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Right to Health for Children during Early Childhood

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India is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Child Rights but there is need to address the health problems primarily the malnutrition and neglect of health of young children. A rights-based rather than a welfare approach is needed to realize child rights, of which health is first and foremost. The right of the child to survival, growth and holistic development require particular attention so that the child may not be deprived of the care, love, health, nutrition etc.

This paper provides an analysis of the present legal framework promoting the Right to health of children during early childhood at International and national levels. The efforts of the government to protect the health of the children through legislative enactments both at national and state level are also discussed.

The paper emphasize the need of the law and policy on mortality and malnutrition for the reflection of special status for the protection of the rights and interests of the young children through the proper implementation of the schemes and ensuring accountability at all levels.

Keywords : UN Convention on child rights, Right to health for children, early childhood, mortality.

The development of a human being depends on the element of care, health nutrition etc. with a protective environment. With this view the pious and sacred law of the land has been framed by our forefathers with the objective of catering the needs and ensuring the development of all sections of the society. Despite the fact that the Indian Constitution is a document of social change bringing about a significant change in the conditions of all the sections of the society but the health issues in India always remains to be a point of concern.

India is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant to the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. India is also one of the signatories to the United Nations Convention on Child Rights (UNCRC). In consonance of the letter and spirit of these covenants and the dream of our forefathers, the Supreme Court within the parameters set up by the Constitution of India held that Article 21 of the Constitution of India in relation to the human rights