## Annual Report April 2020 – March 2021





HAQ: Centre for Child Rights

B-1/2, Ground Floor, Malviya Nagar,

New Delhi-110017

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## **LEGAL AID & CHILD ASSISTANCE**

#### 2020 -2021:

- 571 referrals of CSA cases forwarded by the CWCs, CSOs, Police, CCIs and Individuals.
- Psycho-social support extended to all.
- 102 children represented before various JJBs, Sessions Courts and High Court of Delhi
- 12 cases disposed 10 convictions and 2 acquittals.
- 1 appeal filed in an acquittal case.

Current number of children receiving legal assistance cum psycho-social support - 322

Year	Legal Aid and Support				Counselling				Total
	CICL		CNCP		CICL		СМСР		
	Μ	F	Μ	F	М	F	М	F	
2005	1	0	4	3	0	1	0	0	9
2006	16	0	1	3	1	3	1	0	25
2007	13	0	2	3	2	1	0	0	21
2008	32	0	1	1	3	1	0	2	40
2009	26	1	15	10	45	4	1	6	108
2010	17	0	14	28	46	1	2	9	117
2011	12	1	21	12	53	4	2	3	108
2012	105	0	6	15	109	1	7	14	257
2013	1	0	4	22	157	3	2	8	197
2014	0	0	2	14	166	0	2	18	202
2015	0	0	94	26	114	0	16	96	346
2016	0	0	7	127	125	4	6	102	371
2017	0	0	12	135	79	2	2	34	264
2018	0	0	08	38	33	1	5	58	143
2019	0	0	12	38	24	0	127	9	210
2020	0	0	10	99	0	0	8	73	190
Total	223	2	213	574	957	26	181	432	2608
(16 Veera)									

(16 Years)

Note: The figures in the above tables reflect only the fresh cases taken up by HAQ in the different years. Every year there is also a backlog of cases being followed up from the previous years.

\*In the case of CNCPs, we have provided children legal aid as well as psycho-social support. In some cases, we have also provided economic support. Although this leads to double counting, in effect each service provided is distinct and through staff specialising in different areas.

## RESTORATIVE CARE FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

#### 2020-21:

**Emotional/psychological support** - 111 cases, out of which counselling support was provided in 91 cases largely through in-house counsellors. Efforts are ongoing in 20 cases.

**Educational support** - Assistance to **27** children to continue education through regular school or NIOS and/or vocational training courses. Need is fully met in 10 cases and efforts are ongoing in **17** cases.

**Medical support** - Medical needs ranging from assistance for safe abortion to safe delivery, injuries and infections in private parts due to the incident identified and met in 20 cases. Efforts ongoing in 5 cases.

**Paralegal support** - 9 children provided para-legal support in the form of, testimony preparation, including pre-trial visits to the courts where necessary, helping with procuration of identity documents such as Aadhar Card. In another 2 cases paralegal support needs identified are partially met. Efforts ongoing in n 84 cases.

## **RESTORATIVE CARE (CONTD.)**

**Support for shelter-protection** - Shelter protection needs fully met in **17** cases by way of helping families file complaints in case of threats, applying for witness protection and placing the child and their siblings in a shelter home where the home environment was hostile for them, especially in incest cases, rent support due to difficulties arising on account of the COVID pandemic. Shelter-protection needs partially met in **2** cases.

**Financial support** – Secured interim compensation in **15** cases and final compensation in **10** cases. Additional **38** cases received interim compensation through follow-up on application filed by other agencies. In **15** cases of interim compensation and **4** cases of final compensation, follow-up continues.

**Parents' Support Group** – We are unable to continue with meetings with the parents group due to COVID restrictions. Individual counselling of mothers has taken place in 7 cases and in 3 cases efforts are ongoing for linking the mothers with legal aid services for domestic violence.

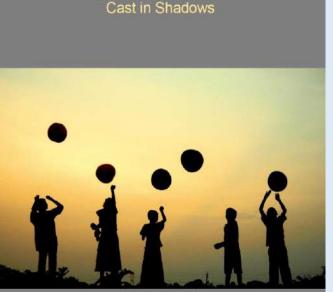
## **BUDGET FOR CHILDREN (BFC)**

Published and disseminated "Budget for Children 2021-22 Cast in Shadows"

Overall decline of children's share in the Union Budget, from 3.16% in 2020-21 to 2.46% in 2021-22, lowest in the last ten years.

As per Overall Allocations for the Welfare of Children in 2021-22, the financial outlays for the Department of School Education and Literacy have reduced by 9.71 per cent. This decrease is questionable in the context of the New Education Policy, 2020 which is focussed towards inclusive education and improving the quality of education. Even though COVID has led to online classes, the fact that many children do not have the equipment and internet connection has not been taken into account while preparing the budget.

Merger of schemes with reduced budgets has been the trend in the child development and child protection sector.



Budget for Children 2021-22



HAQ: Centre for Child Rights B-1/2, Ground Floor, MalWya Nagar, New Delhi-110017 Phone: 011-26677412/41077977; Fax-011-26674888 Website: www.haqcrc.org, Email: info@haqcrc.org

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

### **CHILD MARRIAGE PREVENTION**

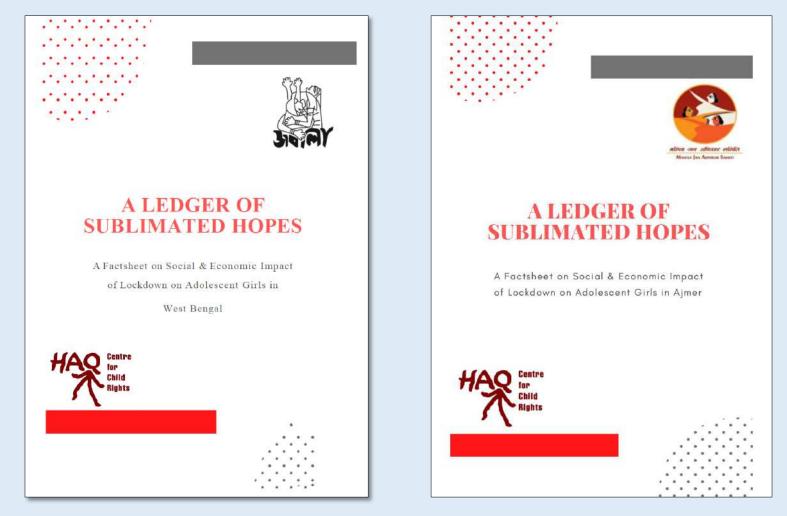
- Strengthening networking amongst peer leaders and AGG Due to restricted mobility during the pandemic, cluster-wise egirls group were formed in the project areas, which helped in staying connected with them. These groups were a big source of information. The teams in West Bengal and Rajasthan were able to mentor girls as and when required during the pandemic.
- Inter-sectoral Dialogue on Child Marriage Prevention and response – In September 2019, after an external review of the project an inter-sectoral dialogue on child marriage prevention and response was jointly organised by HAQ and SAHAJ. Why Child Marriages continue to challenge us? - Discussion Paper -1/2020 based on the inter-sectoral dialogue was prepared by Enakshi Ganguly and Neelam Singh in July 2020.

WHY CHILD MARRIAGES CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE US?

A NEED FOR A CROSS-SECTORAL DIALOGUE



HAQ: Centre for Child Rights SAHAJ



 Study on the impact of COVID on adolescent girls in the two states of Rajasthan and West Bengal – A quick assessment of the impact of lockdown during the COVID pandemic on adolescent girls was undertaken in the project areas in West Bengal and Rajasthan, collecting views and perceptions of girls on increase in violence, child marriage, mental trauma, anxiety, depression and issues relating to access to education and health services.

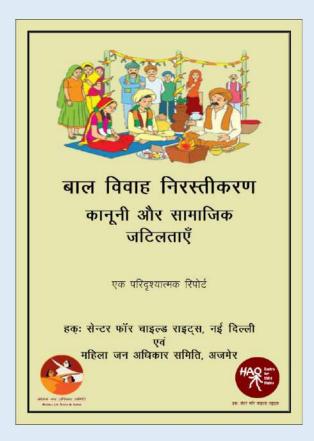
#### Raising the age of marriage to 21 years and child protection concerns –

A Task Force was constituted by the Central Government to address the need for raising the age of marriage for girls from 18 to 21 years. The proposal drew attention from several groups across the country including HAQ. Joint submissions were prepared and sent to the Task Force and other concerned authorities against the move.

Even as HAQ continues to explore what can help prevent child marriages and improve the system and societies' response to child marriage, increasing criminalization of adolescents entering into a wedlock out of choice or due to prevalence of child marriage has been



a concern. To HAQ there is a need to focus on sexual and reproductive rights, life skills, education and vocational skilling of girls instead of making changing laws in the name of child protection. As part of the National Coalition Advocating for Adolescent Concerns (NCAAC), HAQ has been sharing its concerns on such issues at various national and international platforms, including joining the efforts by PLD to draw attention of members of the CEDAW and CRC Committee.  Study on Annulment of Child Marriages – In 2018 HAQ, along with MJAS embarked on a study on annulment of child marriages as certain complexities were noticed on the ground with respect implementation of the annulment provisions in the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. Based on 20 case studies along with FGDs with adolescent girls, lawyers and various authorities and civil society organisations, the study is finally concluded and published in the form of a report titled, "Bal Vivaah: Kanooni aur Samaajik Jatiltayein".



# Number of cases in which intervention was made or follow up undertaken:

	West Bengal	Rajasthan	Total
Total number of cases intervened in 2020 - 2021	2	12	14
Total number of follow up cases from 2019 - 2020	20	14	34
Total number of follow up cases from 2018 - 2019	48	18	66
Total number of cases followed up	112	61	173
Total number of girls who had stopped their marriage & gauna	-	< 300	< 300

### **CHILDREN AND MINING**

Taking forward HAQ's work on children and mining, in 2019 HAQ embarked on another project focusing on the situation of children in mining areas of Sonbhadra

and Mirzapur Districts in Uttar Pradesh, Nellore and Krishna Districts in Andhra Pradesh and Kabirdham and Korba Districts in Chhattisgarh and use of the District Mineral Foundation Trust Funds (MDFT Funds) for their benefit.

#### Activities undertaken during the year:

- 6 Handouts were prepared on the DMFT Fund, its composition, significance for mining affected communities, accessing benefits from the Fund and seeking accountability. CSOs who are part of this project are translating or adapting them in local language for further use.
- Field visits were undertaken to Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Krishna, Nellore and Kabirdham.
- Draft Research Report on the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMF) and its use for the rights of women and children of mining affected communities has been prepared.



### PROMOTING FINANCING & FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY ON EDUCATION FOR GIRLS

In April 2020, Malala Fund commissioned a project on promoting financing and financial accountability for girl child education through budget analysis and technology based tool

#### Locations:

Baksa and Barpeta (Assam); Gaya and Muzaffarpur (Bihar); Bahraich and Shravasti (Uttar Pradesh)

#### In Partnership with:

North Eastern Social Research Centre (Assam), PRAXIS (Bihar) and PACE (Uttar Pradesh)

#### Purpose:

- To highlight the bottlenecks in financing education for girls at panchayat, district and state level.
- To promote budget literacy and transparency in access to budget documents with the help of technology. This is being done as a pilot in Uttar Pradesh in partnership with CivicDataLab, a tech-based organization. The tool developed for this called the "Girls' Education & Well-Being Spending Tracker."

### **CHILDREN IN BRICK KILNS**

In January 2021, HAQ received a grant from terre des hommes - Germany (for research, training and advocacy towards building a child rights-based model of sustainable food sovereignty for children of seasonal migrant workers in brick kilns in Surir (Mathura District, Uttar Pradesh) and Ajmer and Bhilwara Districts in Rajasthan. The project is part of a larger initiative supported by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ) and involves the Centre for Education and Communication (CEC) in Uttar Pradesh and the Centre for Labour Research and Action (CLRA) in Rajasthan for carrying out health and nutrition related initiatives on the ground in addition to engagement with trade unions, workers' collectives and brick kiln owners and the state machinery

This is the first time HAQ has undertaken a project with a specific focus on child health and nutrition.

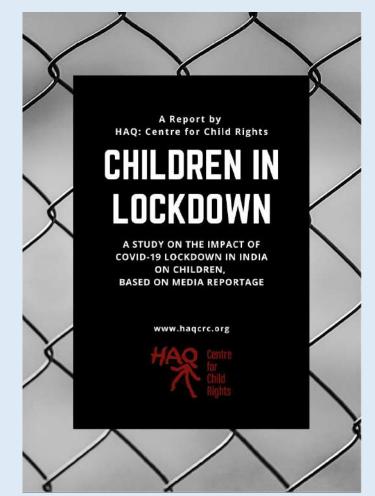
#### **Role of HAQ:**

- A comprehensive study on the health and nutrition status of children of brick kiln workers in areas of destination and origin
- Developing tools for capacity building and awareness programmes for different target groups such as brick kiln workers and their families, trade unions/workers' collectives and civil society organisations, brick kiln owners and state and district level authorities in the form of handouts/brochures, Bi-Annual Newsletter, animated films/documentaries.

## **COVID** Pandemic and Children

### Impact of COVID on Children

 HAQ undertook a systematic analysis of the digitally available English and Hindi news articles published between 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2020 to understand how or to what extent print and digital media have addressed the concerns of children during the COVID pandemic and the different kinds of impacts of the pandemic on children.



### Malala Fund COVID Support

Create Safe spaces in schools and communities for young girls in Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh by addressing mental health and well-being in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Expected Outputs:**

- A GAP Analysis of current National Teachers' Training curriculum with respect to mental health needs of school going students, especially girls in COVID-19 times.
- To equip field workers with basic understanding and information on mental health needs and issues of school going girls as well as out of school girls, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to help them work towards building and encouraging resilience among girls
- To create a safe and caring environment for school going children by equipping teachers with adequate knowledge to address mental health concerns of school going children, especially girls.

## **TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING**

### **JUSTICE INITIATIVE 2.0**

In January 2021, HAQ organised a seven day long workshop for lawyers on critical issues of child rights and strategic litigation. This workshop was the second in the series of Justice Initiative, the first being a workshop organised in 2019-20.

In Justice Initiative 2.0, a total of 44 litigating lawyers participated . The workshop was conducted online due to the COVID-19 challenges.

The workshop culminated with an online performance of a play titled "ALLEGEDLY", woven around the issues of sexual violence, challenging perceptions around consent, sexual behaviour and sexual crimes. The performance was followed by a panel discussion with Ms. Urvashi Butalia, Ms. Mallika Taneja, Justice Rajiv Shakdher, Ms. Anuja Gupta & Adv. Vrinda Grover as panel members.



### **Other Trainings**

Trainings for CWCs and JJB Members, DCPOs and other functionaries associated with ICPS, police, school teachers, law and social work students and NGOs on various child rights and child protection issues were conducted. The numbers reached include:

CWCs/JJBs – 275 DCPOs and other ICPS Functionaries – 160 Staff of CCIs – 100 Police – 300 Trainings on Mental Health of Children, especially during COVID was conducted with 435 Staff of NGOs, School Teachers and Officers of various Government Departments

## **Other Activities**

- Facilitating Development of a Comprehensive Policies on Child Safeguarding and Protection Sexual Harassment at Workplace for GFF Partners
- Report on Age Determination Laws and Processes in Various Countries

   a Research by Law Student
   Interns from Macquarie University,
   November 2020.



- Smile Project with DCPCR continued at a slow pace due to COVID pandemic. 2 new cases were received in 2020 in addition to 3 cases received in 2019. Nature of support provided in these cases ranges from counselling to educational support, rent, ration and expediting victim compensation.
- PIL filed in Allahabad High Court based on the fact finding report on torture of minors in the wake of CAA-NRC protests in Uttar Pradesh and failure of the juvenile justice system to address the situation.

- Submission to Criminal Law Reforms Committee in December 2020.
- Ms. Kavita Mangnani, Director Restorative Care in HAQ assisted the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in WP(Crl.) 2120/2020. This is a case of biological parents against adoptive parents, seeking custody of their biological child. Ms. Mangnani has been providing counselling support to the child and the concerned families.
- Committee constituted by Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in an ongoing writ to review and reflect on issues and challenges resulting from dual status of children in conflict with the law treated as children in need of care and protection and suggest ways to overcome the challenges.
- Inspection of Aman Umeed Home. Bharti Ali was part of the State Inspection Committee that carried out an inspection of the home after a report from NCPCR alleging non-compliance on standards of care and protection.
- Paper on Children in Brick Kilns and Their Rights as part of a book being published by LBSNAA. Written jointly by Ms. Bharti Ali from HAQ and Ms. Lokesh from CEC.
- Part of the UPR process. HAQ contributes on the child rights aspect of reporting for the UPR process.

- In the month of July, 2020; HAQ organised a webinar on the issue of institutional treatment, care, protection and rehabilitation of children in conflict with law. The main idea of the webinar was to showcase the work done by the Netherlands with children in conflict with law with community integrated rehabilitation approach and also to examine the feasibility of such alternative methods in Indian Context.
- The main speakers during the Webinar included Dr. Fleur Souverein, Psychologist, Community based Youth Justice System, Netherlands; Mr. Ruud Jacobs, Director, Small Scale Forensic Facility, Amsterdam; Ms. Shivangi Puri, Social Worker, ENFOLD Proactive Health Trust and Ms. Sachi Maniar, Director, Ashiana Foundation.



In November 2020, as part of the Child Safety Week, HAQ and Arpan organised a webinar with the aim to bridge the gap between various Government child protection functionaries and those who work on the issue of child safety by enabling a dialogue through a webinar. The focal theme of the webinar was *"The Role of Government and Civil Society in combatting Child Sexual Abuse in the times of COVID-19"*.

The panel of speakers during this webinar included Ms. Namrita Aggarwal, Addl. Secretary, DSLSA; Ms. Sonal Kapoor, Founder Director, Protsahan; Ms. Richa Bakshi, Corporate Counsel, Litigation, Amazon India and Adv. Tara Narula, Delhi High Court. HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, As Part of Child Safety Week, Invites You to Join A Webinar



Role of Government Agencies, Private Sector and Civil Society in Combating Child Sexual Abuse







Ms. Namrita Aggarwal, Ms. Sonal Kapoor, Addl. Secretary, DSLSA Founder Director, Protsahan

Ms. Richa Bakshi, Corporate Counsel, Litigation, Amazon India



Adv. Tara Narula

Moderated By:



Ms. Urmi Chudgar, HAQ Centre for Child Rights



## **Other Events that HAQ was part of**



## **Memberships to various Forums**

- NHRC Core Group on Child Rights
- Advisory Committee, Center of Excellence for Child Protection, 2021, Rashtriya Raksha University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- State Inspection Committee
- State Legal Services Authority
- High Level Committee under Section 16 of JJ Act
- WGHR

## **COVID Relief - 2020**

Relief Food and hygiene kits for one month

- Delivered to 2,800+ Families / 13,600+ Individuals (Average size of 5-7 people/ family)
- Across Six States (Haryana/ Uttar Pradesh/ Kashmir/ Chhattisgarh/ Rajasthan/ Delhi-NCR).
- Direct support to families of Daily Wage Workers, Weavers, Fisher Folks, Single Women, Persons With Disabilities, Refugees, and Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Victims.
- 1 Litre milk and 1 loaf of bread were delivered to 730+ Children, between the age of 6 months – 12 years across Delhi.
- Mental Health Support to Children of Various Age Groups Across India in partnership with DCPCR



## **COVID Relief Fund Status**

Institutional Donors	Individual Donors	DONATE TO FIGHT HINGER
4	72	WILL YOU JOIN US IN TAKING MILK AND HRRAD TO 500 VULNERABLE CHILDREN (AG & MONTHS TO 12 YEARS) IN JI CLUSTERS AND RESETTLEMENT COLONIES ACROSS DELHI ?
<ul> <li>In Partnership with:</li> <li>ACTION INDIA</li> <li>ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMEN<sup>-</sup></li> </ul>	IN THE UNUSUAL TIMES OF COVID-15 THE EMOTIONAL WELLBEING OF CHILOPEN IS OUR PRIORITY AT HAQICENTRE FOR CHILO RIGHTS DUE TEAM OF COUNSELORS AND SOCIAL WORKERS ARE HERE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN	
<ul> <li>ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMEN (AFD)</li> <li>DELHI YOUTH WELFARE ASSOCIAT</li> <li>DELITEDEALS</li> </ul>	CALL / TEXT Anupama, 9654494227 (10am-12pm)	Interps://www.hagcrc.org/donate-now/           Fin: Direct Rest Number Ubersetik Contributions:         for: Direct Rest Number Ubersetik Contributions:           Account Nome: H4G, Contro for: Child Reach Account Number: Ubersetik Ubersetik Bird Name: Uber Ubersetik 1955 Coole Num Ubersetik 1955 Coole Num Ubersetik Number Ubersetik Number Ubersetik Number Ubersetik Number Ubersetik Number Ubersetik Number Ubersetik Number Ubersetik Number Ubersetik Number Ubers
<ul> <li>KHADIM-E-INSANIYAT</li> <li>MAKAAM DELHI</li> <li>MILESTONE</li> <li>NO TEARS FOUNDATION TRUST</li> </ul>	* <sup>**</sup> हम होंगे कामयाब एक दिन 🐓	COVID-19 SOLIDARITY & SUPPORT FUND An Appeal III. A COVID-19 Solution of the average of the ave
<ul> <li>ROHINGYA HUMAN RIGHTS INITIA (RHRI)</li> <li>SANG</li> </ul>	COVID-19 के दौरान समाज के हाशिये पर खड़े कई परिवारों तक मदद पहुँचाने की हक़:सेंटर फॉर चाइल्ड राइट्स की मुहीम में साथ जुड़ें ! आपकी मदद से हमारी कोशिश है कि कश्मीर, दिल्ली, उत्तर प्रदेश और हरियाणा के: ->विवर्ती महत्वों क बज और वीवत ->बि आरवरी में प्रभाविश बच्चे और वीवत ->बि आरवरी में प्रभाविश बच्चे और वीवत ->ब सातीय सालाणी समुखय के बजे जीर पीवत	per landy per north (uvrage landy ube d aren person).
<ul> <li>SAVE THE DESTITUTE FOUNDATIO</li> <li>SCHOOL FOR RURAL DEVELOPME AND ENVIRONMENT (SRDE)</li> <li>WHO IS HUSSAIN</li> </ul>	N तक कम से कम एक हफते से लेकर एक महीने का जनकरी राक्षार पहुँचा सके आत के महरू कम कलते हैं?	Image: State in the state

## **COVID Relief Status 2021**

#### Food and hygiene kits for one month

- Delivered to 1,000+ Families / 4,300+ Individuals (Average size of 5-7 people/ family)
- Across Delhi-NCR.
- Direct support to families of Daily Wage Workers, Migrant Workers, Single Women, Refugees, and Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Victims.
- Needs assessment of 800+ families impacted by death due to COVID in collaboration with DCPCR.

#### Health support

 20 Oxymeters given to Delhi Government for use in Child Care Institutions (CCIs)

Education Sponsorship – in pipeline



आज एक बार फिर दिनांक 14/06/2021 को आशालता विक्टोरिया विल्किंसन एन.जी.ओ ने "हक़" सेन्टर फ़ॉर द चाइल्ड राइट, के साथ मिलकर संजय कॉलोनी भाटी माइन्स में 100 लोगो को 15 दिन का राशन वितरित किया, लॉकडॉउन के खत्म हो जाने के बाद भी "हक़" सेन्टर फ़ॉर द चाइल्ड राइट ने आशालता विक्टोरिया विल्किंसन एन.जी.ओ के साथ मिलकर इस महान विचार के साथ राशन वितरित किया कि लॉकडॉउन के खुलते ही एक दम रोजगार नही मिल जाता इसलिए एक बार फिर यह लोग राशन के लिए परेशान ना हो, इसमें विकलांग. विधवाएँ. और जरूरतमन्द लोग थे। आगे भी हम ऐसे जरूरत मन्दो की सेवा में लगे रहेंगे।





## **Education Sponsorship Programme**

HAQ: Centre for Child Rights in collaboration with the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Vedantu (academic partner) decided to reach out to children who have lost either one or both parents to COVID through a Sponsorship Support programme.

- 25 children are currently being supported for their education through this programme, of whom 15 are girls and 10 are boys.
- 24 lost their father and one lost her mother, but is now without any parent as she had lost her father a few years ago.
- 13 children who did not have a device to pursue online education now have one.
- Vedantu has enrolled 10 children who have expressed a need for extra coaching and mentoring and 2 more will soon be enrolled

## Mental Health Training for Teachers and Community Workers

#### **NEW WORKSHOP**

Enabling a Safe and Caring Environment for Children

#### 12-hr Certification Program for Community and Field Workers on Children's Mental Health during Covid-19

#### **Course Contents:**

- Myths and Facts surrounding mental health
- Components of mental health
- Factors affecting mental health of children.
- Impact of Covid-19 on mental health of children
- Signs and symptoms of mental health issues in children
- Psychological First Aid
- Methods to reinstate school dropouts due to Covid-19

Session 1: 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep'21 Session 2: 25<sup>th</sup> Sep'21 Session 3: 5<sup>th</sup> Oct'21

#### @10am to 2pm on Zoom

Organised by HAQ CRC in collaboration with The Malala Fund

Have a query? Call us on +917742456150 or Ph: +919212239147

## Samvaad, a National Conference on Mining and Its Impact on Children

HAQ: Centre for Child Rights along with six civil society organisations from Sonbhadra and Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh, Nellore and Krishna in Andhra Pradesh and Korba and Kabirdham in Chhattisgarh organised "Samvaad", a dialogue between the affected communities, DMF officials, mine owners, associations of mine workers and civil society groups in New Delhi on 08 October 2021. Conducted in a Hybrid Mode, it was possible to enlist the participation of both the affected communities and district officials online.



Virtual Release of Unpacking Judicial Data to Track Implementation of the POCSO Act in Assam, Delhi & Haryana (2012 to April 2020)



#Data4Justice - Unpacking Judicial Data to Track Implementation of the POCSO Act in Assam, Delhi & Haryana (2012 to April 2020)

A Report by HAQ: Centre for Child Rights & CivicDataLab

