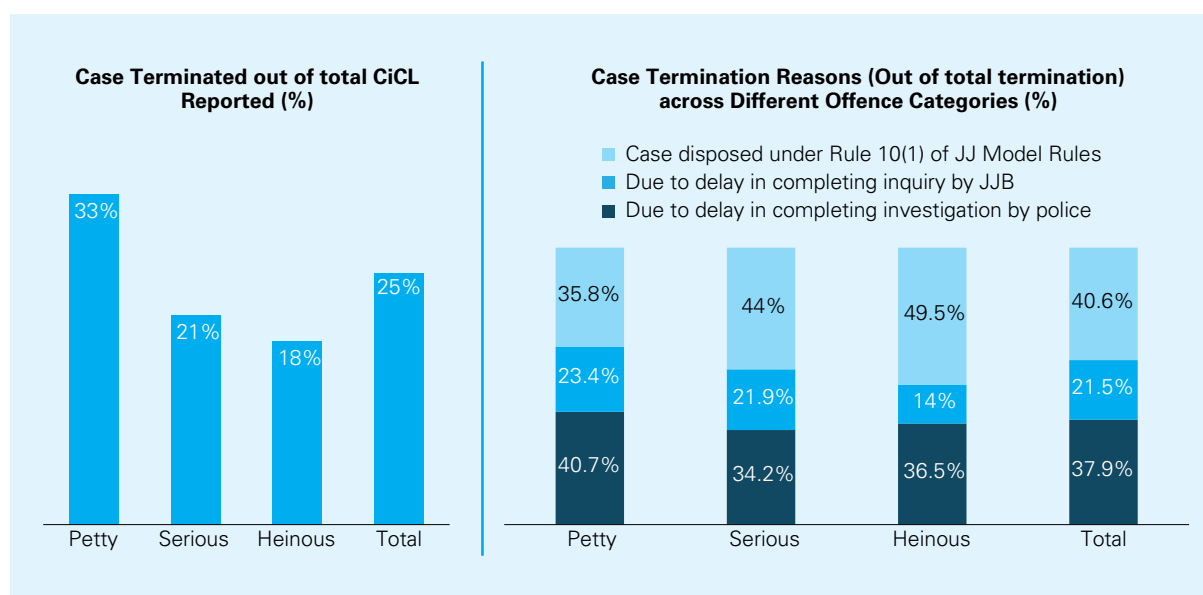


Case Status across Different Offence Categories



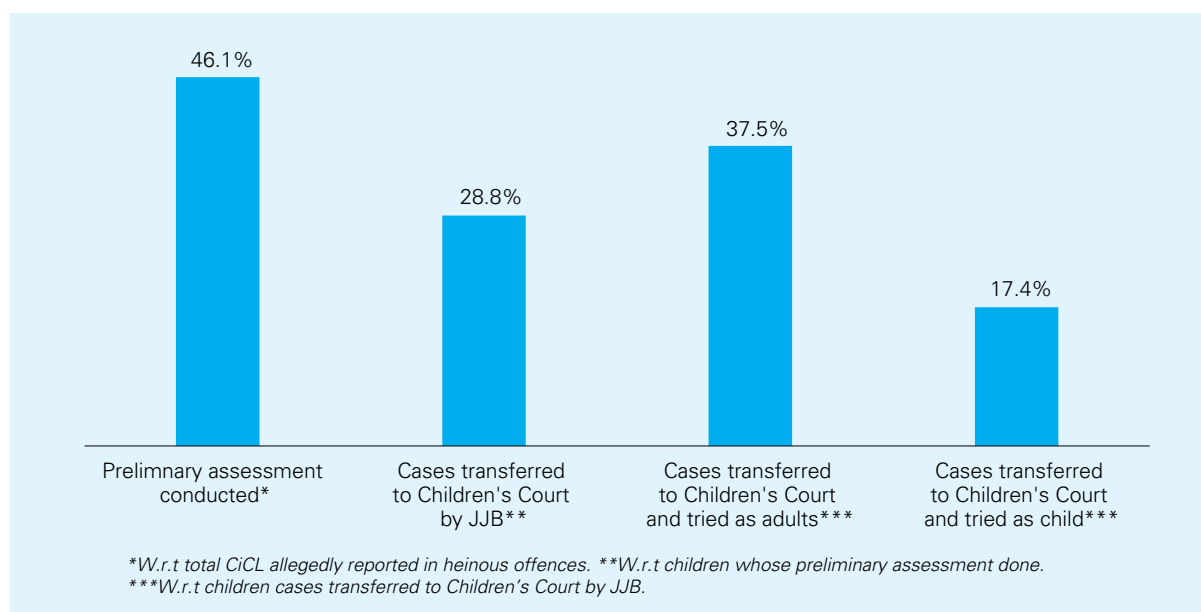
- Overall, one out of every four CiCLs has been acquitted.
- Only 18% CiCLs have been found guilty in heinous cases.

Cases Termination (%)



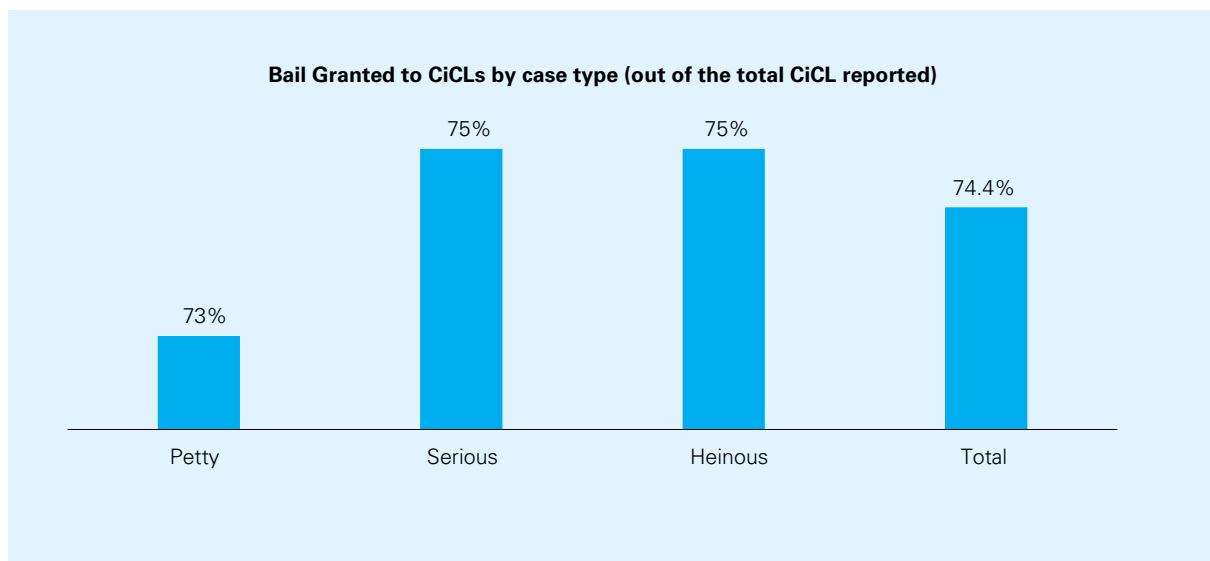
- Overall, 25% cases against CiCL have been terminated by the Authorities.
- Out of total cases terminated, 41% case disposed under Rule 10 (1) of JJ Model Rules.

Case Status – Preliminary Assessment and Transfer to Children’s Court



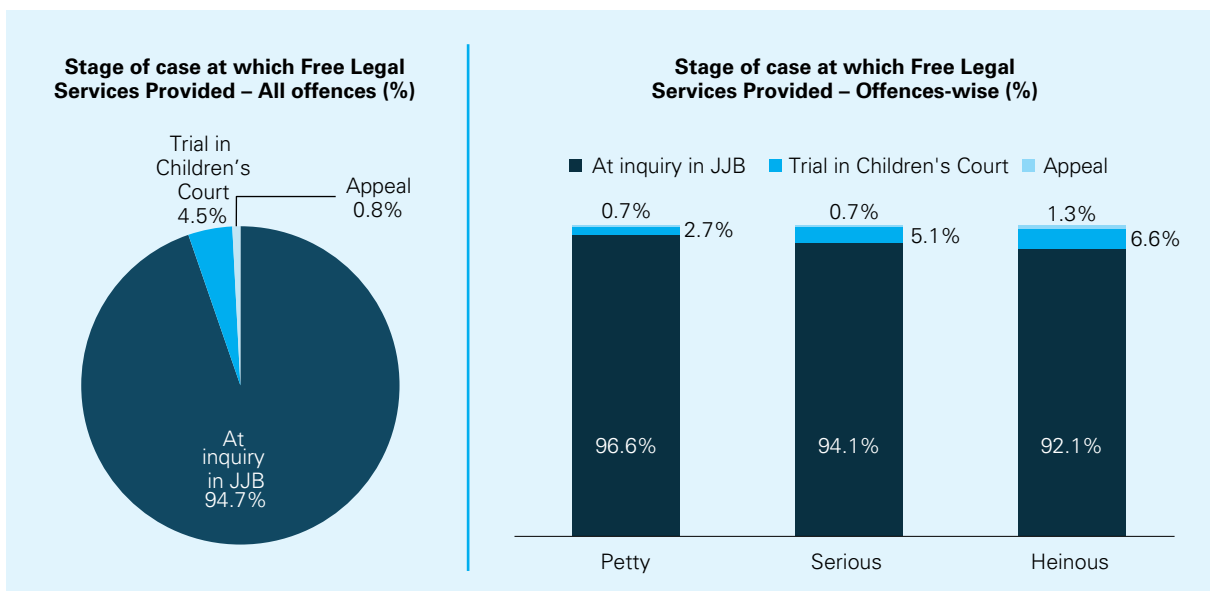
- Out of total CiCL reported for heinous offences, preliminary assessment was conducted for 46%.
- Out of total CiCL whose preliminary assessment was conducted, 29% CiCL cases were referred to Children’s Court by Juvenile Justice Board (JJB).
- Out of total CiCL cases referred to Children’ Court, 38% were tried as adults and 17% as child.

Bail Granted to CiCL



- Only 73% CiCL allegedly reported in petty offences have been granted bail.
- Out of the total CiCL, 74% CiCL have been granted bail.

Free Legal Aid Services



- Overall, 95% children were provided free legal aid services at the stage of inquiry in JJB.

Rehabilitation Services for Children in the OH/SH/Place of Safety

- **Nationally 76318 CiCLs** were provided with rehabilitative services of whom **62398 CiCLs** were successfully* rehabilitated.



Education

Number of children in Child Care Institutes connected with Educational Services

- 4330 CiCL - Observation Home
- 233 CiCL - Special Home
- 659 CiCL - Place of Safety



Individual Care Plan

Number of children in Child Care Institutes who have Individual Care Plans

5809 CiCL - Observation Home
288 CiCL - Special Home
963 CiCL - Place of Safety

**'successfully rehabilitated' is as per the subjective understanding of each reporting party*

