

Module 1: Introduction to Children’s Rights and Protection Laws

Session1.2: Child Rights: Principles and Shift in Approach

Duration: 6:37 min

After understanding about ‘Child’, ‘Child Rights’, need for separate child rights, now we will take up principles and shift in approach for child rights. This session will enable you to describe recognitions made by UNCRC, list out principles of child rights, what are violations of the right to protection and the shift in approach from need based to rights based

Now let us discuss what are the principles of child rights

Principles of child rights and human rights

- Universality
- Non discrimination
- Indivisibility
- Best interest of the child
- Survival and development
- Participation

We shall now discuss how and when children’s right to protection is often violated. The different **violations of the right to protection include:**

Child sexual abuse, Child labour, bonded labour, on the street children, Orphaned, abandoned children,

Child marriage- cycle of deprivation, Corporal punishment, violence, Trafficking, child beggary,

Children’s right to protection may also be violated when they or their families are affected by HIV/AIDS, disasters or COVID-19

It is imperative to know that the approach to child rights has shifted from ‘need based’ to ‘rights based’. The table below explains how the approach has shifted from needs based to rights based. As we can see that in the left hand side column that displays needs based approach, the welfare of those who are in need is considered however some of those needy have to be left out as welfare cannot cover all the needy.

In case of rights based approach, it is replaced by development and empowerment considering that all children have same rights.

There is institutional and custodial care under the needs based approach while in the rights based approach it has been replaced by non-institutional and family based alternatives such as foster care, adoption etc.

Institutional care can lead to segregation and isolation of the children and the caregivers tend to treat children as beneficiaries and recipients. On the other hand, under rights based approach inclusion and

mainstreaming is the major focus through holistic development by providing quality care at the child care institutions.

In needs based approach there is a clear cut obligation of finding solutions to the specific immediate situations and certain groups or individuals are identified who are considered to be having expertise to meet the needs of the children. In the rights based approach, a child is a partner and an active participant in his or her own development and decisions.

No particular individual has the obligation to take decisions on behalf of the children. All adults can play a role in achieving rights of the children by carrying out root cause analyses of the situations.

With this we come to an end to the session.

Now, recall Meera's story. In Meera's village, girls' lives were protected right at birth. However, even after that to grow into capable adults children including girls need care and protection. For instance, to ensure Meera's adequate growth and development nutritious food, immunization, education and protecting her against injury violence and abuse is important. Meera's parents, family, panchayat members, teachers, her village health workers all play a critical role in this. Isn't it? In the next session we will know in detail like Meera, how other children in our own communities should be protected.

Now let us watch a small video on child rights.