



# YCDA

## Alternative Child Care Initiative

*Following are the major intervention of Task force;*

- Establish various alternative child care model
- Capacity Building of various stakeholders
- Lobby, Advocacy and Campaign
- Popularize the concept
- Study, Research and Documentation

Our major contributions are initiating the 'Right to Family Campaign' promoting various alternative forms of Child Care models, preparation of state schemes for 'Foster care and Sponsorship care' which government has principally agreed to implement in the state.

Besides this, in collaboration with W&CD, Government of Odisha and UNICEF we are engaged in a process of initiating "De-institutionalization" process in six Utkal Balashrams of the state by reintegrating children heaving biological family based on individual care plan and Home study report.

### Collaborations

To address the issue, we have developed partnership with Kinderpostzegels, Cordaid, The Netherlands, Unicef, state office for Orissa. Our interventions are based on the framework of Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act 2000, amendment 2006 and Integrated Child Protection Schemes – ICPC. As a principle we work closely with Women and Child Development Departments, Government of Orissa and other statutory bodies.

### About YCDA

YCDA is a Non-Governmental Voluntary Organization established in the year 1993 and then was registered under Societies Registration Act 1860, Foreign Contribution Regulation Act in the year 1993 and 1997 respectively. The organization devotes its time, skill, knowledge and commitment towards development of oppressed masses in the society with a group of experienced and trained social workers. The major focus of the organization is on addressing children's rights including orphan and vulnerable in the region in an integrated manner to have access to opportunities and services that promote their rights to survival, development, protection and participation in a family and community based care.

To achieve the goals, we initiate field-based intervention for sustainable changes in the socio-economic condition of disadvantaged and oppressed communities and take appropriate advocacy measures for policy changes and translation of various policies into action. To expedite process in macro level we organize training, seminars and workshop for other NGOs, civil societies to highlight various common issues and initiate actions.



## C O N T A C T

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*...an approach to provide family based care and rehabilitation for Children  
in need of care and protection in the state of Odisha, India*



**Every Child has a Right to Family**



CONTEXT

Orphaned and vulnerable children/children without parental care often have a long trail of painful experiences and living in difficult circumstances. The child by reason of physical and mental immaturity as well as helplessness deserves special safeguard and care. It is this vulnerability that provides a rational for parental right as well as parental responsibilities over children. However due to various reason many children are deprived of parental care and separated from their family environment. Nothing can take away the pain of the children who have lost one or both parents due to various reasons and are separated from their family.

In our system, children without parental care are sending to orphans hostel either or left with relatives. The hostels or orphanage are not adequate to accommodate the need of the child and more likely to have negative effects on child development, no matter how well they are. Studies shows that children need a family like environment to grow and develop.

*The Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) perceives the child as someone who needs support and protected by the parents. Based on this, Integrated Child Protection Schemes-ICPS in its guiding principles have clearly mentioned that institutionalization of Children have to be the last resort: there is a need to shift the focus of interventions from an overreliance on institutionalization of children and move towards more family and community-based alternatives for care. Institutionalization should be used as a measure of last resort after all other options have been explored.*

INITIATIVES

I. Micro Level

Program Thrust

To ensure that Orphan and Vulnerable Children /Children in need of care and protection in the region have access to opportunities and services that promote their rights to survival, development, protection and participation in a family and community based care.

Approach

In micro level following alternative care approaches have been adopted as per the best interest of the child.

A. Kinship Care

Kinship care is the full-time care of a child by a relative. Children without parental care placed in the families and provided various supports.

B. Foster Care

Foster care is a way of providing a family life for children who cannot live with their own parents or near relatives due to various reasons. Children have placed in the extended family in the same or nearby villages.

C. Independent living

Independent living arrangement is one where there is no adult available and children live on their own. An older child acts as a guardian and takes care of other siblings.

D. Sponsorship

Sponsorship is an economically – facilitating mechanism beneficial for children. The external agency provides periodic financial support to care givers which enables them to take care of the child so as to avoid institutionalization due to economic reasons.

E. Transit Centre

In this approach child stays for a short period depending on the nature of vulnerability like seasonal migration of parents, disaster, conflict etc.



Key features of the programme include:

- Identification of Orphan and Vulnerable Children in the region and develop their profile / Home study report and Individual care plan
- Discuss with the children and care givers regarding various placement arrangements as per the best interest of child( Foster care , Kinship care and other )
- Produce the children in Child Welfare Committee CWCs and pass appropriate resolutions/orders.
- Formation of a local support committee involving various stakeholders of the village for supervision and support
- Ensure access to essential services, including education, health care, birth registration, livelihood needs and others
- Provide periodic counseling and training to care givers on essential child care services focus on child care and protection
- Organize training and exposure camps for the children time to time on life skill, child rights etc. and build their capacity
- Raise awareness at all levels through advocacy and social mobilization to create a supportive environment for children without parental care
- Initiate family strengthen programme with integrating various existing social protection schemes of the government with the families/care givers
- Project staff visit regularly to the child, interact with the committee members, school teachers and care givers and ensures various services.



II. Marco Level

Vision:

Established Task force as a lead platform in the state of Orissa on care and protection of Orphan and vulnerable children/children without parental care through various non-institutional family focused care.

Task force on Non Institutional forms of Child care:

Task force on Non Institutional forms of Child care is a informal body of likeminded organizations who subscribe the concept of Non-institutional forms of child care approach in the state of Odisha. It is conceived by YCDA and has come into existence since March’2009 from a workshop organized on Alternative forms of care for the Children without parental care. Since then, we work in close collaboration with Women & Child Development Department, Government of Odisha and Unicef – Orissa State office.