

Print ISSN No. 2349-3003

Online ISSN No. 2349-3011



# Institutionalised Children Explorations and Beyond

Volume 2

March 2015

Number 1



**Focused on the South Asian Region**



# Institutionalised Children Explorations and Beyond

## EDITORIAL BOARD

The Board has currently been constituted as follows:

- **Editor-in-Chief** : Monisha C. Nayar-Akhtar, Ph.D.
- **International Liaison Editor** : Kiran Modi, Ph.D.
- **Associate Editor** : Deepak Gupta, M.D.
- **Associate Editor** : Luis Aguilar Esponda, L.L.M.
- **Movie Editor** : Sonia Parikh, M.D.
- **Book Editor** : Jaskiran K. Mathur, Ph.D.

## COUNTRY EDITORS

- **Bangladesh:** Md. Tuhinul Islam, MA, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Management and Development Research (CMDR), Northern University Bangladesh
- **Pakistan:** Rukhsana Chaudhry, Psy.D. Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology, George Washington University, United States
- **Sri Lanka:** Mallika R. Samaranayake, Technical Lead, Child Protection in Crisis (CPC) Learning Network and Founder Member / President - Community of Evaluators (CoE) South Asia Network and Founder Member / President - Community of Evaluators (CoE) South Asia

## ADVISORY BOARD

- **Alexandra M. Harrison**, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor in Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School (USA)
- **Christine Keiffer**, Clinical Psychologist and Psychoanalyst (USA)
- **Hiranthi Wijemanne**, M.D., Member, U.N. Committee Rights of the Child (Sri Lanka)
- **Jed Yalof**, PsyD. Chair, Department of Clinical Psychology, Immaculata University (USA)
- **Rudy A. Gonzalez**, M.A., Executive Director, Lighthouse Institute (Australia)
- **Shamim Ferdous**, Ph.D., Executive Director, Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation (BPF), (Bangladesh)
- **Shekhar P. Sheshadri**, M.B.B.S., D.P.M., M.D., Professor, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (India)
- **Sima Samar**, Ph.D., Former Minister for Women and Child (Afghanistan)
- **Sumedha Gupta Ariely**, Ph.D., Psychology, Duke Global Health Institute (USA)
- **Sushama Sharma**, Ph.D., Professor of Special Education (India)

*We are deeply indebted to WHO SEARO for making possible the publication of this issue.*

Volume 2, Number 1, March 2015

The Journal Institutional Children: Explorations and Beyond (ICEB), is an initiative of Udayan Care. Articles published in ICEB reflect the views of the author alone and not necessarily those of Udayan Care or of the ICEB.

Cover and Logo designed by: Lukas Juretzek (Germany)

Cover Photo: © Udayan Care

Typeset by: Indian Journals



## **Editorial**

Monisha C. Nayar-Akhtar, Ph.D. 1-4

## **Interview**

Interview with Rinchen Chopel  
*Luis Aguilar Esponda* 5-14

## **Research Articles**

Exploring the Vulnerability of Sexual Abuse among the Children with  
Disabilities in Bangladesh 15-26  
*Shamim Ferdous, Mohammad Salim Chowdhury and Rafika Hossain*

Comparative Review on the Legal Protection Provided to Institutionalised  
Children in the South Asian Region 27-54  
*Luis Aguilar Esponda, Anandita Sharma and Sumedha Upadhyay*

Early De-Institutionalisation and Child Care Priorities for Children without  
Parental Care 55-68  
*Jagannath Pati*

Social Policy Context of Alternative Care in Sri Lanka 69-76  
*Sajeeva Samaranayake*

## **International Perspective**

'*Los Momentos Magicos*': A Practical Model for Child Mental Health  
Professionals to Volunteer by Supporting Caregivers in Institutions in  
Developing Countries 77-91  
*Alexandra Murray Harrison*

## **Good Practices and Models of Alternative Care**

Research, Technology, Child Policies and Caregiver Education – A  
Description of Non-profit, Open Source Online Caregiver Education  
Programmes Worldwide 92-98  
*Niels Peter Rygaard*

## **Movie Review**

Movie Review: Children Underground (2001) 99-100  
*Minu Mathur*

## **Book Review**

- A Child Called 'It': One Child's Courage to Survive* by Dave Pelzer, 1995 101-103  
*Jaskiran K. Mathur*

## **Brief Communications**

- Why Care Matters: The Importance of Adequate Care for Children and Society 104  
*Family for Every Child*
- Multi-Stakeholder's Consultation on After Care Services In India 108  
*Karabi Majumdar*
- SOS Children's Villages Canada Launches Put Children First Campaign 110  
*SOS Children's Villages Canada*
- New Study Highlights Need to Scale Up Violence Prevention Efforts Globally 111  
*WHO/UNDP/UNODC*
- NGN Releases Report Linking Orphanage Volunteering to Child Trafficking 114  
*Martin Punaks*
- A Step In The (Human) Right Direction for Children Being Deprived of Liberty Worldwide 115  
*Defence for Children International (DCI)*
- Training Workshops on Mental Health Interventions for Better Care and Management of Institutionalised Children and Young Adults 116  
*Karabi Majumdar*
- Aangan 118  
*Rukhsana Chaudhary*

## **Upcoming Events**

- Christian Alliance for Orphans' Summit 120
- Implementing Family Care in Eastern and Southern Africa Conference 2015 120
- International Conference on the Legal Needs of Street Youth 120
- Fifth Conference of the International Society for Child Indicators 121
- 2015 ISPCAN Asian Pacific Regional Conference 121

## **Survey**

- The Practice of Foster Care In South Asia 123-126  
*Ayush Jain*

## **INSTITUTIONALISED CHILDREN: EXPLORATIONS AND BEYOND**

The journal 'Institutionalised Children: Explorations and Beyond' is now in its second year of publication. This is the first issue for the year 2015 and it is a pleasure to write this editorial and to introduce our most recent editorial board member. Dr. Jaskiran Mathur is the Director of Professional Studies and Professor of Sociology at St. Francis College, Brooklyn, New York, and she has agreed to join us as our Book Editor. I, along with my board, extend her a hearty welcome! As a young and aspiring journal, we are very eager to expand our core editorial board along with our international editors and contributors. I invite you to consider associating with this journal in a broader capacity and hope that you will find in this issue an evidence that our collaborative efforts are in the right direction. At this time, I would also like to correct an error made in a prior issue of this journal. I incorrectly stated that Dr. Sonia Parikh had joined as our book editor. She in fact has joined our editorial board but serves as our movie editor.

The third issue of this journal maintains the core structure established in the previous publications. The issue begins with an interview of Dr. RinChen Chopel, by Luis Aguilar Esponda. I, along with my board, had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Chopel when he gave the key note address in March 2014, when the journal was launched. What could be more befitting than to interview him as he continues in his wide-reaching efforts as Director General of South Asian Initiative to end violence against children or SAIEVAC for short, to create an intergovernmental body in the world to End Violence Against Children. SAIEVAC's aim to prevent and respond to all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation and violence against children is a comprehensive effort that creates liaisons between governments, provides for shared experiences and strengthens the potential for sharing knowledge and developing important linkages in the management and delivery of services to this population. As usual, Luis Esponda conducts his interview with precision and clarity. His probing questions result in detailed answers that reveal Dr. Chopel's extensive knowledge as well as his dedication and care to a cause that he cares about deeply. It is indeed a stellar contribution and I believe our readers will enjoy and gain a great deal from this initial contribution.

The next section of the issue presents four major research-based articles covering topics of sexual abuse and disability, and the politics and laws that govern aftercare and the factors that affect institutional care and resiliency in the children. Dr. Ferdous's paper was covered in a previous editorial but inadvertently omitted from the September 2014 volume. It is now presented in its entirety. Dr. Ferdous explores in depth the extent of sexual abuse and neglect in children with disabilities in Bangladesh. The care and management of children with disabilities, the discriminatory practices that are often extended towards them and the prevailing attitudes and perceptions held by society at

large impact their mental health. Dr. Ferdous in a scholarly fashion examines this issue and offers thoughtful recommendations at the end.

Mr. Aguilar and his associates make a significant contribution to this issue by their extensive, detailed and very comprehensive review of law and policies related to children in need of care as well as children who are in conflict with the law. These contributors review all child-related policies beginning with the UN Convention on Child Rights, which has been ratified by all the countries in the SAARC region. However, they add that each country brings to the forefront their socio-geo-politically informed interpretations of the law and its implementation. Hence, these countries vary considerably with their own individual interpretations and implementations. Mr. Aguilar and his associates provide an in-depth comparison of these countries and their paper is rich in information for those interested in comparative reviews and research.

Following this extensive review, we have a paper by Jagannath Pati who explores the problems faced by institutionalised children. Drawing attention to what institutionalisation means for the developing child, Mr. Pati proposes early de-institutionalisation as through adoption and foster care placement. This idea is one well-known all around the world as the policy of early childhood adoption is encouraged and far more favourable than placement in an institution. In his paper, Mr. Pati elaborates on the challenges that orphaned children face, once adopted. Early childhood traumas that resurface during their development are often confusing to the adoptive family and the family system, tenuous to begin with needs to be strengthened through understanding, services and early intervention for these children.

Complementing this article is Sajeeva Samaranayake's paper on the social policy context of alternative care in Sri Lanka. Mr. Samaranayake explores the lack of organised family support mechanisms for children who find themselves in three legal forms of alternative care – fostering, residential care and adoption. Mr. Samaranayake's in-depth review of the programs available in Sri Lanka is thoughtful and informative and suggests the imperative need to strengthen our family outreach programs and support services to ensure the healthy adaptation of institutionalised children in the community at large.

Dr. Alexandra Harrison's work with orphans in Ecuador and some parts of India is presented in her paper for our International Perspective section. The paper highlights psychoanalytically informed principles that guide Dr. Harrison who approaches her work with care, precision and humility. Dr. Harrison reminds us of the relationship between the caregiver and the child and the small interactions that form the basis of cohesive human bonds. She is profoundly cognizant of the cultural nuances of the different countries that she works with and integrates it skillfully in both her understanding and her work in the two countries. Dr. Harrison's work is guided by her psychoanalytically informed mind that both guides her in her methodology as well as helps her in developing models that are geared towards working with children and their caregivers in developing countries.

The expanding role of one's work with caregivers is echoed in our Good Practice paper, contributed by Niels Peter Rygaard, a child psychologist based in Denmark. Niels Rygaard

along with Morten Jac is the founder of Fairstart Global, a social organisation that addresses the needs of orphans and children in need from all around the world. His contribution for this journal examines essential research and technology, child policies that are involved in the education of caregivers. His paper is geared towards training ‘frontline’ caregivers and is an essential read for those who wish to pursue research-based practices actively in their professional lives.

In our book review section, Dr. Jaskiran K. Mathur provides a poignant look at ‘A Child Called “It”’: One Child’s Courage to Survive’. Written by Dave Pelzer it is the story of a young child and the abuse he endures from his mother. Written in 1995, the book is part of a trilogy and biographical in nature. The author chronicles the horrific abuse and the betrayals he encounters from the hands of those he trusts the most. The book is a testimony to the indomitable human spirit and to the power of resiliency. The author’s account of his painful journey will undoubtedly resonate with the stories of many of the children in our region of concern. In sharing his story, the author reminds us of the healing and reparative power that one derives from writing and through narration of one’s painful journey in life.

In our movie review section, Dr. Minu Mathur, a sociologist professor at College of San Mateo, San Mateo, California, provides us with an interesting look at the academy award nominated documentary, ‘Children Underground’ by Director Edet Belzberg. The movie is the story of the lives of five homeless Romanian children and the desperate strategies that they resort to survive in a hostile and unpredictable world. The poignant and disturbing account of their survival in a world impacted by societal and political strife is heart wrenching and illustrative of the global concern and growing awareness for early and prompt intervention in such matters. Dr. Mathur’s crisp and eloquent portrayal of the struggle in the lives of these five boys resonates brings life to the movie in our minds as well as in our hearts.

The Brief Communications section showcases several brief articles that illustrate different aspects of institutional work and mental health programs. A prominent theme of care for the vulnerable child, locally and internationally, is evident. In addition, there is extended coverage of two major programs held in New Delhi that addressed the needs of institutionalised children. The focus on aftercare services along with rising concern for the prevention of violence and exploitation of children in institutionalised children gives evidence of our desire to broaden coverage of concerns and outreach in the community.

In our Upcoming Events section we list the conferences coming up for the year 2015. You will find an interesting array of regional and international conferences all referencing the Vulnerable Child. We encourage you to send us information on scheduled conferences for the year 2016 that you would like to see included in our upcoming events section for the September issue of this journal. If they are received in advance we are happy to promote these conferences to our readership and to the larger community.

As usual, I am grateful to my core editorial board that continues to engage in the vision and mission of this journal. In addition, Dr. Karabi Majumdar’s contributions for key

mental health projects and input during various phases of our issue development are profoundly appreciated. In addition, I would like to thank Mr. Aguilar for his outstanding commitment to the progress of this journal. Despite his recent relocation to his country of origin (Mexico) Mr. Aguilar's commitment to our vision and purpose inspires him to conduct his interviews and research projects albeit long distance, with integrity and depth.

The journal continues to be committed to exploring emerging research and encourages others to initiate and submit papers that examine issues related to the care and protection of vulnerable children. The SAARC region is unique in the number of children who need such care, and it is our desire that this journal continues to provide a platform for identifying, researching and exploring the growing needs of this population.

**Monisha C. Nayar-Akhtar, Ph.D.**

*Editor-in-Chief*

# Institutionalised Children Explorations and Beyond#

## Subscription Order Form - 2015

Name of the Subscriber: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Institute: \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Pin: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of individual subscription, please provide your residence address to receive the copy

Telephone No. (With STD code): \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (With STD Code): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail ID: \_\_\_\_\_

### Subscription rates for the year: 2015

Option	Indian (Rs.)	Foreign (US\$)	Frequency
Print**	1500	160	2
Online*	1,124	112	

1. Cheque/DD/. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ INR/USD: \_\_\_\_\_  
drawn on \_\_\_\_\_ in favour of **Indianjournals.com** payable at New Delhi
2. Please send Bill/Proforma Invoice (in Duplicate  / Triplicate )
3. Please send the rates/details for the site licensing Yes  No

### Terms & Conditions:

1. **Print\*\* Subscription** includes **Complimentary Online Access** of current year + back files, if available.
2. Online only subscription\* rates are inclusive of service tax.
3. **Five Concurrent users are allowed with unlimited downloads**
4. Print subscription is volume based, whereas online subscription is calendar year based.
5. Online subscription rates are for single user/IP access only.
6. For online access, please give your Static IPs.
7. Payment by demand draft or local cheque (payable at par) in favour of **Indianjournals.com**, outstation cheques are not acceptable.
8. In case of foreign subscription, payment is preferred by Bank Transfer. For details contact **subscription@indianjournals.com**

Please send this form to Ms Prema Mahadevan, Subscription Manager, **Indianjournals.com**, B-9 Local Shopping Complex, A Block Naraina Vihar, New Delhi 110028, Tel: 011-45055538.

#Udayan Care has partnered with **Indianjournals.com** to promote the journal

## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

**MANUSCRIPTS AND EDITORIAL COMMUNICATIONS** must be submitted in MS-Word (2003/2007) through online submission gateway available on [www.indianjournals.com](http://www.indianjournals.com). Please follow the hyperlink “**Article Submission**” on the home page of the website and upload your manuscript files following the instructions given on the screen. Queries regarding article submission can be sent at [submission@indianjournals.com](mailto:submission@indianjournals.com)

Each author will be sent an acknowledgment, confirming receipt of submission.

**Editorial e-mail:** Kiran Modi: [iceb-journal@udayancare.org](mailto:iceb-journal@udayancare.org) or Monisha Akhtar: [monisha\\_akhtar@hotmail.com](mailto:monisha_akhtar@hotmail.com).

Each submission should conform to APA format for manuscripts for main text and references, and be no more than 3500 words with a 500 word abstract. Please see the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition (2010) for APA format specifics. Submission guidelines can be located on the ICEB website at [http://udayancare.org/iceb-journal/home\\_iceb.html](http://udayancare.org/iceb-journal/home_iceb.html)

All papers must be submitted in English. Direct initial inquiries prior to submitting a manuscript should be sent to the same e-mail addresses indicated above.

Manuscripts can be submitted by any individual working with any of the following countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. Manuscripts can address research issues, issues of standards of care and policy, pertaining to children, out of family net work, and in alternative care; legal concerns related to alternate care and management issues, home care strategies and care-giver solutions, developing monitoring systems, for children in need of care and protection, for looked after children in alternative care, as well as with special needs such as disabilities, juvenile delinquency, or children diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Regional and local issues can be considered.

Original Articles can be accepted for publication only on condition that they are contributed solely to the ICEB journal. Authors of articles already published in foreign-language journals should communicate with the journal Editor and obtain appropriate permissions before sending manuscripts. Only then will a manuscript be considered for publication in the ICEB Journal.

JOURNAL THEMES will cover a wide range of topics. From time to time, an issue may be devoted to a particular theme as in addressing mental health concerns and treating trauma in this population. Authors are encouraged to submit their ideas for particular themes and can work with the editor-in-chief to develop their ideas into a special issue. We hope to encourage creativity in thinking and promote a desire to develop new initiatives in research and care in this field. Authors who are interested in editing a special issue should contact Dr. Monisha Akhtar at [monisha\\_akhtar@hotmail.com](mailto:monisha_akhtar@hotmail.com)

Registration No. - DELENG/2014/57400



Published, printed & edited by Dr. (Mrs.) Kiran Modi on behalf of UDYAN CARE and printed at Ajanta Offset & Packaging Ltd., Plot No.61, Sector-27-C, Faridabad-121003, and published at Udayan Care, 16/97-A, First Floor, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar - IV, New Delhi- 110024.