

# Nurturing Out-of-Home Care (OHC) Children in India

at Nurturing Hope 2108

3<sup>rd</sup> Child & Youth Care World Conference

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# WORKSHOP OUTLINE

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- The numbers deal (spelling out the problem & comparative picture of children)
- The current legislative framework
- Udayan Care's model
- The need for deinstitutionalization
- Group Work: Where would you start
- Hope for children & Summing Up

# DRAWING COMPARISON

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The population of children and youth in one South Asian country – India - is greater than the total population of the entire English-speaking world!

- This includes
  - Americans (325 million),
  - Canadians (36 million),
  - British (65 million),
  - Irish (5 million),
  - Australians (25 million) and
  - New Zealanders (5 million)

**Guess India:**

Such large numbers is a huge challenge for any work on child protection and care reform



# WORLDWIDE NUMBERS of OHC Children

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- There are over 150 million children, who are in need of care and protection worldwide, as they are orphaned and abandoned (UNICEF, 2016)
- East Asia and Pacific: 26.9 mn
- Middle East and North Africa: 5.5. mn
- Sub Sahara Africa: 56 million
- Latin America and Carribean: 7.8 mn
- South Asia: 43 mn
- India: 31 mn

Approximately **2.7 million** children (ages of 0 - 18 years) live **in institutional care** worldwide (UNICEF 2017)


**1.4 million children** in formal care (residential or foster care) in 22 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS2012) and the European Union (Transformative Monitoring for Enhanced Equity TransMonEE, 2014)

Across South Asia, there are approximately **8% of the total population under 18 are OHC**

- National estimates ranging from approximately 6.5% (Pakistan and Sri Lanka) to 13% (Afghanistan) and **4% in India**
- **In most of South Asia, children are largely in institutional care as other forms of alternative care still need more systems and awareness building**



# THE NUMBERS of OHC children in INDIA

A decorative graphic in the top right corner consisting of two concentric arcs. The outer arc is green and the inner arc is pink, both with dashed lines. The text "Where young lives shine" is written in a black, sans-serif font between the two arcs.

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Total population of India is **1.32 billion**; Total child population of India: **430 million** (42% of the total population)

**31 million** children are vulnerable; of them, parents of only **0.3%** children have died and the rest have been abandoned.

Delhi – the mega city has **21.8 million** population and **1 million** homeless people living in India's capital - half of them are children. 20% are girls; 70% are on the street despite having a home in Delhi. 50.5% are illiterate. 87% earn a living— 20% as rag pickers, 15.8% as street vendors, 15% by begging

Over 50% have suffered verbal, physical or sexual abuse

With regard to young people who exit the care system, there is no data available. This is due to the lack of any tracking mechanisms in the country of youth who leave the care system.

# WHY HAVE DATA ON OHC Children



- Large body of literature have documented the adverse impacts of institutionalization on children's developmental outcomes and well-being
- Imperative that countries work towards reducing the number of children in alternative care (particularly institutional care), and, when possible, reunite children with their families.
- In order to do so, reliable estimates of the numbers of children living in such settings are essential. However, most countries still lack functional administrative systems for **enumerating children living outside of family care.**

# Reasons for Children ending as out of home care (OHC)

- Poverty
- War/Internal conflicts
- Migration
- Abandoned by family
- Death of one or both parents
- Abuse, exploitation
- Sudden change in earning status of parents



# Child Protection Mechanisms in India

- The Juvenile Justice Act
- Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)
- The Protection of Children from sexual offence Act 2012 (POSCO)
- Revised Integrated Child Protection Scheme (2014) (ICPS)
- Model Guidelines for Foster Care, 2016
- Adoption Regulations, 2017



# Challenges in Child Protection

- Resources for child protection are meagre – the share of children in the union budget of India (16-17) was 3.32% of total budget
- Within this share, the budget for child protection was 0.03%
- Even then, the utilisation of allocated budget is extremely low

The above reflect low priority accorded to child protection by the Govt of India

- There is lack of adequate training programs and capacity building of juvenile justice officers and staff involved
- Measures for family strengthening to prevent them from abandoning their children and community based care is almost absent
- Research and documentation on issues of child and youth care (CYC) is not undertaken leading to inadequate data and evidence. There is hardly any course on CYC in any university of India







## Alternative Care for Children in India

# Forms of Alternative Care

- Adoption
- FosterCare
- AfterCare
- Institutional Care - last resort after all forms of other alternative care fails (still the only prevalent system in india)

Shift, proposed, from Institutional to family or community-based child care, as per the UN guidelines and JJ Act, 2015



# Institutional Care, India

Large number of orphanages, many still unregistered

## JJ Act of 2015

- Mandatory registration of ALL childcare institutions
- Norms and standards of care
- Addresses physical, psychological, emotional, social, educational, cultural, economic and moral needs of children in an age appropriate manner

Implementation of laws on the ground is poor

Gaps in laws and policies in many areas

- Aftercare largely unaddressed - no mechanism for handholding children transiting from institutions to mainstream society
- No tracking mechanisms of youth leaving care

In the background of all this, Udayan Care offers a unique model of small group home family based care for children





We're committed to the cause of India's vulnerable children and youth

We are Udayan Care

Our movement was sparked off in early 1994

The situation of millions of vulnerable children in India compelled a few committed individuals to combine their efforts and thereby ignite social change

Since then, we've worked relentlessly to raise the standards of child and youth care in India; and expanded our programs to empower girls through higher education and provide skilling and training for job readiness to youth from underprivileged sections of society



# Udayan Ghars

(Sunshine Homes)



An 'Udayan Ghar' is a residential loving home; where vulnerable children are cared for in a compassionate family environment

A close-knit group of around 12 children of the ages 6 to 18, as a unit, live in these group homes called Udayan Ghars, with separate Ghars for boys and girls  
There are 2 multi-unit homes too



## Child & Youth Care

Group homes  
'L.I.F.E' ('Living  
in Family  
Environment')

A committed team of Carers:  
'Mentor Parents' who are  
lifetime volunteers,  
social workers, residential,  
staff and mental health care  
professionals



The first Udayan Ghar was set up in 1996

14 Ghars spread across 4 states





# UDAYAN GHARS

## Child & Youth Care

### What sets Udayan Ghars apart

#### Continuum of Care



Individualised care



Care for Physical and  
Mental Emotional  
Well-being



Quality education &  
Vocational training



Community Orientation



Opportunities for  
growth



Mentor Parents & Staff



Capacity Building



Aftercare



Alumni network



Researching our own  
systems with child  
participation





# After Care Programme

for Udayan Youth over 18



30 Aftercare youth  
in Colleges and  
Vocational studies

35 alumni  
in jobs

30 married  
25 grand  
children

## Why have an After Care programme?



Young adults at this critical stage are not fully equipped to handle life all by themselves



Continuum of care from childhood through adolescence



The After Care Programme helps the Udayan youth to transition smoothly to life as self-reliant adults



Helps provide permanency and on-going family-like relationship for young adults by supporting their educational, career counselling, emotional, social and financial needs





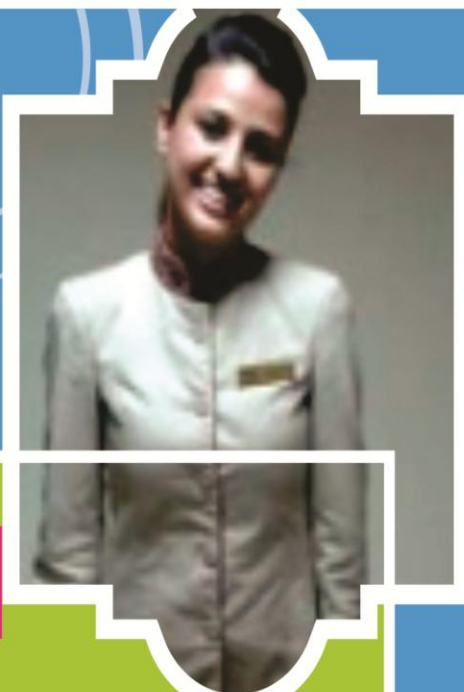
# UDAYAN GHARS

## raja



- Raja was 10 years when he came to Udayan Care in 2003 after losing both his parents
- Raja completed his degree in travel and tourism from University of Delhi and today, he is successfully running his own travel and tourism firm, iTour Beat

## Ruchi



- Ruchi came to Udayan Care in 2000 at 14 years through another organization. Before this, she had undergone many changes in living arrangements which has a traumatic impact on her mind
- At Udayan Ghar, Ruchi build self confidence, learnt to trust others and forged strong bonds
- In 2011 she graduated in hotel management and started working in Marriot Hotel. Today, Ruchi is well settled in Dubai with her family which includes her husband and a child



# UDAYAN GHARS



## Shalu

- Shalu was just 10 years old when she came to Udayan Care along with her 4 sisters after her mother expired and father was unable to take care of them due to his poor health.

- She was awarded with a gold medal for topping her batch securing 9.26 CGPA in B. Pharma in Jan'17.

- She is now employed at a pharmaceutical company and has become self reliant.



## Prakash



- Prakash came to us as a young & delicate child who had experienced loss of parents and exploitation.

- Provided with required love, care, protection and opportunities to develop, Prakash grew out to be confident, intellectual and hardworking adult

- Completing his B.Tech in civil engineering with an outstanding score of 78%, he is currently working in a reputed construction company.

- In addressing social class and social caste dynamics, our care model has whipped off the divide between class, caste, religion, talent or rural vs. urban
- But some challenges remain:
  - Migration and abandonment
  - Frequent placement of child
  - Changing laws and processes
  - Challenges with law enforcement agencies
- Non availability of trained staff
- Complex model of finding long-term mentors
- Spaces to set up Homes; sensitising the communities around





# De - Institutionalization in India

# Care Reform in a Country of 1.2+ bn People

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- It is important to remember that in child protection it is not “what is the one right answer” but ... what is the next right answer?
- Every child has individual needs... these needs change constantly...
- Culture, local context, circumstances and individual needs of every child is of utmost importance
- **Child and Youth Care** is a dynamic process and local community based solutions are to be encouraged, as per UN Guidelines and even JJ Act



# De institutionalization: What and Why

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A policy-driven process of reforming a country's alternative care system, which primarily aims at:

- **Decreasing reliance on institutional Care** with a complementary increase in family and community-based care and services
- **Preventing** separation of children from their parents by providing adequate support to children, families and communities
- **Preparing** the process of leaving care and follow up of children who are restored back to the family



## ◦ **SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS & AWARENESS BUILDING**

- Country, regional and institutional level
- Assessment of number of children in CCIs
- Assessment of available services and service providers, and of current budget and funding arrangements
- Policy on placement and care planning
- Documentation of models on family and community based care
- Promoting family and Community based care

## ◦ **NATIONAL POLICY & DESIGN OF SERVICES**

- Projection of required services
- Comprehensive policy on DI with financial projection of capital investment and human resources
- Mechanisms for appropriate range of services
- Ongoing running costs of the new services

## • **PREPARING AND MOVING CHILDREN AND STAFF From INSTITUTIONAL CARE**

- Important to prepare children & caregivers for the move
- Essential knowledge for preparation & programme planning
- Countering resistance to change
- Phased selection, training and movement of staff

## • **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

- Development outcomes for each child
- The performance of new services
- Learning lessons – documentation of learnings
- The mechanics of evaluation – who does it and how frequently – central annual report by Govt of India



## Group Work

Divide into groups of ....

Each group represents one country from around the world

Each group to explore the following questions:

- **Are the proposed steps appropriate & adequate or should there be any additional steps**
- **Can you think of what the national policy on DI should contain**
- **Can you share the DI model of any other country**
- **What challenges would you expect to face in the DI process in India**
- **What will you take away from this session in regard to your work on CYC**



## Steps

- Situational analysis and awareness building
- National policy on DI and Design of services
- Preparing and moving children and caregivers in Institutional Care
- Monitoring & Evaluation

## 5 Questions to explore

- Are the proposed steps appropriate & adequate or should there be any additional steps
- Can you think of what the national policy on DI should contain
- Can you share the DI model of any other country
- What challenges would you expect to face in the DI process in India
- What will you take away from this session in regard to your work on CYC



Sustainable development for India's homeless children lies in promoting innovative practices that blend family-based group living with positive elements of residential child care.

- Group presentations
- Key Points that emerged
- Can a general model of de-institutionalization, applicable across all countries, be developed?

Hope for India's children and youth – the collective responsibility of all of us





23 years of transforming lives



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lives shine

