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## Centre for Child Rights

National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam

### NEWSLETTER

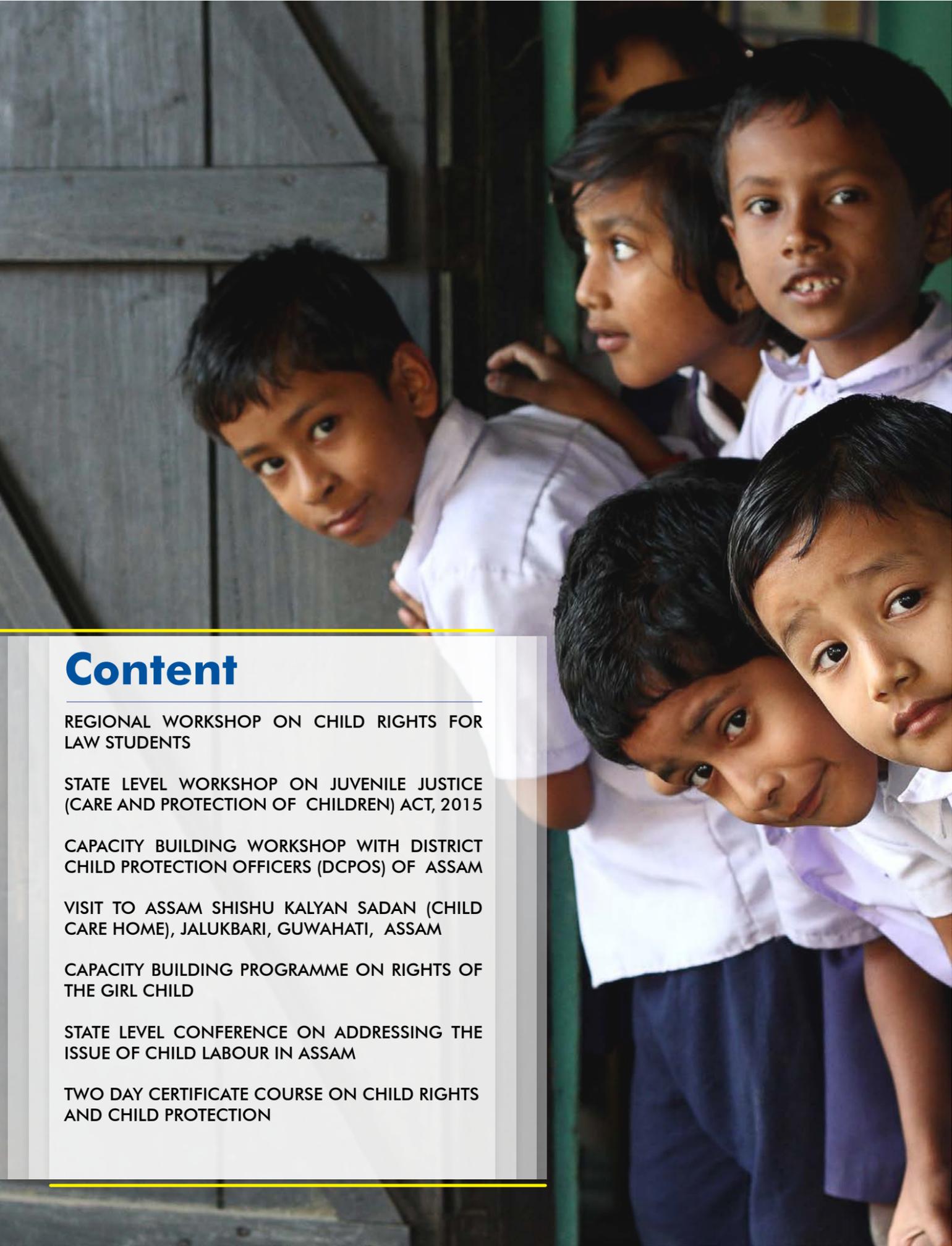
*Vol II Issue I (March 2016 - March 2017)*

National Law University, Assam was established by the Government of Assam to rejuvenate the scenario of the legal education in the north eastern region of India as it remained far from the potential of possible proliferation of excellence in the realms of legal education.

In furtherance of the research objectives of NLU, Assam, the Centre for Child Rights has been established as a specialized Centre of Excellence for promotion of advanced learning, teaching and research in the field of Child Rights.

Further, NLU, Assam has joined hands with UNICEF, Office for Assam, to promote, protect and fulfill the rights of children in general and in the state of Assam in particular. In furtherance of the same, CCR and UNICEF, Office for Assam, seek to create awareness among the masses and support the Government in the implementation of the aims and objectives as specified in various national and international legal instruments with a special focus on children, and provision as outlined in the Constitution of India and various legislation that are in force.

The Centre for Child Rights proudly presents to you our second newsletter to apprise the readers of the activities undertaken by the Centre in collaboration with UNICEF, Office for Assam, towards the promotion and protection of the rights of children.



## PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY CENTRE FOR CHILD RIGHTS

### REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CHILD RIGHTS FOR LAW STUDENTS

DATE : APRIL 30, 2016  
VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NLUJAA

India ratified the United Nations Convention of Rights of Child (UNCRC) in the year 1992, yet violations of child-rights are on a constant rise. There has been steep increase in various forms of exploitation of children; primarily child labour, child sexual abuse, corporal punishment and child trafficking. Protection (safety) is the basic child-right without which it is impossible to secure other rights like development, education, participation etc. and thus protecting a child continues to be a major challenge. With this backdrop a Regional Workshop was organised on "Child Rights for the Law students" by Centre for Child Rights, NLUJAA in association with UNICEF (Office for Assam) and Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR) on April 30, 2016, with an objective to disseminate the understanding of laws related to child among the law students.



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TWO DAY CERTIFICATE COURSE ON CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION

A total of 40 students from Assam and Meghalaya participated in the said workshop. The workshop aimed to orient students on various laws specific to children, Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, Protection of Children against Sexual Offence, 2012, the United Nation Convention on Child Rights, Sustainable development goals with special emphasis on children, constitutional provision regarding children and protection of children in cyberspace.

Dr. A. Nagarathna, Senior Assistant Professor of Law, NLSIU, Bengaluru graced the occasion as the Chief Guest for the Regional Workshop, Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law & Head, Centre for Child Rights, Dr. Naresh Vats, Associate Professor of Law and Mr. Vedprakash Gautam, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF (Office for Assam) were present. The two-day workshop ended with distribution of certificates to all participating students by the Chief Guest Dr. A Nagarathana, Coordinator, Advanced Centre for Research, Development and Training in Cyber Law and Forensics, NLSIU. The workshop concluded with a valedictory address by Dr. Himanshu Pandey, Registrar, NLU, Assam.

## STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP ON JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT, 2015

DATE : SEPTEMBER 23 - 24, 2016

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NLUJAA

Centre for Child Rights, NLUJAA in association with State Child Protection Society (SCPS), Assam & UNICEF (Office for Assam) organized a state level workshop on "Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015" for all the Protection Officers (Institutional and Non-Institutional Care) under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme on 23rd & 24th of September, 2016.



The new Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 which replaced the old Act had undergone some crucial changes in respect to laws governing children in conflict with law, child care institution and the inclusion of the adoption regulation and as such it was considered it as a prime importance to conduct a workshop for the Protection Officers to enable them to understand the provision of the newly enacted Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

The workshop received participation from 50 Protection Officers across Assam. The workshop promoted learning on Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, Protection of Children against Sexual Offence, 2012, other offences against children as envisages JJ Act, 2015, Integrated Child Protection Scheme, Child Psychology, important amendments; roles and responsibility of CWC, JJB and Protection Officer.

The workshop commenced with the inaugural session by S.S. Meenakshi Sundaram, IAS, Director, Department of Social Welfare, Government of Assam as the Guest of Honour and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Hon'ble Judge, Gauhati High Court as the Chief Guest, Prof. (Dr.) Yugal Kishore, Vice Chancellor (i/c), NLUJAA, Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law & Head, Centre for Child Rights and Mr. Vedprakash Gautam, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF (Office for Assam) also graced the occasion.



The Valedictory session was delivered by Dr. Himanshu Pandey, Registrar, NLUJAA, Mrs. Rummi Gogoi, Chairperson, ASCPCR, Prof. (Dr.) Ved Kumar, Law University, Delhi, Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Prof. of Law and Head - Centre for Child Rights.

## CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP WITH DISTRICT CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS (DCPOS) OF ASSAM

DATE : OCTOBER 20 - 21, 2016

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NLUJAA

The programme was organised with an aim to orient the District Protection Officers on the various laws, schemes, policies related to child protection, to advance the understanding of their roles and responsibilities as mandated in the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and as enshrined in ICPS and other statutes of India, and to strengthen the implementation of ICPS at district level in Assam through improved monitoring and reporting mechanism, a capacity building workshop was organised for the District Child Protection Officers



of Assam in association with the State Child Protection Society (SCPS), Assam and UNICEF ( Office for Assam) on 20th and 21st October, 2016.

The workshop was attended by 27 District Child Protection Officers (DCPOs) from every district of Assam. The inaugural session was graced by Shri S.S. Meenakshi Sundaram, IAS, Director, Department of Social Welfare, Government of Assam as the Guest of Honour and Shri Ravi Capoor, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam, Industries & Commerce, Mines & Minerals and Social Welfare Departments as the Chief Guest.

Prof. (Dr.) J.S. Patil, Vice Chancellor, NLUJAA, Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law & Head, Centre for Child Rights, NLUJAA and Mr. Vedprakash Gautam, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF (Office for Assam) also graced the occasion. Shri S.S. Meenakshi Sundaram, IAS, Director, Department of Social Welfare, Government of Assam also graced the valedictory session as the Guest of Honour and Shri Hiren Chandra Nath, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Guwahati as the Chief Guest.

### **VISIT TO ASSAM SHISHU KALYAN SADAN (CHILD CARE HOME), JALUKBARI, GUWAHATI, ASSAM**

DATE: 19.11.2016

A team of 11 students led by Prof. (Dr.) J.S. Patil, Vice Chancellor, NLUJAA along with Dr. Vijay Pratap Tiwari, Associate Professor of Law & Head, Centre for Child Rights, NLUJAA; Dr. Diptimoni Boruah, Associate Professor of Law, NLUJAA; Ms. Monmi Gohain, Research Assistant, CCR, NLUJAA and Ms. Meenakshi Borthakur, Consultant Psychologist visited the Assam Shishu Kalyan Sadan at Guwahati. The visit was made to understand the functioning of a Child Care Institution. The Assam Shishu Kalyan Sadan is a registered NGO run Child Care Institution funded under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme. It caters to children in need of care and protection. Child Welfare Committee of Kamrup (metro) and Kamrup (rural) refers children to this home. The team from NLUJAA discussed with the staff of this Child Care Institution CCI with regard to the Minimum Care Standards and the facilities available for the children. Further they also discussed about the restoration and rehabilitation of children with their biological parent/s.



### **CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME ON RIGHTS OF THE GIRL CHILD**

DATE : 04.12.2016

VENUE : CONFERENCE HALL, NLUJAA

The opportunity to be born, to grow in a safe environment, to develop one's potential has been some of the major issues concerning the girl child in India. Achieving gender quality is one of the most important target of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is a matter of paramount importance that the stakeholders in the field of child right and protection deal with issues concerning girl children with sensitivity and knowledge. In light of the same, to understand the rights of the Girl Child and to deliberate on socio-legal issues relating to girl child was the focus of the capacity building programme organised by Centre for Child Rights, supported by UNICEF, office for Assam.

Participants for this program, were Assistant Commissioners, Officer In-Charge and Inspectors of various police stations of Assam. The program began with a welcome address by Prof (Dr.) J. S. Patil, Vice Chancellor, NLUJAA, opening remarks was given by the guest of honour, Mr. Vedprakash Gautam, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF (Office for Assam), the participants were also addressed by the chief guest, Mr. Hiren Ch. Nath, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Guwahati City, Assam.



The participants were oriented on POCSO Act, 2012, Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, Rights of the Girl Child, socio legal aspect, child psychology and development. As the program and the sessions were interactive in nature, participants were given the opportunity to share their experience. The program concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Louis Aind, IPS, DCP, Crime Branch, Assam Police.

## STATE LEVEL CONFERENCE ON ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF CHILD LABOUR IN ASSAM

VENUE: THE LILY HOTEL, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI

DATE: 18th & 19th DECEMBER, 2016

A two-day state level conference on addressing the issues of Child Labour in Assam, organised by Centre for Child Rights in partnership with Department of Labour and Welfare, Govt. of Assam and supported by UNICEF, Office for Assam, was held on 18th and 19th of December, 2016.

The conference aimed at orienting the key stakeholders about the new Amended Child Labour Law, various related statutes, guidelines and policies of the Government on Child Labour, to identify and address key bottlenecks for convergence among various government departments and civil society agencies in addressing child labour in Assam and to come out with a road map to strengthen prevention and rehabilitation of child labour through education.

The conference was attended by a range of duty bearers and stakeholders who have an impact on the abolition of Child Labour, The Department of Social Welfare, Department of Labour and Welfare and Civil Society Organisation. The opening remarks of the conference was given by Dr. Tushar Rane, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, Office for Assam while Ms. Anasua Dutta Baruah, Deputy Labour Commissioner, Govt. of Assam and Mr. K.V. Eapen, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Department of Labour and Welfare were the Guest of Honour and Chief Guest respectively.



The conference initiated discussion on Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 and Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. Discussions were also held on issues or problems faced by the department while abolishing Child Labour, Sarva Siksha Abhijan and the role of civil society in ensuring Right to Education for all children who are vulnerable and victims of Child Labour.

On the second day of the technical sessions, further discussions were held on steps that can be taken to strengthen the preventive mechanism, identification and rescue of children, prosecution of employers under child labour and other protection laws, Juvenile Justice system and the rehabilitation of children vulnerable or victims of Child Labour. From the discussion and deliberation of the experts, key recommendations and corresponding implementation agencies to address the issue of child labour was drawn out and submitted before the Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam (Labour and Welfare Department) for further action.

The conference came to an end with successful formation of key recommendation to strengthen the convergent mechanisms to address child labour in Assam and the valedictory session with closing remarks by Ms. Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

## TWO DAY CERTIFICATE COURSE ON CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION

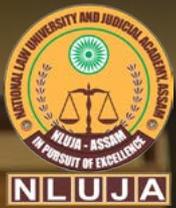
DATE : 27.02.2017 & 28.02.2017  
VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, NLUJA

Centre for Child Rights with the support of UNICEF (office for Assam) had organised a comprehensive, one of its first interdisciplinary two-day certificate course on Child Rights and Child Protection for the law students of National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam; to increase the understanding on international instruments and mechanism relating to the protection of child rights, and to enhance knowledge about policies, laws and schemes pertaining to child protection in India.

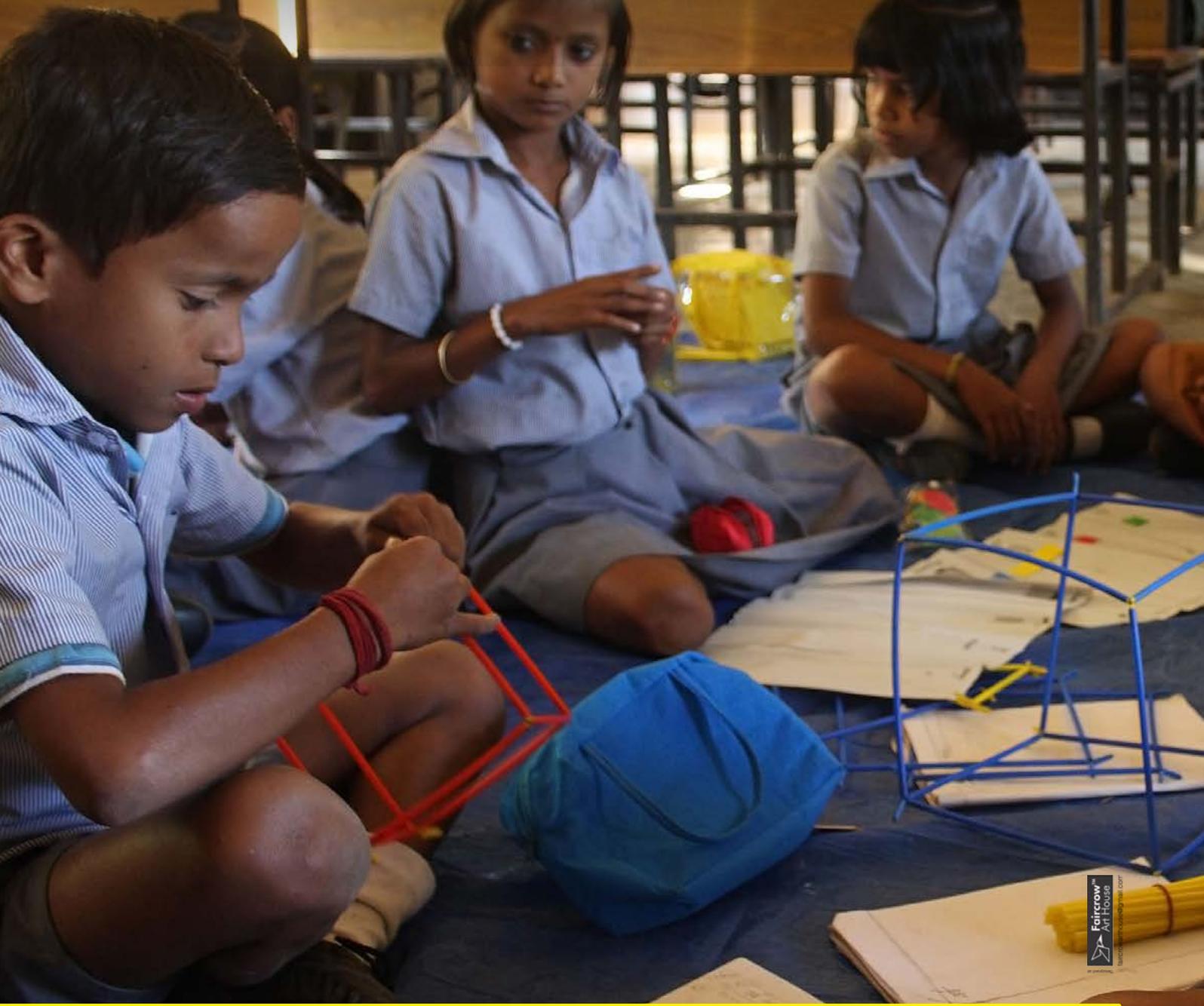
The course was developed with an intention to expand the cadre of qualified child protection practitioners and policymakers by enhancing the capacity of the future child protection professionals. The course encompassed International Human Rights with focus on child rights, Committees on the Rights of the Children, international instruments pertaining to child rights, mandates of UN agencies, situational analysis of child rights India, Constitutional provision and policies governing child rights agenda in India, system approach to child protection in India and laws addressing child vulnerabilities.

Introductory address was conveyed by Prof. (Dr.) J.S. Patil, Vice Chancellor, NLUJA, Assam, which was followed by session taken up by professionals in the field of Child Rights and Child Protection. The participants were also addressed by Mr. Vinod Sesan, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup (Rural) and he spoke as to how Public Administration delivers effective services to women and children at district and sub district levels in India. The course successfully commenced with the valedictory session and the distribution of the certificate to the participants.





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