

UNICEF partners with Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi

Training on Media and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Workshop report

The workshop on the Training on Media and Convention on the Rights of the Child was focused on the urgency of knowing child rights and also why CRC is important to UNICEF and anthropology. Another important aspect of the workshop was to understand what a child rights approach is and how do child rights relate to human rights, needs and well-being. The training was also about how we can incorporate child rights and a child rights approach to our research work.



Prof. P.C. Joshi, the head of the department, warmly welcomed the CRC trainers, UNICEF staff and research scholars. He motivated the scholars who are working in the areas of media anthropology, medical anthropology, anthropology of childhood, public health, maternal and child health, visual anthropology etc. to infuse the child rights approach in their respective research works. Prof. Joshi mentioned that the Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi, partners with UNICEF not only in training on the convention on the rights of the child (CRC) but also assimilating CRC curriculum in courses offered by Anthropology department such as Media Anthropology and Anthropology of childhood.

Dr. Avitoli G. Zhimo (Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, DU) briefly introduced the objectives of the training of CRC and its relevance to the discipline of Anthropology.



CRC trainers **K. V. Venkatsubramanian** and **Surender Kumar Dhaleta** began the workshop with an interactive session. The participants introduced themselves and elucidated their respective research area and interest. CRC trainers took interactive session forward by screening contrasting pictures and controversial headlines, and asked the participants to find out what is missing or wrong in the picture or headline. The participants enthusiastically contributed to the nuance of pictures and headlines that

are projected on the screen from the perspective of child rights, protection of privacy and identity, children in natural disaster, crime against children, lack of awareness about crime against them etc.

After an intensive discussion, **Ms Alka Gupta** (communication specialist, UNICEF) deliberated on why CRC is important and needed and why does the convention matters and also how do child rights relate to human rights. She also discussed various CRC articles such as article 2,3,4,5,6,12 which are the foundation of a child rights approach. She showed various images during her interactive session with scholars such as children working in the agriculture fields, child marriage, malnutrition among children, the mid-day meal programme, polio vaccination and its availability everywhere, ANM and their work, health events at Anganwadi, the health status of a pregnant mother and a newborn child etc. She also discussed some pertinent issues which need to pay attention such as male participation in breastfeeding, their participation in child vaccination and also in child-rearing practices. In this session, many scholars also contributed their opinion with reference to their own fieldwork experience on children, maternal and child health etc.



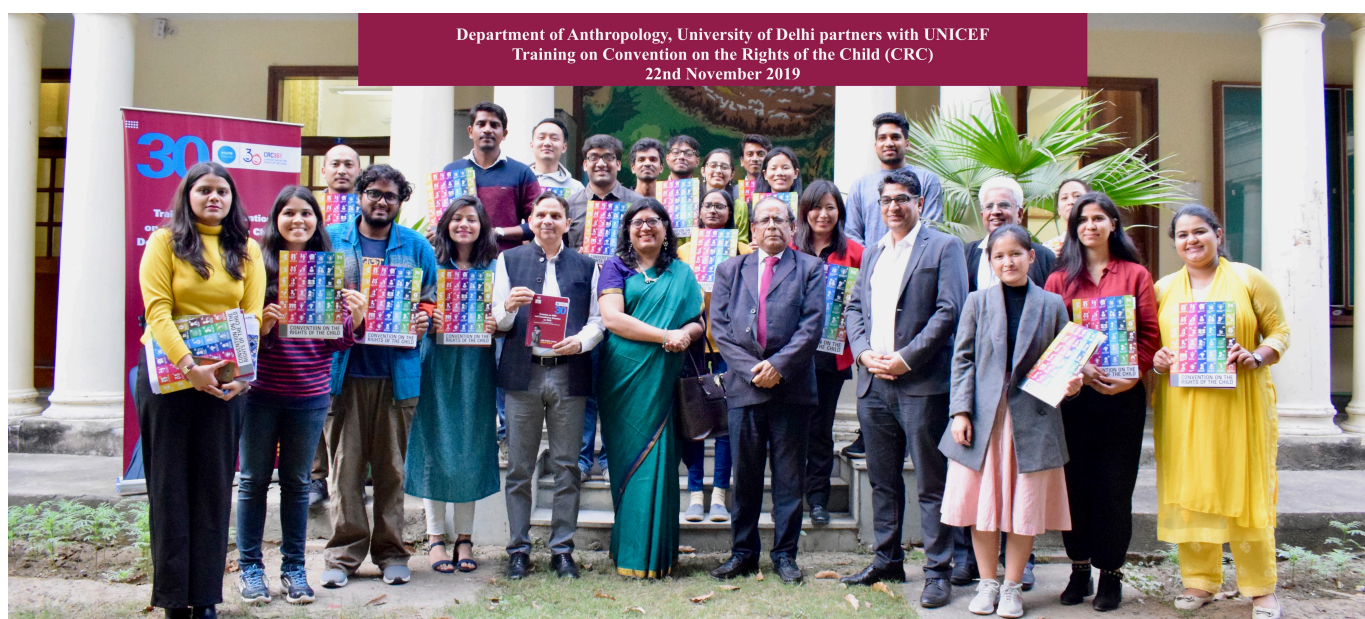
The post tea session was taken up by **Dr M.H. Ghazali** (editor, United news network). He talked about children's participation and their rights. He highlighted *Sangwari Khabariya*, a collective of child reporters training to be journalists from Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh. It actively advocates for the rights of adolescent girls, especially those who are excluded and marginalized. *Sangwari Khabariya* is a UNICEF effort in partnership with the district administration of Sarguja for children to participate, engage and advocate

for their rights. These young children are being trained in media tools like video and radio too. Through this example, he talked about contribution of media. He screened a documentary made by *Sangwari Khabariya* reporters on the status of girls' education in a marginalised village. He also discussed four rights such as rights of survival, rights of protection, rights of participation and rights of development. Few advertisements on child education by UNICEF India such as 'A for Apple', 'Roll Call' etc. were screened. He concluded his session with a phrase said by a child labourer in a documentary- "I don't know my rights but you don't know my life".

Post lunch, a group exercise was conducted by the CRC trainers where all 25 scholars were divided into 5 groups and each group was provided with a case study with few sets of questions. Each case study was based on themes such as disaster management, child protection, child labour, right to play. Based on the case studies and questions, each group was asked to prepare a five minutes presentation which was followed by discussion. Towards the end of the workshop, **Ms Sonia Sarkar**, communication officer (Media), UNICEF and **Dr. Vikram Mazumder**, conducted an interactive session with the participants and the latter gave feedback of the relevance of the current workshop and also their strategy to incorporate CRC in their present and future research.



At the end of the workshop, the UNICEF team and few faculty members of Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi discussed the possibilities of incorporating CRC courseware into the current curriculum of Media Anthropology, Medical Anthropology, and Anthropology of Childhood, which are offered at UG, PG, and M.Phil. respectively.



Report written by:-

Kanika Sharan
Ph.D. Scholar

Photography:

Eche Konyak
Ph.D. Scholar

