



**Two Days Online
State Level Conference on**

Child Protection Concerns and Responses during Covid-19 Pandemic

**IQAC, College of Social Work (Autonomous),
Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai**

4th & 5th October 2021

10.00 am to 1.00 pm (IST)

College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan

The College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan was founded in 1955 by a Catholic women's religious society, the Daughters of the Heart of Mary. The vision and mission of the College is to contribute to a new order based on human dignity and social justice. The College has Bachelor's, Master's and PhD programs in social work along with short-term skill-based courses. The college has received the highest ranking from NAAC in all its three cycles of accreditation. The College was granted autonomy in 2019. It also holds the 62nd position in the NIRF rankings for the year 2020.

Concept Note:

“Any child living anywhere under precarious circumstances needs to be protected because the right to a childhood is simply and unequivocally a universal right (Sorenson & Nuyts, 2007).”

Covid-19 pandemic is an unprecedented crisis for mankind. This disease and consequent lockdown has posed grave challenges for all of us. There has been a sea change in the way we live our lives; global economic shutdown, physical distancing and newer forms of relating with each other is now new normal. Within this situation, newer set of vulnerabilities have also emerged for the people who have always been at the receiving end of the so called development process. Newer forms of vulnerabilities are getting exposed of sections such as children, women, youth, workers in informal economy and elderly, physically and mentally challenged people for whom this pandemic is proving to be quite harsh and disastrous mainly because of loss of livelihood, increased abuse and violence within their spaces. Children are particularly vulnerable to disruptions the pandemic has caused and a large number of children are lagging behind in their development with their survival of many of them being at stake. The mental health and psychosocial impact of closure of schools along with being locked within the four walls of homes are likely to deepen the already existing stress which children from vulnerable sections are facing. This has been a year of unprecedented adversity, there has been a tremendous learning loss that threatens the future of our children and country. This subgroup with large numbers of children in India, comprise children in adversity or children living in difficult circumstances. India is home to over 30% of almost 385 million children living in extreme poverty or adversity, highest in South Asia (UNICEF, 2016). For children, 'adversity' has been defined as the experiences of life events and circumstances which threaten or challenge their healthy development (Daniel B, 2011). This definition assumes that children's developmental paths can be affected by various adverse factors such as physical or sexual abuse, trauma of loss and bereavement, extreme situations such as environments of neglect, experiences of discrimination and family stressors, structural inequalities and socio-economic disadvantages (Daniel., 2010). Children in adversity thus are from families affected by various forms of socio-economic vulnerabilities such as migrant labour, single-parent families, daily

wage earners and absence of livelihood opportunities. These children are at greater psychosocial risks such as neglect, violence, abuse, single-parent families, illness/death/disability of primary caregivers. These vulnerabilities have been exacerbated by the pandemic placing children at heightened risks of child protection and psychosocial problems.

It is in this context that the conference intends to deliberate around the concerns related to child rights and child protection more specifically in the context of Maharashtra state along with discussing and outlining the response and interventions as undertaken by both government and civil society to respond to the challenges of child protection.

Objectives:

1. To deliberate upon the child rights concerns related to survival, health (both physical and mental health) and education of children within the pandemic context.
2. To recognise the child protection concerns with specific reference to child abuse, child labour child marriage and trafficking of children etc as aggravated by the present pandemic.
3. To learn about the child protection legal and policy framework as existing in the country including an array of institutional and non-institutional services for Children in adversity.
4. To consolidate the responses of child protection mechanism to address the child protection concerns as undertaken by both the government machinery and also by civil society organisations.
5. To consolidate the learnings through conference and undertake concerted efforts in the field of child protection

Themes:

- I. Concerns and Responses with reference to children's right to survival, health (and mental health) and education during pandemic**
- II. Child protection concerns including child marriage, child abuse, child labour and trafficking in the pandemic context**
- III. Child protection mechanism including laws, institutional and non-institutional services**
- IV. Response of civil society in addressing the child rights and child protection concerns during pandemic.**

Please note that the content of papers sent should reflect one of the themes mentioned.

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/h8CJfKgmxmS4ds4D6>

Registration fees:

Participants: Rs. 200/-

Paper Presenters: Rs. 500/-

Bank Details

Payable to	: Nirmala Niketan Institute, College of Social Work
Bank	: State Bank of India
Branch	: Churchgate
IFSC	: SBIN0001821
Account Number	: 38339112552
Account type	: Current

Call for Papers

This State level Conference will consider submissions from academicians and practitioners engaged with the issues of child rights and child protection within the state of Maharashtra. Submissions should match with one of the Conference themes as mentioned.

Guidelines for abstract and paper submission

- * All abstracts and papers for presentation at the conference must focus on the theme of the conference: Child Protection Concerns and Responses during Covid-19 Pandemic
- * Abstracts of maximum 300 words will be peer reviewed and selected if found suitable.
- * The word length of the full papers is maximum 4000 words.
- * **Abstract Submission Deadline: 30th August 2021**
- * Selected abstracts for presentation notified on or before: **5th September 2021**
- * **Full paper and PowerPoint submission deadline: 20th September 2021**
- * Papers should be language edited before submission. Power point presentations should not have more than 10-12 slides.
- * All submissions to be mailed to: nirmal.niketan.conference@gmail.com
- * Please indicate “Child Protection Concerns and Responses during Covid-19 Pandemic (Title of the conference)” in the subject line.
- * Abstract and full paper must be typed using double-space in MS Word using Times New

Roman font, 12 font size.

- * Please use the [APA Style](#) for your citations and references.
- * Please identify a minimum of 4, and a maximum of 7, keywords reflecting the content of your paper.

Selection Process

Of all the abstracts received, only 16 presenters will be selected for the full paper submission and subsequent online presentation during the conference.

Evaluation Criteria

1. The paper makes original contribution
2. The paper is well organized
3. The Guidelines for Paper Submission are followed properly in preparing the papers
4. The literature review is adequate
5. The paper is based on a sound theoretical framework and/or research methodology
6. The analysis and findings are germane to the objective(s) of the paper

For more information:

E mail: nirmala.niketan.conference@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.cswnn.edu.in>

Contact: +91-22-22002615/22067345

Advisors:

Dr. Nilima Mehta

Ms. Dolly James

Organisers:

Dr. Lidwin Dias, Principal

Dr. Vaijayanta Anand, IQAC Coordinator

Conference Convenor

Dr. Renu Shah

Members: Ms. Meghna Vesvikar, and Ms. Pallavi Xalxo



State level Online Conference on Child Protection: Concerns and Responses during Covid-19 Pandemic

A two-day State Level Online Conference is organised by IQAC, College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan (Autonomous) Mumbai on 4th-5th October 2021. The conference aims to deliberate on concerns related to child rights and child protection in the context of Maharashtra state along with discussing and outlining the response and interventions as undertaken by both government and civil society to respond to the challenges of child protection.

Themes:

- I. Concerns and Responses with reference to children's right to survival, health (physical and mental health) and education during pandemic
- II. Child protection concerns including child marriage, child abuse, child labour and trafficking in the pandemic context
- III. Child protection mechanism including laws, institutional and non-institutional services
- IV. Response of civil society in addressing the child rights and child protection concerns during pandemic

Conference Fees

Registration fees for Participants: Rs. 200/-

Registration fees for Paper Presenters: Rs. 500/-

Payment Details

Conference fees paid through NEFT Bank Transfer

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Dr. Asha Bajpai
Keynote Speaker
Retired Professor, TISS,
Consultant for UNW



Dr. Nilima Mehta
Valedictory Speaker
Child Protection Expert



Ms. Priti Patkar
Human Rights Activist
Co-founder and Director,
PRERNA



Mrs. Farida Lambay
Former Vice-Principal,
College of Social Work, NN
Founding Director, Pratham



Ms. Dolly James
Project Consultant
Navjeevan Centre



Adv. Maharukh Adenwala
Child Rights Lawyer



Ms. Alpa Vora
Child Protection Specialist
UNICEF- Maharashtra