CHILD RIGHT CELL FOR THE CHILD RIGHT BASED SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICTS OF MALAPPURAM AND KOZHIKODE OF KERALA

Valsala KK
Mohammed Haris
Dr. Abdul Gafoor. P.K
Kerala, India.

Final Project Report
2009-2010

Be a change agent
CHILD RIGHT CELL FOR THE CHILD RIGHT BASED SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICTS OF MALAPPURAM AND KOZHIKODE OF KERALA

Introduction:

“CHILD IS LIKE A BOOK READ HIM FROM PAGES TO PAGES”

It is quite interesting to know more and more about children. Each child is unique and at the same time they have a lot of similarities too. So to have the best out of him is a real challenge in front of a real teacher. Catering the needs of each child is the prime duty of the teachers and preparing the teachers accordingly is also very essential and needful.

The classrooms of Kerala have changed so much positively in this direction during the past 13 years through the implementation of various programmes like:

1. **MLL** (Minimum Levels of Learning) – 1994, for the competency based classrooms

2. **DPEP** (District Primary Education Programme) -1997-2001, through which the classrooms became child centred, activity based and participatory.

3. **SSA** (Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, i.e; Education for All) -2001- till continuing, in which more importance is given to the social constructivist classroom, critical thinking and issue based pedagogy.

![Fig:1 School Education under SSA](image-url)
**Issues to be addressed**

1. A school based on child rights is still an aim that to be achieved in most of the schools in Kerala.

2. The unawareness regarding the child, his nature and his/her needs among the parents and teachers is a real issue that to be tackled at any cost.

3. Collective effort are not taken in to consideration in the caring and rearing practice of the child.

4. Children are still face many abusing and harassing situations in and outside the schools.

5. A school which catering all needs of the child is yet to be achieved.

6. Wider communicative networking for making all stakeholders of school education on child rights via the websites, posters and pamphlets, etc yet to be launched in the state in general and the selected districts (Malappuram, Kozhikode) in particular.

So the present issues can be tackled by a collective endeavor by launching an action programme through **THE CHILD RIGHT CELLS for the CHILD RIGHT BASED SCHOOLS** in the **MALAPPURAM AND KOZHIKODE DISTRICTS of KERALA** would be a feasible one. So the team from India has undertaken an action programme on the umbrella of **PARTICIPATION** and to the start work in this dimension with the following objectives

**Objectives of the Project**

The present project can be undertaken with the following objectives

1. To form and to make function the CRC (Child Right Cell) in the proposed schools with the equal participation of children, teachers and parents.

2. To make aware parents and teachers on Child Rights through workshops and through awareness programmes.

Be a change agent
3. To make the classrooms fully child centred through the suggestions and participation of the CRC members.

4. To conduct various in house and outside activities to boost children’s creativity and to find out different means for communicating it through magazines, exhibitions, children’s fairs and festivals.

4. To utilize various communication means, such as brochures, pamphlets, posters and websites to make aware teachers and parents regarding child rights and other related issues.

**Target groups of the project:**

*a) Target areas:* The programme has implemented in the two schools of MALAPPURAM and KOZHIKODE.

*b) Target groups:* The following are identified as the target groups in this project work.

1. Parents
2. Teachers
3. Children
4. Head teachers

**Expected Project Outcome(s):**

1. Through the present project Endeavour a participatory environment can be developed in the suggested schools in the decision making process especially with regard to the issues related to the children.

2. A conducive climate can be developed in the schools and converting them as child right based schools through the awareness programmes.
3. The creative expressions of the children could be maximized through various means and it will empower all stakeholders who are to be participated in the schooling process.

4. An effective communication network can be developed throughout the project areas through Web Site of DIET, Blog, posters, pamphlets, etc.

**Aim of the Project:**

The major aim of this project work is to make the proposed schools CHILD RIGHT BASED institutions in all decision-making processes, fully in thought, actions.

**Main activities of the Project:**

**I. Function the CRC (Child Right Cell)**

The CRC, is aimed to have a well-established body in the schools, which consists of parents, teachers, and students who work in collaboration for the well-being of children. So in this aspect, we conducted certain activities, the details are given below.

**Democracy in the schools through students councils**

**1. AMUPS Munduparamba**

Certain activities were undertaken in this direction in AMUPS Munduparamba.

Some of them are;

1. The school students council formation and meeting the students representatives frequently

![Students council meeting – Open discussion](image1)

![Student council members on web browsing](image2)

Be a change agent
Students Council is formed in the school through democratic way, by conducting general election in the school. The ballot paper was printed and class council members were selected through this procedure.

The present council consists of:
1. Class representatives, consists of two members from each class one girl and a boy.
2. School council includes all the elected class representatives, then they select one chairman and vice chairman.
3. The council also includes separate ministers, who care different student related issues

As a part of the project, the council became so active in AMUPS Munduparamba, we met student council members frequently and as result of this they also initiated certain general activities in and outside the school. They are:

**a. Creating the Local history** – We conducted an innovatory activity to know and document the local history of the school catchment area by discussion with the old people who live in the surrounding areas of the school. The student council undertook the overall control of the activity. The discussions were videographed well and the video was shown to all upper primary school children of the school too. This activity was well appreciated in the district Malappuram.

**b. Survey on the students by students council -2009-10**

The students council members decided to conduct a survey on all students to know them personally well. They prepared a tool to collect the data from all students. The work will be completed by the coming months.

**c. Photo Calendar in Each class**

Students council also decided to create a photo calendar for all classes including the photos of each student in a class. The work for it is already started, completed by July 2010 and it was inaugurated by our Mentor, Prof. Per on his school visit to AMUPS Munduparamba. 4th August, 2010.

The student council activities will be strengthened by the coming months and more activities can be expected soon.

Be a change agent
2. CRC Level activities at GHSS NGO Quarters, Calicut.

a. The students council

The students council is also activated well in this school, the following activities are undertaken in this direction

- This year (2010) we formed a school parliament with 15 members. Speaker, Prime minister, Secretary, 5 ministers, and opposition members.
- Every class has a class council with 7 members. Class leader, Secretary, and 5 ministers handling different departments (Health, Home, Education, Environment, Cultural activities),
- They elect school level ministers for each Dept.
- We put a box in front of the office to collect the problems facing by the students. Prime minister sort these and hand over to each Dept.
- Dept. ministers sit together and discuss about this and prepare a note to present in Parliament. Opposition members have the right to criticize the ministers.
- Departments (Health, Home, Education, Environment, Cultural activities),
- Headmistress is used to participate throughout the session.
- Minutes of the session will be prepared by the secretary and submitted to the HM.

b. **COUNSELLING CLASS FOR THE STUDENTS**

In order to increase children’s mental ability, we often conduct counselling classes for the senior batches with the help of clinical psychologists to handle such sessions.
II. Programmes for Parents and Teachers on Child Rights

As the second objective is to have various programmes in and outside the schools for parents for better parenting, so we conducted many activities in this direction. Activities are the following.

1. AMUPS Munduparamba

Parental Meetings for the Child

The present CRC also aimed to have an active PTA (Parents Teachers Associations), which was also activated in this school. The following activities were conducted in this regard.

a. Parental Meeting-2009

The parents were assembled in the school on various occasions in this year. The parent teacher combined meeting were held under various banner such as:

1. General Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Meeting – Held once for discussing the general issues.
2. CPTA gathering – Twice and it is organised for meeting parents specifically, i.e.; class wise to discuss the assessment data regarding students.
3. Mothers PTA – Met once and it held to give guidance to mothers. (Having Videos as evidence)

b. Special Parental Orientation-2010

A special orientation programme was organised in the AMUPS Munduparamba, which was a one day programme in which 400 parents were participated. The details of the programme are given below.
1. It conducted with a clear cut module based on various issues related to the child, including her rights, health and learning problems.

2. We got timely help from SSA (Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, a Kerala mission for the Education for All) they provided the food and other expenses for the programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session title and nature of programme</th>
<th>Resource Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 am – 10.30 am</td>
<td>Inauguration</td>
<td>By district self governing members, Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Educational Officer and Project Director of SSA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10.30am to 11.30am | Seminar on Child and her Rights
|                  | - Presentation                           | Dr. Abdul Gafoor P.K                                  |
|                  | - Discussion                             |                                                      |
| 11.45 am to 1 pm | Seminar on Child Health and care
|                  | - Presentation                           | Health Inspector, Local Govt. Hospital, Munduparamba |
|                  | - Discussion                             |                                                      |
| 2pm to 4 pm      | Class PTA
|                  | - Classwise Parents and teacher get together | Each Class Teacher                                    |
|                  | - Teacher presentations on various assessed children abilities |

So this programme was the first one in the district and later SSA extended the same activities to other selected schools in the Malappuram.

Be a change agent
c. Teacher Orientation

- We also empowered the teachers by meeting them frequently. We participated in the weekly teachers planning meeting in which various issues related to the students learning were discussed.
- Besides, certain evening get togethers were also organised in the open school ground, in which we used to discuss various issues.
- We conducted a separate expedition journey for the teachers to the near by hill and spent one day there.

2. GHSS NGO Quarters, Calicut.

a. HOME VISIT-2009-10

To make an effective learning process, we need to know the family background of each and every child. This thought made me to visit all my children’s home. I understood that more than 75% of them are of poor family backgrounds. Teacher can only provide a better environment that ensures their personal development.

Here is the comment of Change agent on her Home visit

As a part of my project, I have visited around 35 homes of my students. These visits were scheduled on weekends as their parents will be free for sharing their feelings. The MPTA members of our school also assisted me for making this work successful.

The most important lesson I learned from these visits is that we cannot adopt a common strategy in classrooms. Most of the parents were not well educated and they were least concerned about their children’s studies. Some of the parents were using liquors and were creating a terrible situation that harmfully affects their children’s living atmosphere. This in turn affects their studies as well. Such a living situation is making my children introvert and shy. This makes a barrier in developing inter personal relationships as well as teacher-student relationships.

Be a change agent
Some parents are wealthy and are giving a lot of bucks as pocket-money. They are never aware how their children are spending this money in extravagantly. I did a case study and could understand that they are using this money for some anti-social activities. The situation is getting worse as they get support from local people. This becomes a habit and in case they lack in pocket money, they finds their own way to make the money.

Here comes the importance of the home visit, where I could make a platform for parents and teachers to share their views and feelings by making a good teacher-parent relationship. After this visits, I am getting phone calls of parents enquiring their children’s day to day activities and study progress. I am proud to say that my home visit influenced many other teachers in my school and neighboring schools. Kozhikode Corporation selected my project as the best work done in 2009-2010 in the education department.

III. Child Centred Class Rooms and Activities to boost creativity of Children

As the third and forth objective are to conduct various activities in the schools for promoting the idea of child centredness and to enhance creativity exploratory activities in the project schools, we have undertaken the following works in this regard.

1. AMUPS MUNDUPARAMBA

The entire school activities get energised with our project activities and the class structure changed both in physical and academic aspects in a positive way. The activities are the following.

1. Science workshop (October -2009)

One of the activities undertaken in the school is a workshop on science experimentation, where the students were participated in various scientific activities. The work shop was led by an expert on experiment for a day. The main activities undertaken in the workshop are;

c. Demonstration and discussion

Group activity – doing experiments

Students in the workshop

Be a change agent
2. Work experience for exploring the creativity of the children

Various activities were undertaken in this direction. Programmes were to explore all possibilities to utilise various potentialities of the students at the best, the following activities are undertaken in the school.

a. Clay modelling

b. Painting

c. Model making

d. Origami.

3 Healthy body for healthy and creative individual

Under this banner we conducted two main programmes in the school. They are;


This is a district level programme that organised for increasing the awareness of the children on health. The district level inaugural programme in which various eminent district level officials were participated, the are:

- District Collector
- District Panchayet President and other LSG members
- Educational officers.

The programme was well organised, UNICEF also sent its special letter to the schools to organise such district and local level programmes on hand wash day.

District level inauguration – by District Panchayet President
Medical Camp for the Students
A medical camp was also organised with the support of the near by Goverment Homoeo Hospital. In the camp, we distributed medicines to the needed parents and students.

Inauguration session of the Camp

World Food Day (October -2009)
In this day all students in classes brought many leafy food items that prepared by their mothers and exhibited it in the classes. The exhibition was followed by the Lunch by sharing all those prepared food items. This helped to develop a clear idea about various leafy vegetables in the surrounding areas and to create an attitude among the students to include vegetables in their daily food.

4. National Integration Activities
Many activities were conducted in the school in this regard such as;

i. Special publications for the day by the students

ii. Club level activities, public marches, march fast by various students club members were also conducted in the school

Guides –with 40 Girls !!

Be a change agent
National Integration Day-2010 – Students Public March

Band troupe march- January 2010

Literary Activities

In AMUPS Munduparamba, we conducted various literary activities in connection with the classroom works. We have a literary club in the school, named in our local language as ‘Vidya Rangam’ (Knowledge stage). This club is very active in the school and conducted many works under its banner.

1. Publications – Class room magazines

From each class division, we published individual manuscript magazines as a part of the daily classroom works. On special occasion, certain other materials were also published. They are;

1. Class magazines as a part of daily classroom works

Kerala text books are issue based one and the students have to confront with various social issues and accordingly a number creative and constructive literary written works are usually generated out of each classroom. So we are showing here examples for such magazines.

2. Trees to tell stories

This is another activity carried out in the school, here students constructed many story telling trees and exhibited it publically in th school.

Be a change agent
3. Book Exhibition

District level magazine Preparation

Students of the school were participated in a district level competition on the onsite magazine preparation and won first prize in it. They could develop a magazine named as ‘NIRANGAL’ (means Colours).

Manuscript magazine – which got first prize in the district.

School Inland Magazine – 2009-10

Be a change agent
An inland type magazine is published on February 2010 and it distributed to all students and parents through the annual arts day 2010. It includes various creative literary expressions of the children.

**Inland magazine 2010**

**Galileo Little Scientist Programme 2009-2010**

In AMUPS Munduparamba certain activities are carried out to ensure the students participation in the class room. As the Galileo little scientist programme launched in the state of Kerala to boost scientific temper among the students, here the same programme was undertaken in the school too with a different vision. Activities are the following:

**1. Role Playing**

Role play is organised in the school and all science club members were participated in it. Theme of the role play is the Solar System. Students planned and took various roles in this and demonstrated it publically.

Be a change agent
2. **Public Rally**

As a part of Galileo Little Scientist Programme we conducted a public procession with placards, bandset and with varios models on various space rockets to create public awareness on the scientific space expeditions.

![Image of a public rally](image1.png)

---

1. **Sky watch – 14th January 2010.**

A one day night camp was organised in the school to observe different galaxies. An expert from out side amnaged this session and for explained various galaxies in night sky.

The day time was used the students to prepare the solar filters to watch the the Solar Eclipse that obseved on 15th January, 2010. On the next day, that is on the day of solar eclipse, we observed it as a day to watch the solar eclipse with the self made solar filters.

![Image of students preparing solar filters](image2.png)

---

Be a change agent
Activities conducted on 14th and 15th January 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Who conducted and for what?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13-01-2010</td>
<td>Public survey on the awareness of the people on the solar eclipse</td>
<td>By the students, visited surrounding places, collected public opinion. The data were analysed and results generated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-01-2010</td>
<td>Solar Filter preparation in all classes. They also made solar mirrors and other means to watch the eclipse.</td>
<td>Students to watch the Solar Eclipse with chart paper and solar filter filament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Camp on Sky Watch – Night camp</td>
<td>Science club members participated in it. An expert led the session at night and students spent that night in the school itself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-01-2010</td>
<td>Solar Eclipse observation</td>
<td>Students themselves prepared solar filters. Besides various modes were developed to observe the eclipse. Local TV channel and new daily reported the function well.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

District Panchayet President, students and teachers observing the solar eclipse (Newspaper report)

Study Visit

Study visits were also organised in the school to various places as a part of the classroom works.
Students in the laboratory for Water treatment.

School Fest 2010
A school anniversary fest was also organised in the school in which all students were participated in various cultural activities like:
1. Reciting poems
2. Singing
3. Dancing
4. Theater games
5. Action songs

Invitation cards prepared by the students to parents
Stage of Annual day Performance

Be a change agent
Achievements at State and District Level

The emotional climate of the school also became very positive so all students engaged with a positive attitude and with the fullest spirit. This led to various State and district level achievements of the students in various co-curricular activities.

Certificate obtained in Model making at State level

Activities in 2010

1. World Environmental Day

2. As a part of this, we conducted various activities, they are mentioned below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plants distribution to students and parents</td>
<td>Distributed various plants to parents and children. Parents collected plants from school and students also visited certain houses and distributed the plant directly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planting trees in the school campus</td>
<td>Teachers, students and also planted trees as apart of this programme. A corner garden is also completed in the campus as a part of this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation to parents on global warming</td>
<td>Teachers and students visited various homes and conducted on site awareness classes with computer and self-made PPT on global warming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local environment study</td>
<td>Upper primary students and teachers were also engaged in the study of biodiversity of the locality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathrubhumi SEED programme</td>
<td>By collaborating with the famous New Daily of Kerala (Mathrubhumi), we also conducted the seed distribution programme to students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanamitra (Friends of Forest) Programme</td>
<td>With assistance of Forest department we implemented this programme, in which awareness classes, plans distributions, etc were undertaken.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Be a change agent
3. Literary Activities

Various literary activities are conducted in the school, such as:

1. **Reading Week** – under this we constructed a separate learning hut in the campus, where students used to sit and read books.
2. **Class wise News Magazine** (Manuscript)
3. **Class wise trimonthly manuscript magazine**
4. **Trees of Creative expressions**
5. **Book exhibition and book distribution-2010**

---

Be a change agent
4. Lunar Day Celebrations

We created a Lunar Hut in the campus, in which a model of the Moon is constructed in it with cards to explore the moon.

Lunar Hut
III. Project Activities in GHSS NGO Quarters Calicut.

The change agents from Kerala also have undertaken various activities in GHSS NGO Quarters Calicut (here Ms. Valsala is working). The activities are duly carried out as per the schedule and all details are given below.

1. **WORKSHOP ON DRAMA**

   Please read the words of the change agent on her experience.

   "Hear her voice!!! In my experience, I could understand that most of the children have some inborn talents. If we provide chance to bring them out, it will be a great thing. Moreover, it helps them to get rid of their hesitation and inhibitions that may indirectly affect their studies which strengthen their mental capacity and inter-personal relationships. This helps to maintain a good teacher-student relationship.

   So the Drama camp was undertaken in the school with participation of students of the school.

   ![Drama camp](image)

**WORKSHOP ON SOAP MAKING**

   Activity based classrooms will automatically generate interest and enthusiasm in their studies. So, we decided to conduct a half-day workshop on soap making. The main ingredient of this hand-made soap is coconut oil which is cheaply available in Kerala as it is the main crop here. Soap being an essential commodity in day-to-day life, this will help them to make soaps for their own use and gives self confidence and happiness with this work.

Be a change agent
WORKSHOP ON BOOK BINDING

Most of the children in my class are using old notebooks of their senior students. I could see that most of them are damaged and the pages are toned-out. That is the reason why I conducted this workshop with the help of my peon who is an expert in book binding. This helps the children to make new notebooks with the unused pages of their old books.

WORKSHOP ON STORY WRITING

Most of the children have hidden talents in them. This programme helps to promote children’s imagination and letting them to write their expressions and feelings. This programme empowers their minds.
FIELD TRIP
Field trip is a part of the learning process. In our curriculum most of the subjects need outdoor experiences. So, we conduct field trips to improve their subject knowledge which will encourage social attitude. Thus it helps to improve teacher-pupil relationship.

EXCURSION
It’s a regular practice for the children to sit in the class from morning to evening which make boredom and mental fatigue. In order to relax the pupil, often we conduct excursions. Such programme reduces their mental stress and brings a good atmosphere in the school.

Project activities 2010( on Child centred school)
The following activities are undertaken this year to create a child caring atmosphere in the school

- In our school we started a new programme in Mid-day meals. Children bring a piece of vegetable once in a week. On that day ‘the curry prepared in the school is known as’ My Curry’. All the parents are interested to do their best.

- In order to increase children’s mental ability we often conduct counselling classes for the senior students with the help of Clinical Psychologists.
This year we started a clinic for counselling and the Clinical psychologist Dr. Beena George Offered her service when ever we are in need.

Soap making ,Vegetable plantation,Book binding,Fabric painting are the other activities.

IV . Communication Means for the Child Rights
We put forth a fifth objective to create various ways to promote child rights practices in the project schools at one hand and state or selected districts as a whole in other hand.

So we could able to organise the following activities in this field.

1. Web site Link on child Rights

Started a Web link for Child rights in the Web Site of DIET Malappuram. (www.dietmalappuram.org) with the following features

Features:
- Link with a head Children’s corner
- Children’s corner with
  - Introductory page
  - Read more button
- When click read more will lead to a page with various websites on child rights and learning.
- Besides it also includes two other buttons , Child rights( PDF document prepared for familiarising teachers on CHILD RIGHTS) and it contains the new Right to Education bill (India).

Be a change agent
Website Home Page

Child Rights –PDF Document
A thirty three page PDF document was prepared in this regard and posted to the link in the same website.

Right to Education Bill (India)
Website also includes the new Right Education Bill as scanned document, so all concerned persons will get the necessary information regarding the bill from the site.

IT Training to Heads of the schools and Teachers-09
We organised a five day IT training programmes for Heads of the schools in the district and school teachers in DIET Malappuram, Kerala. In the training, one day is fully utilised to familiarise each participant on the Web site of DIET and the concerned ‘children’s’ corner by browsing the web site.

Besides the teachers of Malappuram district were also familiarised the blog on children ‘CHILD IN NEED’, which is created by the change agents. Email messages were sent to all Educational Officers in the Malappuram district and informed the school heads to visit the blog and to send photos of innovatory activities of their schools to the BLOG.

Be a change agent
Besides, other activities conducted in the schools of the other change agents were also added to the blog. This way we created a blog, which tries to explore the possibility of creativity among the children.

**Blog on children**

A photo blog has been developed to display the various works done in schools (both SIDA project participants and others) [www.creativechild.wordpress.com](http://www.creativechild.wordpress.com)

Accordingly, various schools used to send their photos to the blog. Still the blog is active and we are getting many photos and used to post it at the earliest.

**Orientation programme for the teacher trainees**

We formed a district level child Right club in Malappuram and conducted various activities in teacher training institutions (TTIs). As a part of this we could able to conduct following programmes.

1. Formation of Child Rights Clubs in TTIs
2. Conducted one day orientation in each TTI on Child Right, with many activities
3. Conducted a district level discussion cum exhibition work shop at DIET Malappram, in which Pro.Per and Mans also attended.

Be a change agent
Special achievement of the Change agent

Due to the various activities in the school, Mr. Mohammed Haris got National Teachers Award for 2009. He received the award from the Hon. President of India on the occasion of the National teachers day on 5th September, 2010.

Popularisation of the Project work in Kerala

We are able to popularise the project work throughout the State of Kerala by various means like newspapers, TV channels, etc. Best example for this is the extent news coverage that we got when Prof. Per visited our project schools. Besides we could publish certain articles in the local news dailies on our experience in Sweden and Ethiopia.
Conclusion

We the three change agents have conducted the above mentioned activities in the project schools from the year 2009 to 2010 in the schools. We are motivated further to do much in this regards.

School as a place where students have to gather information through various means is given here more importance and we tried to create a fully participatory environment in the schools. We could able to develop an exploratory climate in the project areas. So as we planned in the project proposal, it tried our level best to do works on time and we hope that it made certain remarkable changes in the schools as a whole.

But still we have hope and energy to go further,

And miles to go before our sleep,
And miles to go before our sleep.

==============================================================

Be a change agent