

**CHILD WELFARE ADMINISTRATION IN MIZORAM:  
A CASE STUDY OF AIZAWL DISTRICT**

**Thesis  
Submitted to the Mizoram University for the  
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

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**CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that **Ms. Lalchhuanmawii** has prepared a Thesis under my Supervision on the topic *Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram: A Case Study of Aizawl District* in partial fulfillment for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D) in the Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University, Aizawl.

This Dissertation has been the outcome of her original work and it does not form a part of any other thesis submitted for the award of any other degrees.

She is duly permitted to submit her dissertation for examination.

Dated Aizawl,  
The 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015

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## DECLARATION

I Lalchhuanmawii, hereby declare that the subject matter of this thesis is the record of work done by me, that the contents of this thesis did not form basis of the award of any previous degree to me or to do the best of my knowledge to anybody else, and that the thesis has not been submitted by me for any research degree in any other university/institute.

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The 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015

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## **PREFACE**

The term “Child Welfare” covers a multitude of services provided to children for ensuring their health, safety, security and development in the society. While Social Welfare services strive to promote well-being of the entire community, Child Welfare services generally pertain to those social services for the provisions of day care, adoption and child protection. Thus, Child Welfare Administration involves all those organised operations, activities and efforts of the Government and Non-Governmental Organisations to improve health and well-being of children, including their safety and security.

The United Nations Convention on Right of the Child (UNCRC) accepted every human being below the age of 18 years as a definition of a child. The Government of India also recognised this definition

Since people’s participation in Child Welfare Programme is essential, the concerned administrative departments should encourage Voluntary Agencies to extend the scope of their activities in this direction. Hence, the success or failure of Child Welfare Administration at the National or State levels greatly depend on the extent of support and co-operation that the Government can receive from Non-Governmental Organizations in a community.

The term ‘Child Welfare’ is mainly concerned with the physical, social, and psychological well-being of children, especially those who are suffering from the effects of poverty, or lacking normal parental care and supervision. In some more developed countries, Child Welfare includes a range of highly specialized services that go far beyond physical survival and deal with different problems such as personality development, vocational guidance, and use of leisure time. In some under developed countries and in the aftermath of war and natural disaster, the scheme of child welfare

mainly cover the essential measurement to keep children alive, such as emergency feeding, shelter, and simple public health precautions.

The present study aims to open our eyes wide enough to realise that many children in Mizoram are undergoing difficulties and various problems. The need for this realisation is the need of the hour. There are different literatures on Social Welfare Administration in India, but no publications are available on Child Welfare Administration concerning Mizoram.

Practically, published books, journals and seminar papers on Child Welfare and Development are hardly available. Besides, no previous empirical work on the present topic has been found. The calls for Child Welfare and Development have not yet been heard as it should be and as such, the present piece of research is attempted to see the ground realities of Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram.

The research work is, therefore, designed to see and examine various aspects of Child Welfare Administration in the State of Mizoram

This whole work is divided into seven Chapters. The *first* Chapter is an introductory chapter which has introduced background of the present research and a number of literatures on the subject at local, regional, national and international levels have also been reviewed to establish the feasibility of the present study. Apart from these, this Chapter has explicated objectives of the study, statement of the problems, research gap, area of the study, research questions, methodology, chapter-wise breakups and the importance of the present research.

The *second Chapter* has given a brief profile of Mizoram in general and Aizawl District in particular. It has also dealt with *inter alia* the socio-cultural, economic and political system of the indigenous people constituting the term “Mizo” like Lusei, Ralte, Hmar, Paite, Lai, Mara etc.

In the *third* Chapter, an attempt has been made to explore the origin of Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram under the Assam Government and its subsequent

developments under the Union Territory Government and the State Government of Mizoram.

The *fourth* Chapter has examined various Child Welfare Projects, Schemes and Programmes and the process of their implementation in Mizoram under different situations.

The *fifth* Chapter has examined financial management in Child Welfare Administration with reference to those Child Welfare Projects and Schemes implemented, from time to time, by the State Government so that it would be possible to understand the impact of fund utilised by the State Government for the uplift of the living condition of children.

The *sixth* Chapter has examined the supporting role played by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the process of implementation of Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes in Aizawl District of Mizoram and, with the help of data collected from the leaders of NGOs, made an empirical study of the impacts of various Child Welfare Projects and Schemes implemented, from time to time, by Child Welfare Administration for the benefits of children in Aizawl District.

The *seventh* chapter is the concluding chapter which has brought out the summary and findings of the present study.

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

ACA	Adoption Coordinating Agency or Advisory Committee on Adoption
AG	Adolescent Girl
AIIMS	All India Institute of Medical Sciences
AMC	Aizawl Municipal Council
AMI	Association of Montessori International
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
AWTC	Anganwadi Training Centre
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
BMI	Body Mass Index
BSY	Balika Samridhi Yojana
CARA	Central Adoption Resource Authority
CASP	Critical Appraisal Skills Programme
CBO	Church or Community Based Organisation
CBPR	Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction Programme
CCF	Children Christian Fund
CDPO	Child Development Project Officer
CIDA	Canadian International Development
CIF	Child-line India Foundation
CMB	Conditional Maternity Benefit
CPD	Centre for Peace and Development
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
CSWB	Central Social Welfare Board
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
DCPC	District Child Protection Committee
DCPS	District Child Protection Society

DTP	Diphtheria Toxoid, Tetanus Toxoid, Pertussis Vaccine
ECM	Evangelical Churches of Maraland
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EIC	Early Intervention Centre
FBO	Faith Based Organisation
FCC	Family Counseling Centre
FNB	First National Bank
FOC	Friends of Children
GAWA	Guardianship and Wards Act
GDRC	Geneva – Declaration of the Child
HAMA	Hindu Adoption & Maintenance Act
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights
ICCW	Indian Council for Child Welfare
ICDS	Integrated Children Development Schemes
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Schemes
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IFA	Iron Folic Acid
IGMSY	Indira Gandhi Matruva Sahyog Yojana
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMR	International Manpower Resources
IPC	International Poor Children or Indian Penal Code
IUCW	International Union for Child Welfare
IYC	International Year of the Child
JJB	Juvenile Justice Board
JNNURM	Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission
KD	Kishori Diwas
KSY	Kishor Shakti Yojana
LAPAS	Licensed Adoption Placement Agencies
LDC	Lower Division Clerk

LHV	Lower Heating Value
MHA	Mizoram Hmeithai Association
MHIP	Mizoram Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl
MHT	Mizo Hmeichhe Tangrual
MKG	Mini Kitchen Gardening
MMF	Meals for Millions Foundation
MMR	Measles, Mumpha & Rubella
MNF	Mizo National Front
MZU	Mizoram University
MPC	Mizoram People's Conferences
MPO	Master Plan of Operations
MSCCW	Mizoram State Council for Child Welfare
MUP	Mizoram Upa Pawl
MWCD	Ministry of women and Child development
NACO	National Aids Control Organisation
NCD	National Council on Disabilities
NCLP	National Child Labour Projects
NEHU	North Eastern Hills University
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHE	Nutrition and Health Education
NIPCCD	National Institute of Public Co-Operation and Child Development
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development
NPAG	Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls
NPCOD	National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development
PAPs	Prospective Adoptive Parents
PHN	Public Health Nurse
PITA	Prevention Immortal Traffic Act
PLAN	Positive Life Association of Nigeria
PLPAB	Project Level Purchase Advisory Board
RCH	Reproductive and Children Health
RGSEAC	Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABLA)

RIPA	Recognised Indian Placement Agency
SA	Salvation Army
SA	Scrutinising Agency
SAA	Special Adoption Agencies
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SCCW	State Council for Child Welfare
SCF	Save the Children Fund
SCPS	State Child Protection Society
SIDA	Swedish International Development Authority
SJPU	Special Juvenile Police Unit
SNP	Supplementary Nutrition Programme
SOG	Servant of God
SOS	Save Our Soul
SPSU	State Project Support Unit
SSA	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
SWD	Social Welfare Department
TNT	Thutak Nunpuitu Team
UDC	Upper Division Clerk
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNICEF	United Nation International Children Emergency Fund
UNO	United Nations Organisation
UPC	United Pentecostal Church
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VHND	Village Health and Nutrition Day
VO	Voluntary Organisation
WFFC	World Fit for Children
WHO	World Health Organisation
YLA	Young Lushai Association

YMA	Young Mizo Association
YMCA	Young Men Christian Association
YWCA	Young Women Christian Association
ZEF	Zoram Evangelical Fellowship
ZEP	Zoram Entu Pawl
ZNP	Zoram Nationalist Party

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## **CHAPTER IV**

# **CHILD WELFARE SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES**

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.0 Background

Children are the citizens and principal assets of every country. Children of today are the nation-builders of tomorrow. The best way of developing our national human resources is to take care of children. Many efforts have been made by the Government of India for the welfare and development of children who are vulnerable to different kinds of exploitation and abuse.<sup>1</sup> In the meanwhile, there are millions of children living in difficult circumstances in our country. Throughout the world, children live under equally frustrating situation. From the Arctic to Australia, from China to Brazil, children are beaten, tortured, starved, abused, militarized, degraded, dominated, exploited and relegated. Some are subjected to illegal international adoption and others left to roam the world as refugees.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, some of the children in Mizoram are living difficult life.

Development of the society is the main aim of all the nations. All round development of children is very important for nation building activities. The foundation of fullest development of human resources must lay in the early stages of life. Child welfare and development is viewed as supreme asset of the society. Development of the society is the main aim of all the nations.

All round development of children is very important for nation building activities. The foundation of fullest development of human resources must lay in the early stages of life. It is well said that if one wants to know a nation he should see it in its children, child is, not only the future of any nation but also strength in reserve for a nation. They are the crops which feed the future. If they are healthy and active, educated and informed, disciplined and trained the future of nation is well insured,

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<sup>1</sup> *Wed. nic. In / cwnew. htm*

<sup>2</sup> *Statement of Britain's Shadow overseas Development Minister Joan Lester in London at the end of November, 1989.*

and if they are wanting in the above aspects the tomorrow of a nation is doomed to disaster.<sup>3</sup>

Children are blooming flowers of the garden of society. It is, therefore, a duty on the part of the members of society to protect these flowers from the damaging effects of excessive exposure to heat, cold and rains and also not to pluck them to satisfy their momentary whims<sup>4</sup>. Politically, socially and economically child is the seed of future national growth. Recognising this fact, the Government has taken various executive as well as legislative steps to protect them. Children welfare strengthens social and economic development. They need to be protected and well look after if a country is to thrive and prosper in all spheres of human activity. Unfortunately in developing countries most of the child life is lost due to poor health, unhygienic conditions and an absence of medical facilities especially in rural areas. Apart from this even a greater number of surviving children are forced to live a miserable life without even the basic necessities. As a result, most of the children fail to develop their full social and economics potentialities, which could enable them to grow as useful members of the community, and this fact perpetuates the cycle of social and economics backwardness among future generations.<sup>5</sup>

The future of our country depends on the mental health and strength of children. Mental health in childhood and adolescence is defined by the achievement of expected developmental cognitive, social and emotional milestones and by secure attachments, satisfying social relationships and effective coping skills. Mentally healthy children enjoy a positive quality of life; function well at home, in school, and in their communities, and are free of disabling symptoms of psychopathology.<sup>6</sup>

## 1.1 Review of Literature

The researcher has undertaken extensive review of literature pertaining to Social Welfare in India and Mizoram.

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<sup>3</sup> Lawcommissionofindia. Nic.in/101- *Report* 153.pdf

<sup>4</sup> [www. Tigweb.Org/ youth-media/ panorama/ article.Html?](http://www.Tigweb.Org/youth-media/panorama/article.Html?)

<sup>5</sup> Mamoria, C.B., 'Social Problems and Social Disorganisation in India', Kitab Mahal, Delhi, p. 661, 1965.

<sup>6</sup> [www.loudounfriends.org/default.asp?contentID=51](http://www.loudounfriends.org/default.asp?contentID=51)

Olivia Golden, in her book *'Reforming Child Welfare,'* (2009) defines the essential steps, partnerships, and strategies required to help the most vulnerable children. Her work is generously sprinkled with pithy observations, each robust enough to make a significant difference to human service program designers, managers, policymakers, and evaluators. Perhaps because of her broad background in practice, academia, and child welfare and other human services, she has written a book that crosses boundaries and can help troubled agencies onto a pathway to success.

Subhash C. Arora, in his article *'Role of Voluntary Organisations in Social Development and Social Welfare,'* (1996), has provided valuable information about role of Voluntary Organisations in social development and social welfare. He has also attempted to present the varied and manifold role of Voluntary Organisations, the weaknesses he finds, bureaucratic attitude, lack of trained and skilled volunteers, corruption and abuse of authority etc. He expressed if public-spirited people do not come forward in large number to strengthen social action and promote people's participation in collective welfare, the promising role of Voluntary Organisations in our democratic development may get marginalised.

Sumitra Gupta, in her book *'Social Welfare in India'* (1989), deals with social reforms for redeeming the Indian society from its backwardness. The book has been published on the basis of a thorough empirical and analytical study of the problems of social welfare in India.

Margareth Khalakdina, in her book, *'Early Child Care in India,'* (1979), has made valuable information on early child care in the country. She expresses that the country has undertaken various programmes for the improvement of the status of children especially in rural families. The margin programmes are logically related to child health and nutrition essential for survival. Supportive programmes for intellectual and emotional development are relatively few, perhaps because these are less overriding priorities in a traditional agro-economic society.

Anil Kumar, in his work, *'Social Welfare Projects under Five Year Plans,'* (1996), has given a conceptual classification of social welfare. He covers classification of essentials and a critical review of social welfare programmes under

the plans. In his opinion, the success of all social welfare programmes depend on strong political will, active participation of people, regular follow-up, strict control and supervision on the part of executors. He observes that the Government have, thus launched massive welfare schemes under different five year plans. There has also been increased financial assistance under the different programmes.

Cathryn C.Potter and Charmine R.Britain in their book, *Child Welfare Supervision: A Practical Guide for Supervisors, Managers and Administrators*, (2009) has bridged the gap between research and supervisory practice, between management and organizational theory and supervisory practice. They provide a comprehensive, integrated resource for supervisors and also give those tools and information to succeed in the fast-paced and intense world of child welfare. The book covers a wide range of ‘must-have skills’ and knowledge for supervisors, including leadership, developing worker performance, managing the child welfare unit, working beyond the agency, managing performance, providing clinical supervision and respecting diversity.

R.C. Sharma, in his book ‘*National Policy on Education and Programmes of Implementation*,’ (2002) has made an evaluation of the different welfare schemes undertaken by the Government of India and its activities for their implementation. In this book, the main focus of the author is on Child Welfare, Community Welfare, improvement of the status of women, labour welfare, upliftment of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes.

Jagannath Mohanty and Bhagyadhar Mohanty, in their book ‘*Early Childhood Care and Education*,’ (2004) have made an attempt to criticise the objective and the achievement of the Government of India in childhood care and education. The two authors have made valuable insights into the problems of Welfare policy programmes in India and thus incorporated in their work some suggestions for improvement of Welfare policy programmes in India.

C.Lalkima, in his book ‘*Social Welfare Administration in Mizoram*,’ (1997) has made a study of Social Welfare Administration in Mizoram. Although his work contains some of the relevant information for the present study, it does not specifically study Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram.

Mohinder Singh, in his work '*Revitalising Social Policy of India,*' (1996) has defines and explains the concept of social policy and highlights the constitutional provisions pertaining to social policy and discusses social policy and programmes in the plans as well as issues demanding, rethinking and revitalising economics and social policy initiatives. His important observation is that the programmes of general nature hardly reach the poor women. He calls for a sound social policy supported and followed by the best suited legislations and need-based programme to important social justice.

Peter J. Pecora, James Whittaker and Anthony Maluccio, in their book '*The Child Welfare Challenge: Policy, Practice and Research,*' (2009) have examined major policy practices and research issues as they jointly shape child welfare practices and its future. The authors have highlighted service innovations that have been developed in recent years. The resulting picture is encouraging, especially if certain major program reforms are implemented and agencies are able to concentrate resources in a focused manner. The volume emphasizes families and children whose primary recourse to services has been through publicly funded child welfare agencies. The book considers historical areas of service-foster care and adoptions, in-home family-centred services, child-protective services, and residential services-where social work has an important role. Authors address the many fields of practice in which child and family services are provided or that involve substantial numbers of social work programs, such as services to adolescent parents, child mental health, education, and juvenile justice agencies.

## **1.2 Research Gap**

Although there are various valuable literatures on Social Welfare Administration in India, most of the Books, Journals and Seminar papers available in India do not deal with Child Welfare and Development in Mizoram and hence no publications on Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram. Truly speaking, all of the above published works under review, including C. Lalkima's *Social Welfare Administration in Mizoram,* have not given any special attention to Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram. In the absence of such a specific study on the topic "Child Welfare Administration in Aizawl District of Mizoram," the present scholar

has taken it as an imperative task to take up the present study with definite objectives.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1974, the Government of India adopted the National Policy for Children in addition to the Constitutional Provisions and Legislations concerning children. The new Policy includes the provision of adequate welfare services to children, both before and after birth and, during the growing stages, for their full physical, mental and social development. Accordingly, the State Government has embarked upon the implementation of different welfare schemes and programmes for children under the National Policy. In order to augment its welfare services to children, the State Government has also encouraged the involvement of voluntary organisations by widening the scope of their activities for the improvement of child welfare not only in the district under study but also in the entire Mizoram.

However, experiences have shown that there are some shortcomings in the process of implementation of child welfare policies and programmes in the district under study. Thus, the State Government is required to make more efforts for the improvement of health, nutrition, safety security and education of children not only in the district under study but also in the whole of Mizoram.

In Mizo society, girls are found to have faced more problems than the boys. Although the practice of child labour is negligible in Mizoram, some of the girls are practically vulnerable to different kinds of exploitation and abuse. Though the State Government has been spending a huge amount of the public fund for ameliorating child welfare in Mizoram in general and in Aizawl District in particular, the expenditure incurred by it for the implementation of child welfare programmes is not commensurate with the achievements made in this regard.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The main objectives of the proposed study are as follows:

- (1) To examine the Government initiatives for child welfare administration in Mizoram.
- (2) To evaluate the different child welfare projects and schemes of the Union Government as implemented by the State Government, from time to time, in Aizawl District.
- (3) To examine the role played by NGOs like YMA, MHIP, MUP etc for the effective implementation of child welfare and development programmes in the district.
- (4) To evaluate the achievement of child welfare and development programmes in the district under study.
- (5) To study financial management of Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram.

#### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

The present study has been designed for carrying out a comprehensive study of various child welfare schemes and programmes implemented by the Mizoram State Government. It will examine the administrative and financial relations between the Government and some Non-Governmental Organisations involved in the process of implementation of various child welfare schemes and programmes. However, the present study will be restricted to the Aizawl District only. The present study has been taken up with a view to finding out whether there is a better scope for improvement of health and well-being of children through the implementation of Child Welfare schemes and programmes in Aizawl District.

The scope of this research is to study the impact of various schemes and policies for child welfare and development. Mizoram, provided with various schemes for child welfare and development programmes have not come up with the most satisfactory result. Lack of sincerity and efficiency from the implementing agency and ignorance of the projects and schemes has made it critical for these



programmes. The proper implementation of these various schemes will be a remarkably welfare and development for children.

## **1.6 Research Questions**

This research work is an attempt to answer the following research questions:

- (1) How does the State Government implement child welfare schemes, projects, policies and programmes in Aizawl District?
- (2) Do children in Aizawl District really get benefits from welfare schemes, projects, policies and programmes implemented by the State Government?
- (3) Is the involvement of NGOs in the process of implementation of different child welfare schemes really necessary?

## **1.7 Methodology**

The present work has been based on primary and secondary data. The primary data have been collected, with the help of Questionnaire Method, Observation Method and Interviews Method, from the officials as well as the people involved directly or indirectly in Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram State. Various Child Welfare Schemes, Projects, Policies and Programmes of the Central Government taken up by the State Government have been analysed with a view to finding out their relevance for the present study. Sampling Method has been employed for identifying informants to represent the focused group of children below 18 years of age from whom authentic information have been collected for studying Child Welfare Programmes. Initially, 100 boys and 100 girls in the age group of 10 to 18 have been randomly selected as samples from different Children's Homes and Schools (Standard IV to XII) located in Aizawl District.

In addition, Questionnaires have been administered to 200 (100 male and 100 female) randomly selected NGO's leaders who are directly or indirectly involved in the process of implementation of Child Welfare Schemes and Projects in Aizawl District. Thus, data collected from NGO leaders serve as authentic information for the researcher to make an empirical study of the success or failure of various Child Welfare Schemes and Projects implemented in Aizawl District by the concerned Administration of State.

The secondary data have also been extensively collected from different sources such as Books, Journals, Newspapers (local and national) and other relevant research publications. The data so collected have been carefully analysed, consulted and extensively utilised for the present study.

## **1.8 Area of the Study**

The present study on Child Welfare Administration is confined to Aizawl District which is the largest district of all the eight districts in Mizoram State. Although Aizawl District alone can present the whole picture of Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram, the researcher is strong opinion that no fruitful study on the subject can be made without referring to the whole situation in the State. Hence, the researcher has reflected off and on the whole situation of Child Welfare Administration with a view to making the present study inclusive.

## **1.9 Chapterisation**

This whole work is divided into seven Chapters. This whole work is divided into seven Chapters. The *first* Chapter is an introductory chapter which has introduced background of the present research and a number of literatures on the subject at local, regional, national and international levels have also been reviewed to establish the feasibility of the present study. Apart from these, this Chapter has explicated objectives of the study, statement of the problems, research gap, area of the study, research questions, methodology, chapter-wise breakups and the importance of the present research.

The *second Chapter* has given a brief profile of Mizoram in general and Aizawl District in particular. It has also dealt with *inter alia* the socio-cultural, economic and political system of the indigenous people constituting the term “Mizo” like Lusei, Ralte, Hmar, Paite, Lai, Mara etc.

In the *third Chapter*, an attempt has been made to explore the origin of Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram under the Assam Government and its subsequent developments under the Union Territory Government and the State Government of Mizoram.

The *fourth* Chapter has examined various Child Welfare Projects, Schemes and Programmes and the process of their implementation in Mizoram under different situations.

The *fifth* Chapter has examined financial management in Child Welfare Administration with reference to those Child Welfare Projects and Schemes implemented, from time to time, by the State Government so that it would be possible to understand the impact of fund utilised by the State Government for the uplift of the living condition of children.

The *sixth* Chapter has examined the supporting role played by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the process of implementation of Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes in Aizawl District of Mizoram and, with the help of data collected from the leaders of NGOs, made an empirical study of the impacts of various Child Welfare Projects and Schemes implemented, from time to time, by Child Welfare Administration for the benefits of children in Aizawl District.

The *seventh* chapter is the concluding chapter which has brought out the summary and findings of the present study.

### **1.10 Importance of the Study**

Tragically, several children in the world suffer from severe emotional and physical trauma as a result of all sorts of child abuse. Many of them have been subjected to negligence, abandonment and destitution leading to their death each day. Over the past many years, the calls for child welfare and development have not yet received proper attention and this can be construed as the reason why no such study has been made so far by scholars on Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram as well. However, the process of positive societal transformation has been improving the living conditions of children to some extent. It is natural that the quality of life which children are enjoying is to ultimately determine the quality of future population. Hence, the welfare of children is virtually the welfare of not only a particular State of the Indian Union but also the Nation taken as a whole. Therefore, present study has been taken up with the aim of opening the eyes of the researchers and policy makers wide enough to realise that many children in Mizoram are also

undergoing various problems and difficult life. The need of the hour is not only the realisation of their problems by the policy-makers but more so the effectiveness of fund utilisation for the proper implementation of Government policies pertaining to child welfare and development in the State of Mizoram.

## CHAPTER II

### PROFILE OF AIZAWL DISTRICT OF MIZORAM

#### 2.0 Geographical Features of Mizoram

By way of locating Aizawl District, this chapter attempts to introduce Mizoram which was hitherto known as one of the Hill Districts of Assam under the names 'The Lushai Hills District' although its original inhabitants preferred to call their land "Mizoram." When India attained independence from the British domination, Mizoram became one of the Autonomous Districts of Assam under the names 'The Lushai Hills District' and later 'The Mizo District.' On 21<sup>st</sup> January 1972, the Mizo District got elevated to a Union Territory status which paved the way for the Mizos to reclaim the original name of their land 'Mizoram.'

The name of the land 'Mizoram' is composed of two Mizo words '*Mizo*' and '*Ram*'. While the literal meaning of '*Ram*' means country or land, there is ambiguity about the literal meaning of '*Mizo*.' Most of the non-local writers have made different interpretations of the word '*Mizo*.' According to their popular view, the word, '*Mizo*' is a compound of '*Mi*' and '*Zo*.' While '*Mi*' in Mizo language means 'person,' their interpretations of the word '*Zo*' to mean 'high hill,' 'highland,' 'cold region,' do not receive local acceptance. On the other hand, the term '*Mizo*' has been used by the Mizo themselves as a single collective name to mean all those original hill tribes of the Assam-Burman sub-group that branches from Tibeto-Burman group of the main Tibeto-Chinese race<sup>1</sup> such as Lusei, Hmar, Ralte, Paihte, Pawi (Lai), Lakher (Mara), Pang and their allied tribes<sup>2</sup> who are of the Mongoloid stock.<sup>3</sup> Thus, these various original tribes and clans, including their allied tribes, who are knit together by common customs, common traditions and common language and also identifying themselves as 'Mizos' are collectively known as the 'Mizos.' In short, most of these various tribes and clans have always preferred their land to be

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<sup>1</sup> Lalthangliana, B., '*History of the Mizos in Burma*', History Department, Arts and Science University, Mandalay, p.2, 1975.

<sup>2</sup> Liangkhaia, Rev., '*History of Lushai*', Hmingliana & Sons, Aijal, pp.9-21, 1951.

<sup>3</sup> Thanga, L.B., '*The Mizos: A Study in Racial Personality*', United Publishers, Gauhati, p.3, 1978.

recognized as 'Mizoram' which literally means 'Mizo land.' This fact was rightly pointed out by Barkataki.<sup>4</sup>

With the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Union Government and the Mizo National Front (MNF) supreme, Laldenga, Mizoram attained Statehood on February 20, 1987 to become the 23<sup>rd</sup> State of the Indian Union. With the attainment of full statehood, the entire geographical area of Mizoram is divided into eight districts namely, Aizawl, Lunglei, Serchhip, Mamit, Champhai, Kolasib, Lawngtlai and Saiha.<sup>5</sup>

#### (a) Geographical Location

Mizoram, a mountainous and hilly region, occupies a tongue-shaped land in the extreme North East Region of India covering a geographical area of 21,087 sq. Kilometres.<sup>6</sup> It lies between 21°56'N to 24°31' N and 92°16'E to 93°26' E longitudes.<sup>7</sup> The length of the State from South to North is about 300 kilometres. There are around 21 major peaks or hills ranges of different heights running through the length and breadth of the State. The steep and rugged hill ranges run from north to south with an average height of about 900 metres.

#### (b) Boundary

Mizoram is bounded on the north by the Cachar District of Assam and the State of Manipur, on the east by the Chin Hills of Burma, on the south by Arakan of Burma and on the west by Chittagong Hills Tract of Bangladesh and the State of Tripura. Mizoram has approximately 722 Kms of international boundaries with Bangladesh over a length of about 318 Kms<sup>8</sup> and with Myanmar another 404 Kms.<sup>9</sup> Thus, Mizoram has a considerable strategic geo-political significance.

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<sup>4</sup> Barkataki, S., *Tribes of Assam*, (National Book Trust', New Delhi, p.82, 1969.

<sup>5</sup> Directorate of Economic and Statistic, Handbook of Mizoram, 2008 p.2

<sup>6</sup> Government of Mizoram. *Statistical Handbook, Mizoram, 2000*, (Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Aizawl), p.viii.

<sup>7</sup> Calculated by Rintluanga Pachuau from Topographical Maps No.84C/13, No.84D/14, No.84A16, published by Survey of India. Also see, Rintluanga Pachuau, "Khawngge Mizoram in Dah?" (Where Do You Locate Mizoram?), in *Mizoram Science Journal* (in Mizo), August 1993, pp.11-15.

<sup>8</sup> Government of Mizoram. *Statistical Handbook, Mizoram, 2000*, (Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Aizawl), p.viii.

(c) **Climate**

Mizoram lies within the tropical region and has a pleasant and moderate climate throughout the year. It is generally cool in the summer and not very cold in winter. During summer, the upper parts of the hills are predictably cold while the lower parts are relatively warm and humid. The whole State is under the direct influence of Monsoon and the average annual rainfall in Aizawl is 208 cm and in Lunglei 350 cm per year.<sup>10</sup>

**2.1 Indigenous Inhabitants of Mizoram**

Mizoram is inhabited by different ethnic groups of the Mizo origin who are divided into different sub-tribes like Lusei, Ralte, Hmar, Paite, Lai, Mara etc. who are collectively known under the generic name as ‘Mizo.’ In custom, socio-economic life, culture, religion, tradition, language and so forth, there can be no any logical argument to break and separate the bond of their belonging to a common ancestral stock. Except two minority groups like the Chakmas and the Riang or Bru<sup>11</sup> all other inhabitants of Mizoram State belong to one and the same racial stock. History is replete with evidence that the original home of the Chakmas is Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh while the ancestral home of the Riangs is Tripura where they were once ruled by their traditional Raja exclusively from Debharma.

The Mizos claim that they have migrated into their present habitat from Upper Burma about the year 1700 A.D. However, there is no any strong historical evidence to substantiate their origin “except that they must have come from Burma as they are undoubtedly Mongolians.”<sup>12</sup> The Mizos also strongly believe that they once lived in the North-west of China and then moved to their present habitat via Burma.

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<sup>9</sup> Government of Mizoram. *Statistical Handbook, Mizoram, 2000*, (Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Aizawl), p.viii.

<sup>10</sup> Ray, A.C., ‘States of our Union Series’, Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broad Casting, Government of India, New Delhi, p.2, 1973.

<sup>11</sup> ‘Bru’ as a term is new to the indigenous people of Mizoram and is considered to be a new term coined in the post-Mizo Peace Accord to include not only the Riangs but also Jamatias and Debharma within its meaning.

<sup>12</sup> Baldwin, L.H., ‘Military Report on the Lushai Hills’, p. 20. 1906.

Regarding territorial composition of the Mizo tribes, the Lusei are mainly concentrated on Aizawl and Lunglei Districts, the Ralte and Hmar on the northern part of Aizawl District and the Paite are mainly concentrated in the north-eastern part of Aizawl District. The majority of the Lai live on the northern part of Chhimituipui District and the Mara community on the southern and south-eastern parts of Chhimituipui District.<sup>13</sup>

It is significant to note that, though different indigenous Mizo tribes have their own dialects which are closely related to each other, majority of them now speak 'Mizo' or 'Duhlian' as the *lingua franca*.<sup>14</sup> However, some of the Mizo tribes who are upholding their own dialects hold that their common language is Lusei and not *Mizo*. Meanwhile, an in-depth study of the Mizo language will enable one to objectively understand that the present language spoken by the Mizo tribes as a *lingua franca* is no more a pure Lusei dialect due to the fact that many words from dialects of other Mizo tribes have been incorporated into it.

In spite of the development of 'Mizo' as a generic term for all the Mizo tribes and the Lusei dialect gradually developing as a link language among different Kuki-Chin-Mizo tribes after their huge settlement at Selesih township, a strong feeling of common identity among these tribes was not strong till the advent of the British rulers to their ancestral land in 1890. Even when the British occupied the area under study, they found every village as being ruled over by its own 'Lal' or Chief who wielded enormous power over his subjects.<sup>15</sup>

#### (a) **Population and Its Distribution**

According to 2001 Census,<sup>16</sup> the total number of population in Mizoram was 8, 91,058. Out of the total population, there were 4, 59,783 males and 4, 31,275 females. In 2011 Census, there was a noticeable increase in the size of the population to 10, 91,014, out of which 5, 52,339 were males and 5, 38,675 females. The density of population per square kilometre, according to 2011 Census, was 52

<sup>13</sup> Bhattacharya, S.K., 'Population and Heterogeneity and Ethnic Identity in Mizoram', Omsons Publications, Delhi, p. 303, 1990.

<sup>14</sup> Liangkhaia, Rev., 'History of Lushai, Hmingliana & Sons, Aijal, p. 90, 1951.

<sup>15</sup> Bawitlung, Vanlalinga, 'Chieftainship and the Process of State Formation in Mizo Society', Deptt of History, NEHU, p. 76, 1996.

<sup>16</sup> Government of India, *Census of India 2001*,



persons against 42 persons per square kilometre recorded during 2001 Census.<sup>17</sup> The following table shows the latest district-wise population in Mizoram.

**Table: 2.1 District-wise Population of Mizoram, 2011**

<b>N o.</b>	<b>District/ State</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>	<b>Den sity</b>	<b>Literacy Rate</b>
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
1.	Mamit	85, 757	44,567	41,190	924	28	79.14 %
2.	Kolasib	83, 054	42,456	40,598	956	60	91.34 %
3.	Aizawl	404, 054	201,072	202,982	1009	113	96.51 %
4.	Champhai	125, 370	63,299	62,071	981	39	91.15 %
5.	Serchhip	64, 875	32,824	32,051	976	46	95.18 %
6.	Lunglei	154, 094	79,252	74,842	944	34	84.17 %
7.	Lawngtlai	117, 444	60,379	57,065	945	46	67.16 %
8.	Saiha	56, 366	28,490	27,876	978	40	82.90 %
	<b>Mizoram</b>	<b>1,091,014</b>	<b>552,339</b>	<b>538,675</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>88.80 %</b>

*Source: Government of India, Census of India 2011, Mizoram (Abstract), p. 4.*

The above table clearly shows that the population is unevenly distributed in all the districts of Mizoram. Similarly, the population of children is not uniformly distributed in all the districts of Mizoram is not uniform. This uneven distribution of child population in the different districts of Mizoram has been proved by the Census figures of 2011. Let us look into the Census figures of 2011 which crystallize the uneven district-wise child population in Mizoram.

**Table: 2.2 District-wise Child Population of Mizoram, 2011**

<b>Name of the District</b>	<b>Total population</b>	<b>Child Population in the age group of 0-6</b>			
		<b>Rural</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total population of children</b>	<b>% of children to total population</b>
	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Mamit	85, 757	12,564	2,253	14,817	17.79
Kolasib	83, 054	6,176	6,526	12,702	16.02
Aizawl	404, 054	14,056	38,268	52,324	14.19
Champhai	125, 370	13,429	8,639	22,068	16.98
Serchhip	64, 875	5,041	4,041	9,082	16.97
Lunglei	154, 094	16,287	7,307	23,594	16.80
Lawngtlai	117, 444	18,753	3,042	21,795	18.86
Saiha	56, 366	5,449	3,705	9,154	18.40
Mizoram	<b>1,091,014</b>	91,755	73,781	1,65,536	16.18

*Source: Compiled from Census of India 2011, Paper 2, Volume I, pp. 1&2*

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*,

The above table shows that, though the percentage of child population (14.19%) in Aizawl District is comparatively lowest, number of children (52,324) in the district is more than double the size of child population in other districts of the State.

**(b) Family**

In the olden days, the Mizo family system was strictly patriarchal and the father or any other oldest male members dominated the whole life of the family. Women occupied an inferior position in the Mizo society. They were regarded as moveable property bought with a price to be thrown away if she disobeyed the order of male authority. A Mizo family generally consisted of the husband, wife and their children. Both married and unmarried sons together with their wives and children might also live with their father and even with their grandparents. As the head of the family, the father represented his family in all public functions and maintained the family and directed all the family affairs. By custom, children of younger age were expected to obey elders in the family and this spirit of obedience to elders was carried on even outside their family life for the good of their society as a whole.

Family was the smallest social unit and the sanctity of house was kept intact in the Mizo society. Every house in which every family lived was not only the smallest centre of justice and peace for the members but also the safest place for the members of each family. Children were well protected by the head of the family. The father, being the head of the family, played the role of the chief executive and, as far as possible, dispensed justice impartially. He governed the family with affection and rendered maximum justice. Whenever a dispute arose among the members of his family, he would try his best to easily settle the matters. No one could defile the sanctity of the house and outsiders could not interfere in the affairs of the family. If someone caused trouble in any house, it was the sole authority of the father of that house to take action against the culprit in any way or form he liked. No one was allowed to encroach on the jurisdiction of his authority.<sup>18</sup> Till today, family system among the Mizos continues with minor changes.

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<sup>18</sup> Malsawma, H.L., 'Sociology of The Mizos', Spectrum Publications, New Delhi, p.52, 2002.

(c) **Mizo Social Life**

The Mizo society is a close-knit and homogeneous society which there is no caste system. It is also the society where there is no discrimination on ground of sex or religion. It is practically the society where the rich and the poor live together and share joys and sorrows. In the past, disabled and handicapped persons who were prone to beg for their survival were kept at home and were given good care by their relatives. In those days, the Mizos had a deep sense of duty towards others, especially towards their kith and kin which resulted in the absence of Mizo beggars in the society. All these noble services were done though *Tlawmngaihna*, which is the Mizo's code of morals and good form, meaning 'altruism, hospitable, kind, unselfish and helpful to others.' "It stands for that compelling moral force which finds expression in self-sacrifice for the service of others."<sup>19</sup> As an effective instrument for stabilizing and fostering the spirit of *Tlawmngaihna* in the minds of the village youths, the institution of *Zawlbuk* or Bachelors' Dormitory was conveniently used by the Mizo Chief. In a way, the focal point in the village was *Zawlbuk* where all young bachelors of the village slept at night and received their training in habits of obedience, discipline, courage, fortitude, perseverance, self-sacrifice etc.<sup>20</sup> A proper Mizo would not like to see his fellow men to do begging and, as a result, he would try his best to help him in all possible ways. Thus, '*Zawlbuk*' or Bachelors' Dormitory was the social institution where village boys were given practical training to become responsible members of their village community.

One may not be wrong in assuming that it was their general economic poverty which was responsible for maintaining an equal standard of living and classless society in Mizoram. However, their homogenous close-knit and class-less society is being slowly invaded by money power which will ultimately give birth to a class society in the evolving modern society in Mizoram.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Chatterji, N., 'Zawlbuk as a Social Institution in the Mizo Society', Tribal Research Institute, Aizawl, p.15, 1975.

<sup>20</sup> Sangliana, 'Tlawmngaihna and the Mizos', Mizoram News Magazine, Directorate of Information, Public Relations & Tourism, Aizawl, August, p.40, 1984.

<sup>21</sup> Lalkima, C., 'Social Welfare Administration in a Tribal State: A Case Study of Mizoram', Spectrum Publications, Guwahati, p. 6, 1997.

As anticipated, the socio-economic development in Mizoram, particularly statehood, has brought socio-economic disparity in the Mizo society. In spite of the effort put in by the State Government for the attainment of inclusive growth and all round development through well-planned socio-economic policies, the gulf between the rich and the poor has become wider in the Mizo society and this socio-economic disparity, if not checked, will adversely affect the future of children in the State. To bridge this gulf which is at its initial stage, any political party winning the democratic election to form the State Government must be realistic and innovative to maintain reasonable equality among the Mizos.<sup>22</sup>

Despite the fact that the economic condition of the State as a whole is still poor, yet the Mizos can lead a contented life due to these noble services carried on by the Young Mizo Association (YMA).

#### **(d) Festivals**

In the Pre-Christian era Mizo society, there were three main festivals, viz. *Chapchar Kut*- the festival celebrated during the spring season, *Mim Kut*- the festival celebrated in the month of September and *Pawl Kut*- the festival observed after the harvest in the month of January. *Chapchar Kut*, the greatest festival of the Mizos, was directly connected with the Jhum cultivation. *Mim Kut* was devoted for the deceased members of the family and this festival lasted for a day only.

Since *Chapchar Kut* was the greatest festival as compared to *Mim Kut* and *Pawl Kut*, it was also called *Kutpui* (Great Festival). *Chapchar Kut* was celebrated with eating, drinking, dancing and several other merriments. In the past, the main occupation of the Mizos to sustain their life was Jhum cultivation-slashing and burning of forest, growing seeds of paddy and other vegetables, clearing up of weeds with metal instruments, and finally harvesting paddy and other annual plants. *Chapchar Kut* was celebrated during the short free time after cutting the trees for jhum but before burning them for sowing the seeds. The word '*Chapchar*' indicated the period when the cleared forest trees are exposed to the sunlight before burning them up. It was observed in the month of end of February or in the beginning of

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<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

March.<sup>23</sup> Of the three festivals, *Pawl Kut* was the festival of children and this festival was celebrated by children with pomp and gaiety. Thus, this festival indicates that children were not side-lined in the hitherto Mizo society.

After the massive conversion of the Mizos from their animist belief to the Christian faith, the Mizo festivals had begun to lose their essence and relevance in the Mizo society. On the other hand, religious festivals based on the Christian faith have been gaining importance in the minds of the people. With the passage of time, Church Elders and Pastors have been occupying an important position in the society whether on occasions of joy or sorrow.

In the present fractured Mizo society, the Church Elders and the Pastors are held jointly responsible to restore the hitherto socio-economic equality among the people. By now, a feeling of oneness in spirit and a sense of equality have slowly been binding together the people of lower and higher strata of the Mizo society. The sincere desire of the right thinking Mizos, too, is to lead life in which all men live close to one another and render help to those who need help even at the cost of reasonable inconvenience to oneself.<sup>24</sup> However, a question arises as to how long Christianity would act as a force of unity in the Mizo society in this fast changing materialistic world where money economy has steadily been dividing even the Mizo society into the rich and the poor.

#### (e) Religion

The old Mizo believed in the existence of the supreme god, creator of everything, beneficent being, a god of all humanity and goodness. Under the name of great god, there were as many as four gods who had different duties to perform for humanity. They are: *Pu Vana* (Uncle of Heaven), *Vanchung Nula* (Damsel of the Heaven), *Vanhrika* (The Worm of the Heaven), *Khuavang* or *Khuanu* (god of kindness). Besides these good gods, there was a host of both benevolent and

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<sup>23</sup> Lallianzuala, R., 'Chapchar Kut in the Pre Christian Era', An Article on 'Thu leh Hla' Magazine, April, 2012.

<sup>24</sup> Lalkima, C., op.cit., p. 7.

malevolent spirits called “*Ramhuai*” or simply “*Huai*” who, for all practical purposes, had a more direct influence on human lives.<sup>25</sup>

It was said that the Mizos worshipped big wood, big stone, etc. They recognised presence of ‘*Ramhuai*’ (evil spirit) and also believed that mountains, caves, big trees, rivers, precipices, springs, thick forests, jungles, etc. were haunted by ‘*Huai*’ (i.e., ‘*Ramhuai*’). They feared evil spirits very much believing that he would bring illness, suffering and death, to man unless they pacified him. Therefore, in order to pacify him, they offered various sacrifices so that they could avoid his wrath. As the Mizos in olden times used to make sacrificial offerings, they were known as the people who worshipped ‘*Ramhuai*’ (evil spirit). However, it is not correct to say that the Mizos worshipped ‘*Ramhuai*.’ They believed that there was a super-natural being who created things and could bless mankind from heaven. So, in order to enable his soul go to ‘*Pialral*’ (Paradise), one had to obtain the title of ‘*Thangchhuah*’ in his life time by performing an expensive festival called ‘*Khuangchawi*.’

With the advent of the Christianity Missionaries into Mizoram, the massive conversion of the Mizos into the Christian faith had taken place. Since 1950, all the Mizos have become Christians and, by now, Christianity becomes the new religion of the Mizos. Along with the conversion process in operation, the sacrifices to appease ‘*Ramhuai*’ or Evil spirits have lost their relevance in the face of modern medical treatment provided to them by the Missionaries. The Mizo priest, who depended upon sacrifices for curing the sick, had soon discovered that a couple of pills of quinine were more powerful than animal sacrifices.<sup>26</sup>

Christianity, being generally understood a religious faith, was mainly concerned with the spiritual welfare of the people. With this end in view the Missionaries engaged themselves in all sorts of evangelical activities i.e., preaching the life, works and teachings of Christ, educational and medical work.<sup>27</sup> For the Mizos who had been living in constant fear of unfriendly spirits, thought that the

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<sup>25</sup> Malsawma, H.L., op.cit., p. 138.

<sup>26</sup> Baveja, J.D., ‘The land where the bamboo flowers’, Publication Boards, Assam, p. 39, 1970.

<sup>27</sup> Vidyarthi, L.P., ‘Applied Anthropology in India’, Kitab Mahal, Delhi, p. 324, 1968.

great power behind all life and experience was friendly and loving and, within a few decades, the whole population of Mizoram became Christians.<sup>28</sup>

Although there is no distinction among the Mizos on the basis of caste system, money economy has steadily caused a gap between the rich and the poor. In order to avert such emerging trend in Mizo society, Christianity would serve as one of the best uniting forces. Church administration plays an important role in the life of every church member. Church Elders are elected from among the church members not on the basis of social status of a person but on his individual devotional and spiritual aptitudes. An officer or a rich man with better economic position in the society is not necessarily elected as a Church Elder or Sunday School Teacher. A peon with lower position in the society whose dedication to God and whose spiritual life is acceptable is more often elected by the church members as a their Church Elder. Church Elders are responsible to teach and guide the church members on the subject of moral ethics. Sunday school teachers take Sunday school classes and teach Sunday school lesson on Sundays.<sup>29</sup> Sunday school for children serves as an indispensable instrument for inculcating moral ethics in the minds of children.

**(f) Education**

Prior to the occupation of the Mizo Hills district by the British in 1890 there was no education in the district nor did the Mizo even dreamt about it. Not to speak of having any school for formal education, they did not even know how to read or write. When they wanted to mark number of days they used to mark it in their own ways with charcoal or pebble on the wall or beam. The only educational system among them was “oral education” or information orally passed from father to son. In those days, ‘*Zawlbuk*’ in which all unmarried young men of the village slept was the main centre of education.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Ralte, L.N., ‘Impact of Christianity on Mizo Society’, An Article (unpublished work), 2010.

<sup>29</sup> Lalkima C., *op.cit.*, p. 7.

<sup>30</sup> Sangkima, Dr., ‘Mizos: Society and Social Change’, Spectrum Publications, Guwahati, p. 84, 1992.

The pioneer Missionaries Rev. J.H. Lorrain and Rev. F.W. Savidge arrived in Mizoram on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1894.<sup>31</sup> They found the British administration was concerned only with the maintenance of Law and Order in the hills. While the British were busy with administration, the Missionaries were busy with their educational work so that the Mizo would know how to write and read and ultimately read the Bible. So, the Missionaries introduced modern secular education and medicine as an effective instrument for converting the Mizos from their animist belief to the Christian faith. A school for the beginners was opened by the first Missionaries- Lorrain and Savidge on the first April, 1894 with two boys at Aizawl. This was the first school ever established in the Mizo Hills.

In the meanwhile, the two Missionaries had learnt the Mizo language and prepared the Mizo alphabets in roman script in 1895. In his letter sent to Colonel T.H. Lewin on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1899, Rev. J.H. Lorrain said: “Meanwhile, we began to teach the young men and children to read and write, adopting Sir William Hunter’s system of transliteration; and they proved most intelligent pupils, soon beginning to teach others, so that the new strange and wonderful art of reading and writing spread over the whole of the North Hill country.”<sup>32</sup> The first examination of the Lower Primary School was conducted in 1903.<sup>33</sup> At the beginning of 1904, Sir Bamfield Fuller, the Governor of Assam, came to Mizoram and paid a visit to the Mission schools established at Aizawl and Serkawn respectively. He was satisfied with the schools managed by the Missions and ‘suggested the handing over of the Government school at Aizawl to the care of the Missions.’<sup>34</sup> In this way, together with their preaching of the Gospel, the Missionaries had laid the foundation of modern education.

### **(g) Economic Life**

Agriculture is the main occupation of more than 83 per cent of the total population in Mizoram. In rural areas, about 85 per cent of the workers are engaged in agricultural activities and the main agricultural pattern followed is jhum or

<sup>31</sup> Liangkhaia, Rev., ‘History of Mizo’, Mizo Academy of Letters, Aizawl, p. 101, 1976.

<sup>32</sup> Lewin, Thomas, Lt Col, ‘A Fly on The Wheel’, Tribal Research Institute, Mizoram, p. 316, 1885.

<sup>33</sup> Thanhranga, H.C., ‘District Council in the Mizo Hills’, Lenchhawn Press, Aizawl, p. 16, 2007.

<sup>34</sup> Mc Call, A.G., ‘The Lushai Hills District Cover’, Tribal research Institute, Aizawl, p. 218, 1980.



shifting cultivation.<sup>35</sup> They practice jhum cultivation which is the primitive method of 'slash and burn' method of cultivation. The area under jhum cultivation in 1982 was 59,000 hectares. Hence, almost the entire Mizo population may be classed as agriculturists or cultivators.<sup>36</sup>

Formerly, the Chief was the person who allotted lands for cultivation according to the capacity of the cultivators. Best lands were first selected by the *Ramhuals* who were the Chief's favourites selected to contribute a handful of paddy to the Chief. The Chief might also appoint *Zalens* who were both Elders and economic advisers to the Chief. They were also entitled to the jhum land even in preference to the *Ramhuals*. With the abolition of the institution of chieftainship, land became nobody's property.<sup>37</sup> Though the villagers were normally self-sufficient in food under the overall administration of their traditional Chief, rice production was far from sufficient after sixties in spite of the increase in the area of land covered by jhum cultivation within the territorial jurisdiction of Mizoram.

Consequent upon democratisation of the traditional politico-administrative system in 1952, ownership of land had technically been transferred to the Mizo District Council and its Village Councils. When the Union Territory of Mizoram attained full statehood in 1987, ownership of land has technically been transferred to the Revenue Department of the State Government. As the State Government and the Councils could not properly look after or see properly the distribution of lands and its maintenance for some time, land became everybody's property except where permanent settlement system was applied. In brief, nowadays, one can cultivate anywhere one likes.<sup>38</sup> The distribution of lands for cultivation is by draw of lots. The principal crops are rice, maize, sugarcane, chillies, tobacco, sweet potato, yam, cotton, ginger, and banana.

The Government of Mizoram has taken positive steps to improve agriculture by reclaiming land for permanent cultivation and encouraging terracing of hill slopes to replace practice of jhuming cultivation.

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<sup>35</sup> Joshi, H.G., 'Mizoram past and present', Mittal Publications, Delhi, p. 1, 2005.

<sup>36</sup> Malsawma, H.L., op.cit., p.105.

<sup>37</sup> Baveja, J.D., op.cit., p.63.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid*

## 2.2 Profile of Aizawl District

Aizawl District, as stated earlier, is one of the eight districts of Mizoram in India. It occupies an area of 3,576.31 square kilometres which accounts for 16.96% of the total geographical area of the State. The district has five R.D Blocks, namely, Aibawk, Darlawn, Phullen, Thingsulthlah, Tlangnuam. The district has fourteen Legislative Assembly Constituencies.<sup>39</sup>

The name of the District headquarter is called Aizawl which was believed to be derived from the name of one type of herb called *Aidu*. In Mizo language, *ai*, whose full form is *aidu*, refers to a herb (one of the turmeric species) and *zawl* means plain or flat. So, Aizawl means a flat land or plain where *aidu* was in abundance. It is, therefore, a popular belief among the Mizos that the district has been named after the name of the district headquarter, Aizawl city.

Aizawl is the political and cultural centre of the state. All important Government and Public Sector offices are located in Aizawl. It is also commercial centre of the state; all commercial and economic activities are centred on the city.

### (a) Boundary

Aizawl District is bounded on the East by Champhai District, on the West by Mamit District, on the North by Kolasib District and on the south by Serchhip District.

### (b) Population of Aizawl District

In 2011 Census,<sup>40</sup> Aizawl District had a population of 400,309 of which male and female were 199,270 and 201,039 respectively. In 2001 Census, Aizawl had a population of 325,676 of which 166,877 were males and the remaining 158,799 were females. With regards to child population in Aizawl District, out of the total population in Aizawl District, there were 52,357 children in 2011 census against 46,223 of 2001 Census.

<sup>39</sup> Aizawl district – wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

<sup>40</sup> "District Census 2011". Census2011.co.in. 2011. Retrieved 2011-09-30.

**Table: 2.3 The Population Development of Aizawl District.**

Name	Status	Population Census 1991-03-01	Population Census 2001-03-01	Population Census 2011-03-01
Mizoram	State	689,756	888,573	1,097,206
Aizawl	District	235,900	325,676	400,309

Source: Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner (web), Delimitation Commission of India (web), Rand McNally International Atlas 1994, School of Planning & Architecture (web).

Mizos from various tribes make up the majority of the population in Aizawl District. Christianity is the dominant religion in the city. There are also some cultural based Christian sects. Hinduism and Islam are also represented in very small numbers in the city population.<sup>41</sup>

According to Statistical Index of Aizawl City as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010, the population of Aizawl is 2, 94,067.<sup>42</sup> Males constitute 50.80% of the population and females made up the remaining 49.20%.<sup>43</sup> It is the largest city within the State. Aizawl has a mild, sub-tropical climate due to its location and elevation. In the summer the temperature ranges from 20°-30° Centigrade, and in the winter 11°-21° Centigrade.

Aizawl had always been a very favourite village site, but was unoccupied when, in the spring of 1890 Mr. Dally of then Assam Police, arrived there with 400 men of the Silchar Military Police battalion, to co-operate with a column of troops under Col. Skinner, which was struggling down the valley of the Dhaleswari river to punish Chief Lianphunga for raiding the Chittagong Hill Tracts. On Mr Dally's recommendation, Aizawl was selected as the site of the fortified post that Colonel Skinner had been ordered to construct. The troops constructed stockades and buildings at the site.<sup>44</sup>

### 2.3 Conclusion

To conclude, the above profile of the land 'Mizoram' and the people living in it would provide a vivid background picture for making a fruitful study of Child

<sup>41</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aizawl>.

<sup>42</sup> Statistical index of Aizawl city as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2010.

<sup>43</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aizawl>

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

Welfare Administration in Aizawl District in Mizoram of an Indian State. While the geographical features of the State in general and Aizawl District in particular can help in defining the area of study and the environment within which such study has been carried out, the socio-economic profile of the people can help the researcher in identifying the socio-economic factors affecting Child Welfare Administration in Aizawl District which is the focus of the present study.

## CHAPTER III

### CONCEPT, ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD WELFARE ADMINISTRATION

#### **3.0 Concept of Child Welfare Administration**

The term “Child Welfare” covers a multitude of services provided to children for ensuring their health, safety, security and development in the society. While Social Welfare services strive to promote well-being of the entire community, Child Welfare services generally pertain to those social services for the provision of day care, adoption and child protection. Thus, Child Welfare Administration involves all those organised operations, activities and efforts of the Government and Non-Governmental Organisations to improve health and well-being of children, including their safety and security. Since people’s participation in Child Welfare Programme is essential, the concerned administrative departments should encourage voluntary agencies to extend the scope of their activities in this direction. Hence, the success or failure of Child Welfare Administration at the national or state level greatly depends on the extent of support and cooperation that the Government could receive from Non-Governmental Organisations in the communities.

Development of children is as important as the development of material resources and the best way to develop the society is to take care of children. The term ‘Child Welfare’ is mainly concerned with the physical, social, and psychological well-being of children, especially those who are suffering from the effects of poverty, or lacking normal parental care and supervision. Where as in some more developed countries child welfare includes a range of highly specialised services that go far beyond physical survival and deal with different problems such as personality development, vocational guidance, and use of leisure time. In some under developed countries and in the aftermath of war and natural disaster, the Scheme of Child Welfare mainly cover the essential measurement to keep children alive, such as emergency feeding, shelter, and simple public health precautions. The

different factors that determine child welfare standards are the level of education, and the financial resources of the country.

The term 'Welfare' refers to well-being and good for the people. The various welfare schemes are designed those weaker and vulnerable sections of community, who are unable to make use of or are traditionally denied the use of these services. Welfare Services and Social Services are the two important Agents of the development of the nation. The Five Year Plans draw a distinction between 'Welfare Services' and 'Social Services.'<sup>1</sup> The distinction between the two can be summarised as follows:

Social Services constitute an investment in the betterment of human resources. 'Social Services' are meant to denote established services like education, housing, labour, etc. whereas, 'Welfare Services' are directed, in particular, towards sections of the community which need special care and protection such as children, blind, deaf, unemployment etc. Welfare Services are an integral but distinct part of Social Services.

The welfare services are designed to enable the weaker or handicapped sections of the community to rise as close to the level of the normal community as possible. Unlike social services, the welfare services are mostly and increasingly family and community oriented. Even in a state having fully developed social services there is always need for specialised welfare services for the victims of various physical, mental, economics or social disabilities. The main aim of social services is to enhance human happiness, while the aim of welfare services is to enable the weaker sections of the community to reach the stage where they too could benefit from the available social services. Generally, Child welfare services are considered to be social services and include day care, adoption, and child protection. The term "Child Protection" means prevention and detection of child abuse as well as protective custody of children in foster care and group homes.

A process through which every human being passes is childhood. Children acquire different capacities and degrees of maturity as they grow older. They must receive the best protection, opportunities and help in order to ensure to them the best

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<sup>1</sup> [www2. Orgu. Ac. Uk / publicpolicy / introduction / socpolf. html](http://www2. Orgu. Ac. Uk / publicpolicy / introduction / socpolf. html)

start in life on their journey to adulthood. They need protection from abuse and exploitation; they are more affected than adults by the actions and inactions of Government and society.<sup>2</sup> In Mizo society, views persist that children are their parent's property and are not seen as people who have mind of their own; their life is rather decided by adults. The present work tries to emphasise the importance of the family, Government, NGOs and the need to create an environment that is conducive to the healthy growth and development of children for development of the nation.

The term 'Child Welfare' is mainly concerned with the physical, social, and psychological well-being of children, especially those who are suffering from the effects of poverty, or lacking normal parental care and supervision. Where as in some more developed countries child welfare includes a range of highly specialised services that go far beyond physical survival and deal with different problems such as personality development, vocational guidance, and use of leisure time. In some under developed countries and in the aftermath of war and natural disaster the scheme of child welfare mainly cover the essential measurement to keep children alive, such as emergency feeding, shelter, and simple public health precautions. The different factors that determine child welfare standards are the level of education, and the financial resources of the country. Development of children is as important as the development of material resources. The best way to develop the society is to take care of children.

Various Child Welfare Schemes are concerned with achieving negotiated changes in the lives of children who face difficulties. Generally, child welfare services are considered to be social services and include day care, adoption, and child protection. The term "Child Protection" means prevention and detection of child abuse as well as protective custody of children in foster care and group homes. In short, Child Welfare Administration mainly involves all those organised operations, activities and efforts of the Government and Non-Governmental Organisation to improve health and well-being of children, including their safety and security.

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<sup>2</sup> Book. Google. In / id =R\_ EVAAAA.IAAJ

### 3.1 Origin and Development of Child Welfare Administration at the International Level

The condition of children throughout the world is equally frustrating. Some of them are subjected to illegal international adoption while others are left to roam the world as refugees.<sup>3</sup> The United Nations has also been concerned about the miserable lot of children in the world and had, therefore, declared 1970 as the International Year of the Child and 1990 as the International Year of the Girl Child to enable the world community to focus their attention on the urgency of taking appropriate measures to ameliorate the conditions of children. United National Children Fund Convention on the Rights of the Child and World Summit for children contributed great achievements of the international body for child welfare.<sup>4</sup>

The United Nations in its concern for children all over the world and to ameliorate their conditions had created the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in December 1964 to provide massive emergency relief to the destitute young victims of the Second World War. In 1953, the General Assembly extended its mandate indefinitely and the terms ‘emergency’ and ‘international’ were dropped and its name was changed to United Nations Children Fund, the abbreviation UNICEF was however retained. It is rightly regarded as the United Nations’ angelic wing; it is a global welfare body. It wants to promote and augment the available resources for the success of child survival and development revolution.<sup>5</sup>

The first United Nations World Summit for children was held in New York on September 29-30, 1990. In his opening remarks, Mr. Traore, President of the Summit, had said that the Summit was a reminder of their obligations as leaders of our fragile planet, to build peace and safeguard the future by ensuring the survival, protection and development of children. Canadian Premier, Brian Mulroney, had also said that the Summit highlighted the gap between the hopes harboured for the world’s children and the conditions in which many of them found themselves

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<sup>3</sup> Statement of Britain’s Shadow Overseas Development Minister, Joan Lester, in London at the end of November, 1989.

<sup>4</sup> Sachdeva, D. R., ‘Social Welfare Administration in India’, Kitab Mahal, Allahabad, p. 314, 1990.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*



through no fault of their own. Despite the remarkable success of UNICEF and other international organizations, much remains to be done and resources always seem inadequate. World leaders attending the Summit committed themselves to build a rosy environment for the world's children by the turn of the century by unanimously adopting a Declaration.<sup>6</sup>

The Declaration of this Summit envisages family planning to ensure proper spacing of children and a smaller family to achieve this goal, and providing health care facilities for children. Further, it suggests that healthy children growing up in a healthy family environment lead fruitful and constructive lives.

### **3.2 Origin and Development of Child Welfare Administration in India**

India is among the first few countries that have adopted a National Policy for children. A Policy Resolution for children was adopted by the Government of India in 1974. The two Houses of Parliament discussed and adopted the Resolution which today constitutes the National Policy for Children.

Since the adoption of WFFC in UNGASS by India in May 2002, there have been significant events in every sector for children in our country. A National Plan of Action for Children 2005 has been adopted as per the directions of WFFC, the provisions of which are being monitored regularly at the highest level. Certain Schemes and Programmes have been reviewed and revamped for effective implementation and better coverage. Consequently, several Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes have been introduced at different levels. New ideas and initiatives have also been conceptualized for the XI Five Year Plan.<sup>7</sup>

Considering the importance of the social sector and to accelerate the development process the Department of Women and Child Development was elevated to the status of an independent Ministry at the Union level from 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006. The consequent changes have helped in giving children's issues a focused attention and enhanced allocation. Children's issues were also consolidated and entrusted to MWCD for better and effective implementation. After the adoption

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<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p. 316.

<sup>7</sup> Government of India, National Report on 'A Child fit for children,' (Ministry of Women and Child Development, 2007), p. 2.

of WFFC in 2002 the process was started for formulation of a national Plan of Action for Children as per the national requirements to achieve the targets set in WFFC. The Plan of Action was finalized in 2005 with the approval of the Union Cabinet to give highest level of importance to the issue.

The plan includes goals, objectives and strategies in the areas of education, health, nutrition, water, and sanitation, early childhood, protection of children in difficult circumstances and in conflict with law, rights of girl child and adolescents, combating trafficking, child labour and HIV/AIDS and Child participation. It also contains the resource mobilization and monitoring of its implementation. Eight major parameters of the Plan are being regularly monitored at the Prime Minister's level. These parameters include reduction of IMR, CMR, MMR, universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation, elimination of child marriage, elimination of disability due to poliomyelitis and reduction in proportion of infants infected by HIV/AIDS.<sup>8</sup>

The subjects of Child Welfare and Women Development were once the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare. In September, 1985 when the Central ministries were restructured and the Ministry of Human Resources Development was established, the Department of Women and Child Development was also created and placed under it. The Department is headed by a Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports and Women and Child Development. The Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) and The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NPCOD) assist the department in its functions including the implementation of some of its programmes. Besides, the Department enlists active cooperation and involvement of voluntary organizations in all its activities.<sup>9</sup>

The activities of the Social Welfare Department can be categorized in to:

- (i) Child Welfare
- (ii) Welfare of Women
- (iii) Welfare of the Aged and the infants
- (iv) Welfare of the Handicapped
- (v) General Welfare

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<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, p. 3.

<sup>9</sup> Sachdeva, D.R., op.cit., p. 139.

Various activities of the Department regarding Child Welfare Schemes are:<sup>10</sup>

- (a) Financial Assistance to dependent Children
- (b) Maintenance of Orphan and Destitute Girls
- (c) Foster Care Services Scheme
- (d) State After Care Home for Boys
- (e) Implementation of the East Punjab Children Act.1969
- (f) Special Nutrition Programme
- (g) Family and Child Welfare Projects
- (h) Integrated Development Services Scheme

Children are the future human resource of the country. With the realisation of this fact, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been implementing various schemes for survival, development and protection of children.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, came into existence as a separate Ministry with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2006. It has the nodal responsibility to advance the rights and concerns of women and children who together constituted 71.4% of the country's population, as per 2001 census. The Ministry was constituted with the prime intention of addressing gaps in State action for women and children and for promoting inter- ministerial and inter-sect oral convergence to create gender equitable and child-centered legislation, policies and programmed.<sup>11</sup>

The field of child welfare is accepted as one of the most important. Its services seek to promote the healthy growth and development of children and meet their needs either through direct assistance or through assistance to parents or families. Supplying or supplementing family income so that parents can maintain a home for their children is usually the first such service to be provided.

In cases where parental care is temporarily or permanently unavailable, the child is given substitute care in the form of foster care, adoption, or institutional care. Although child welfare programmes are common in the developed countries,

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<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, p. 147.

<sup>11</sup> Government of India, *Annual Report 2011-2012: Towards a New Dawn*, Ministry of Women and Child Development, p. 3.

they are inadequate or lacking in the developing countries where children represent three quarters of the world's juvenile population.<sup>12</sup>

The National Charter for Children was adopted on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2004 which is a statement of intent embodying the Government's agenda for development of children. The document emphasizes India's commitment to children's right to survival, health, nutrition, standard of living, play and leisure, early childhood care, education, protection of girl child, empowering adolescents, equality, life and liberty, name and nationality, freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly, right to a family and right to be protected from economic exploitation and all forms of abuse. The Charter also provides for protection of children in difficult circumstances, children with disabilities, children from marginalized and disadvantage communities and child victims.<sup>13</sup>

The United Nations in its concern for children all over the world and to ameliorate their conditions had created UNICEF (The United Nations International Children Emergency Fund) in December 1946, to provide massive emergency relief to the destitute young victims of the Second World War. In 1953, the General Assembly extended its mandate indefinitely and the terms 'emergency' and 'international' were dropped and its name was changed to United Nations Children Fund, the abbreviation UNICEF was however retained.<sup>14</sup>

**(a) Constitutional Provisions Regarding Child Welfare in India**

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru birthday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, is celebrated as the children day every year in India. It shall be the policy of the state to provide adequate services to children, both before and after birth and through the period of growth, to ensure their full physical, mental and social development. The state shall progressively increase the scope of such services so that, within a reasonable time, all children in the country enjoy optimum conditions for their balanced growth.

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<sup>12</sup> Sachdeva, D. R., op.cit., p. 36.

<sup>13</sup> Government of India, National Report on 'A World Fit for Children,' Ministry of Women and Child Development, 2007, p. 314.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, p. 314.

The national concern for children is mainly reflected in the constitutional and legislative provisions which govern the rights of children and obligations of Government, society and family towards children. There are several constitutional provisions for children. These include the following:<sup>15</sup>

- (1) Article 14 provides that the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.
- (2) Article 15(3) provides that, 'Nothing in this article shall prevent the State for making any special provision for women and children.
- (3) Article 21(A) directs the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may by law, determine.
- (4) Article 23 prohibits trafficking of human beings and forced labour.
- (5) Article 24 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines or any other hazardous occupation.
- (6) Article 25-28 provides freedom of conscience, and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.
- (7) Article 39(e) and (f) provide that the State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing to ensure that the health and strength of workers, men and women and the tender age of children are not abused and that the citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength and that the children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that the childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.
- (8) Article 45 envisages that the State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years.<sup>16</sup>

The State has enacted various legislations in pursuance of the above provisions for the welfare of children. These include laws prescribing minimum age for boys and girls, appointment of guardian for a minor child's person or property, the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, Women's and Children's

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<sup>15</sup> *Constitution of India, Articles 14, 15(3), 21(A), 23, 24, 25-28, 39(e) and (f) and 45.*

<sup>16</sup> [Wed.nic.in/cwnew.htm](http://Wed.nic.in/cwnew.htm)

Institutions (Licensing) Act, 1960, State Children Acts, Factories Act of 1948, Plantation Labour Act of 1951, The Mines Act of 1952, Shops and Establishment Acts prohibiting the employment of children in hazardous occupations, Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 and so on.<sup>17</sup>

**(b) Legislations Pertaining to Children**

In pursuance of the above constitutional provisions, the Indian Parliament has enacted various legislations for the welfare of children. These include laws prescribing minimum age for boys and girls, appointment of guardian for a minor child's person or property, the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, Women's and Children's Institutions (Licensing) Act, 1960, State Children Acts, Factories Act of 1948, Plantation Labour Act of 1951, The Mines Act of 1952, Shops and Establishment Acts prohibiting the employment of children in hazardous occupations, Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 and so on.<sup>18</sup> Following are the different Legislations pertaining to children:<sup>19</sup>

1. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.
2. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.
3. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.
4. The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992.
5. The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.
6. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, Protection of Rights and full Participation) Act, 1995.
7. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.
8. The Guardian and Wards Act, 1890.
9. The Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act, 1956.
10. The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.

There are other various laws regarding child welfare and development. The different laws relating to children are: Labour welfare, family law, (such as

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<sup>17</sup> Sachdeva, D. R., op.cit., p. 319.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> Wed. nic. In/cwnewhtm.

marriage, legitimacy, guardianship, maintenance, adoption); criminal law including prevention of vagrancy and beggary, child education and health; tortious and contractual liability of children, etc. we have a surfeit of laws dealing with children. Apart from minor deficiencies here and there, the statutes are basically adequate.<sup>20</sup>

Recognizing the supreme importance of children, the Framers of the Constitution of India made several provisions with a bearing on the welfare of the nation's children. Besides, there exist over 250 Central and State Enactments pertaining to children. These Enactments cover various aspects of the child's life including health, nutrition, education, welfare, reformation, social defence etc.<sup>21</sup>

### (c) **National Policy for Children**

The National Policy for Children mainly refers to health and nutrition for children and mothers; free and compulsory education for children up to the age of 14; Special assistance to children belonging to weaker sections, scheduled castes and tribes and other economically weaker sections; recreation, cultural and scientific activities; treatment, education, rehabilitation of physically handicapped, emotionally disturbed and mentally retarded children; Special assistance to children belonging to weaker sections, scheduled castes and tribes and other economically weaker sections; provisions of facilities to the delinquent, destitute, neglected and exploited children to enable them to become useful citizens.

Children constitute about 40% of India's population. They number over 300 million. Mrs. Indira Gandhi said, "Children are a reminder that man is immortal although men may be mortal. A nation realizes its potentialities through children and is judged by what it does for children. According to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister our children are most important resource and deserve all possible investment for their development."<sup>22</sup>

It was with the advent of planning in India and the setting up of the Planning Commission in 1951 that child welfare started getting attention. The contents of the

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<sup>20</sup> Chaturvedi, 'Administration for Child Welfare', IIPA New Delhi, New Delhi, p. 82, 1979.

<sup>21</sup> Sharda, K. Noel, 'The Legal Economic and Social Status of the Indian Child', National Publications, New Delhi, p. 2, 1998.

<sup>22</sup> Sachdeva, D. R., op.cit., p. 313.

various Five Year Plans represent a significant reflection of Governments' policy towards children. The cumulative experience gained through the first four Five Year plans, the Recommendations of a number of Special Committees appointed since independence such as:

- (1) The Committee for Preparation of Programmes for Children appointed by the Department of Social Welfare (1967)
- (2) The Study Group on the pre-school child set up by the Ministry of Education; role of a large number of voluntary agencies and national associations concerned with handicapped children; Declaration of the rights of child(1959)
- (3) The Committee for the Preparation of Programme for Children (1968)
- (4) A group representing all important sectors and the preparation of an eight point Draft programme on Child Welfare by the Indian Council for Child Welfare(1973) etc.<sup>23</sup>

Since adoption of WFFC in UNGASS in May, 2002 there have been significant events in the country for children in every sector. A National Plan of Action for Children 2005 has been adopted as per the directions of WFFC, the provisions of which are being monitored regularly at the highest level. Certain schemes and programmes have been reviewed and revamped for effective implementation and better coverage. Several schemes and programmes have been introduced at different levels.<sup>24</sup>

Considering the importance of the social sector and to accelerate the development process the Department of Women and Child Development was elevated to the status of an independent Ministry at the Union level from 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006. The consequent changes have helped in giving children's issues were also consolidated and entrusted to MWCD for better and effective implementation.

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<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*, p. 319.

<sup>24</sup> National Report on 'A World Fit for Children'; Ministry of Women and Child development, Government of India 2007, p. 2.



Immediately after the adoption of WFFC in 2002 the process was started for formulation of a National Plan of Action for Children as per the national requirements to achieve the targets set in WFFC. The Plan of Action was finalized in 2005 with the approval of the Union Cabinet to give highest level of importance to the issue.

The Plan includes goals, objectives and strategies in the areas of education, health, nutrition, water and sanitation, early childhood care, protection of children in difficult circumstances and in conflict with law, rights of girl child and adolescents, combating trafficking, child labour and HIV/Aids and child participation. It also contains the resource mobilization and monitoring of its implementation.

A national programme should cover all children; it should comprise measures aimed at decreasing child mortality and raising the standard of child health, increasing future productive vitality of children and lengthening their life. Such plans also have regard to the development of the personality of the children so that they grow into creative human beings and become good citizens with an active social conscience, and efficient and skilled members of the future society. The ultimate goal is that this should be done for all children irrespective of their social class, their place of residence and economic resources.<sup>25</sup>

Eight major parameters of the Plan are being regularly monitored at the Prime Minister's level. These parameters include reduction of IMR, CMR, MMR, universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation, elimination of child infected by HIV/AIDS. The State Government is also preparing their State Plans of Action for Children.<sup>26</sup>

The Ministry has been preparing the policies and programmed in accordance with the priorities outlined in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan (2007-2012) for inclusive growth and development of women and children. The Ministry has evolved policies, plans of action, legislations, programmed and schemes for advancement of women and

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<sup>25</sup> Chauhan, Ritika, 'Child Development and Social Welfare', Book Enclave, Jaipur, p. 60, 2009.

<sup>26</sup> National Report on 'A World Fit for Children'; Ministry of Women and child Development, Government of India, p. 2, 2007.

children and has been implementing them with the support of state Governments or UT, Government and Non-Government Organizations for achieving its mandate.<sup>27</sup>

It was with the advent of planning in India and the setting up of the Planning Commission in 1951 that child welfare started getting greater attention. The contents of the various Five Year Plans represent a significant reflection of Government's policy towards children.

The cumulative experience gained through the first four Five Year Plans, the recommendations of a number of special committees appointed since independence such as The health Survey and planning Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1959, the Study Team on Social Welfare and Welfare of Backward Classes appointed by Central Social Welfare Board in 1960, and the Committee for Preparation of Programmes for Children appointed in 1967 by the Department of Social Welfare, the Education Commission of 1984, the Study Group on the pre-school child set up by the Ministry of Education; role of a large number of voluntary agencies and national associations concerned with handicapped children; Declaration of the rights of child (1959); International agencies like WHO and UNICEF have all contribution towards the need of a National policy for children. The recommendation of the Committee for the Preparation of Programme for Children (1968), a group representing all important sectors and the preparation of an eight point Draft programme on Child Welfare by the Indian Council for Child Welfare in 1973 had provided an added stimulus to these efforts, culminating finally in the adoption of a Nation Policy for Children in 1974.<sup>28</sup>

The National Policy for Children was adopted on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 1974. The Policy lay down that the State shall provide adequate services towards children, both before and after birth and during the growing stages for their full physical, mental and social development. The measures suggested include amongst others, a comprehensive health programme, supplementary nutrition for mothers and children, free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14 years, promotion of physical education and recreational activities, special consideration for

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<sup>27</sup> Annual report 2011-2012; towards a new Dawn, Ministry of Women and Child development Government of India, p. 3.

<sup>28</sup> Sachdeva, D.R., op.cit., p. 319.

children of weaker sections like SCs and STs, prevention of exploitation of children etc.<sup>29</sup>

The Government of India adopted the National Charter for Children which has been prepared after obtaining the views, comments and suggestions of the State Governments and UT Administrations, concerned Ministries and Departments and experts in the field. The National Charter is a statement of intent embodying the Government's agenda for Children.

The document emphasizes Government of India's commitment to children's rights to survival, health and nutrition, standard of living, play and leisure, early childhood care, education, protection of the girl child, empowering adolescents, equality, life and liberty, name and nationality, freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly, the right to a family and the right to be protected from economic exploitation and all forms of abuse.

The documents also provide for protection of children in difficult circumstances, children with disabilities, children from marginalized and disadvantaged communities, and child victims. The document while stipulating the duties of the State and the Community towards children also emphasizes the duties of children towards family, society and the Nation. The National Charter for Children was notified in the Gazette of India on Feb, 2004.

India acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1992 to reiterate its commitment to the cause of children. The objective of the Convention is to give every child the right to survival and development in a healthy and congenial environment. India is also partly to the Millennium Development Goals and the SAARC Conventions on Child Welfare and Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in SAARC Region.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> [Wed.nic.in/cwnew.htm](http://Wed.nic.in/cwnew.htm).

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

Generally, child welfare services in India can be of the following forms:-

**(a) Maternal and Child Health Care:**

In India the main programmes for child welfare are health services, such as infant health centres, provision of vaccination and immunization. Additional services under this programme include health services to school age children, dental care, hearing and vision services, diagnostic treatment, and Counseling services for mentally retarded children.

**(b) Protective Services:**

It is hard fact of life that all parents do not love their children and some are grossly incompetent and neglectful. Children of such parents require special protective services. Societies for the prevention of cruelty to children, organized under voluntary auspices, date from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and still exist under various names in some places, although the trend has been to assign responsibility for such services to public child welfare agencies. Protective services are usually invoked on the complaint of neighbours or other aware of cases of parental abuse or neglect. Equally serious but less conspicuous are the emotional scars that many children bear. The subtler forms of emotional damage that parents can inflict on their children are only beginning to be recognized.

**(c) Care of unwed Mothers and their Children:**

The care and protection of children born out of wedlock poses special problems arising from society's attitude towards premarital conception. From being tolerantly viewed or even expected, as in some tribal communities, some other communities impose extreme strictures, ostracize, or even exhibit violence toward the unwed mother and her child.

Typical services for the unwed mother include maintenance, medical care, hospitalization, and above all casework to help her to meet the social crisis and to make a constructive decision for her own and for the child's future. Where family welfare agencies operate, case workers counsel the mothers particularly about the arrangement either for keeping the baby or giving the child up for adoption. In

developing countries services to unmarried mothers or their children are still in an elementary state and are dealt with by individual charity or private welfare agencies.

**(d) Day care:**

The care of the young children is being given greater importance in the modern society. Day care centers are designed for young children, mainly between the ages of two and five, who are looked after while their mothers are away at work. In most of the developing countries there is a great need for day care centers, particularly in the industrialized and urban areas due to engagement of more and more women in work.

**(e) Foster care:**

Foster care services are designed for neglected or dependent children who lack the protective atmosphere of families or institutions. It is now accepted that a children's agency should be able to make available both types of care since experience has shown that not all children can benefit from foster family care, for example, children whose experiences with their own parents have been emotionally devastating may not be able to fit into the intimacy of a foster family and may do better in the more impersonal life of an institution. Modern standards for foster care emphasize careful selection of homes, close supervision of the children placed in them, and payment of board, clothing, medical care, and allowances for the children by the placing agency. Particularly important are the counseling services provided by the agency's case workers to foster parents as in the absence of such services children may be needlessly uprooted and shifted from one home to another with damaging results.<sup>31</sup>

The National Policy for Children adopted in 1974 by the Indian Parliament declares Children as a 'Supremely important asset' and emphasizes the need to provide adequate services to children both before and after birth and through the period of growth. Thus the policy takes into account the general health and education needs of all children and also gives attention to the needs of children belonging to some of the disadvantaged groups on priority basis.

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<sup>31</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 38, 39.

The care of children is a special concern for all the country. As they are the weakest section in the society their growth and development is threatened by the evil forces of want, ignorance, idleness, disease, squalor etc. Realizing the importance of children, almost all countries in the world consistently emphasize the need to take a comprehensive view of the problems of young people.

Child welfare as one understands today is a nebulous concept. It includes health services such as pre-natal, post-natal care, immunization, food, and housing. It also includes educational services such as pre-primary school, primary school, science education, decentralizations of education, etc.

It also implements in the field of welfare which includes services for normal children such as recreation, day care centre, crèche and at the same time includes services special groups such as destitute children, delinquent children, handicapped children, orphans etc. The concept of child welfare cannot be reviewed without thinking of child welfare policy, legislation for children, legislation regarding child labour, administrative machinery and the service delivery system.<sup>32</sup>

At the international level, there are ILO Conventions and Recommendations. India is a party to the ILO and as such has an obligation to adopt the ILO conventions. India has ratified several ILO conventions. The Indian laws and the ILO conventions mainly deal with following four matters:

- (1) Minimum age for employment of children,
- (2) Medical examination of children,
- (3) Maximum hours of work,
- (4) Prohibition of night work for children

There are several Enactments which deal with the above four matters, for example, The Factories Act, 1948; The Mines Act, 1952; Employee of Children Act, 1938(concerned with employment of children in hazardous occupations, such as transport of passengers, goods or mail by railway, or by a port authority within the limits of port, or workshop of beedi-making, carpet-weaving, cement manufacture, cloth-printing, dyeing and weaving, manufacture of matches, explosives and

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<sup>32</sup> Chaturvedi, op.cit., p. 59.

fireworks, mica-cutting, shellac manufacture, canning etc); The Merchant shipping Act, 1958; Motor Transport Workers Act 1951; Plantation Labour Act, 1951; Beedi and Cigar Workers (conditions and employment) Act, 1966; and the State shops and Establishment Acts covering such employment as in shops, commercial establishments, restaurants and hotels and places of amusements in urban areas.

There are few differences between the Central Statues and the State Statues. The differences are; instead of the child welfare board, the child may be dealt with by a Juvenile Court; the child may be sent to the Remand Home during the enquiry and certified schools on the conclusion of enquiry.<sup>33</sup>

### **3.3 Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram**

The most important agency in the delivery of various child welfare schemes and programmes in the State of Mizoram is Social Welfare Department, Government of Mizoram. The Department plays an important role in moulding and developing the character as well as physical structure of children in Mizoram.

After the attainment of Union territory in 1972, Child Welfare Administration has tremendously improved in Mizoram. Children not only constitute a large group of the total population but also form a supremely important asset to the society. Till the attainment of Union Territory status by Mizoram (21<sup>st</sup> Jan. 1972) the close-knit Mizo society continued her own way of life with its inbuilt voluntary organizations for the relief of those in need or distress. The erstwhile Mizo Autonomous District Council under the Assam State Government did not receive any worthwhile assistance for social welfare activities, inspite of the fact that the Directorate of Social Welfare Department was well established in Assam in 1960.<sup>34</sup>

After three years the Assam state Government appointed Mr. Dengchhuana as the District Probation Officer in 1963 and he was posted to Cachar District, Assam, later becoming ACS Class-I and further promoted to IAS, and retiring as the District Probation Officer, Social Welfare was transferred to Aizawl and was placed under the Deputy Commissioner, Aizawl, Mizoram with one clerk. Although the

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<sup>33</sup> *Ibid*, p. 85.

<sup>34</sup> Goel, S.L. and Jain R.K., 'Social Welfare Administration Organisation and Working Vol.-II', Deep and Deep Publication, New Delhi, p. 150, 2002.

District Probation Officer, Social Welfare was placed under the Deputy Commissioner, Aizawl, he had different sources of income and functions in his own field of welfare activities through the Directorates of Social Welfare Department, Assam. But the Social Welfare activities came to stand still in Mizoram due to the outbreak of political disturbances on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1966 and the District Probation Officer, Social Welfare was reverted to Shillong in 1966.<sup>35</sup>

The dark period of Mizo society began on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1966, and the gloomy days continued till the Central Government of India took over the Administration in Mizoram. The presence of the large contingent of Armed Forces in Mizoram to deal with the M.N.F. left no scope to solve the problems of the society. The problem being political in nature required a political solution which finally was achieved by signing what was called 'The Peace Accord of Mizoram' on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1986.<sup>36</sup>

With the expansion of Administration and raising the District Administration to Union Territory administration, Social Welfare Officers post was created. Mr. Bonthanga Poonte was trained in the Tata Institute, Bombay, while working as the District Development Officer at Aizawl and was appointed State Social Welfare Officer and took over the charge of District Social Welfare Officer from Mr. A. Sobhan, the Superintendent of District Jail, Aizawl.<sup>37</sup>

Mr. Bonthanga Poonte did all the spadework of the Social Welfare for Mizoram in two years, but unfortunately expired on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept' 1975 prior to implementation of the various schemes that he proposed. He was succeeded by Mr. J. Lalduhawma, the Social Education officer of the Education Department, Government of Mizoram for three years. Subsequently, Mrs. Zodinpuui, ACS who also possessed a degree of M.S.W. from Tata Institute, Bombay and who was then working as Under Secretary in the Government of Mizoram took over the charge of State Social Welfare Officer in addition to her own work. Frequent change in the

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<sup>35</sup> Lalkima, C., 'Social Welfare Administration in a Tribal State A Case Study of Mizoram, Spectrum Publications, New Delhi, p. 61, 1997.

<sup>36</sup> *Heralding Mizoram State*, Published by Government of Mizoram, p. 7, 1987.

<sup>37</sup> Government of Mizoram, Education and Social Welfare Department Memo No. ESS. 151/73/66 – A dated 13<sup>th</sup> July' 1973. (Old Record Room Directorate of School Education, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl).



officers of the Social Welfare Board caused the slow progress in the social welfare programmes.<sup>38</sup>

The Social Welfare Department was created as a small wing under Education Department during 1973-1974 with one State Social Welfare Officer, one District Social Welfare Officer and a skeleton supporting staff. During 1974-1975, the Social Welfare Wing was strengthened by posting one Programme Officer. This was further strengthened by creating two more posts of District Social Welfare Officers with minimum supporting staff for Lunglei and Chhimtuipui Districts during 1979 - 1980. During the year 1983 - 1984 Social Welfare Department was declared a full-fledged Department. Today, more than 500 staff belonging to different Grades are working in the Department, covering the whole Mizoram.<sup>39</sup>

The Department of Social Welfare has been taking up various Schemes for the uplift of women and children, handicapped persons, old age persons, management of correctional institutions and social defence, strengthening of voluntary organizations and development of rural infrastructure. The Department also deals with certain schemes under various Ministries of the Government of India such as, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Ministry of Tribal affairs and Ministry of Rural Development.<sup>40</sup>

The Lieutenant Governor (LG), Administrator of Mizoram Union Territory, accorded the Sanction for the establishment of the State Social Welfare Office, Mizoram, consisting of

**Table:3.1 Initial Sanctioned Posts for the Directorate of Social Welfare**

Sl. no	Sanctioned Posts	Number
1.	Director	1
2.	Superintendent	1
3.	Assistant	1
4.	Stenographer Grade – II	1
5.	Upper Divisional Clerk (U.D.C)	1

<sup>38</sup> Lalkima, C., op.cit., p. 62.

<sup>39</sup> Citizens' Charter. Social Welfare Department, Government of Mizoram, p. 6, 2010.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*

6.	Lower Divisional Clerk (L.D.C)	1
7.	Cinema Operator	1
8.	Grade – IV	2

*Source: Government of Mizoram, Social Welfare Department, Memo No. SWD. 3/79/Part-1/3 dated 30th March, 1981 (Record File Social Welfare Department, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl).*

On the creation of new posts of Director of Social Welfare Department and its subordinate Staff, the existing posts of Social Welfare Wing under the Education Department were designated as under:

- (a) State Social Welfare Officer as Deputy Director.
- (b) Programme Officer as Assistant Director of Social Welfare Department.

Simultaneously, the existing Staff of Social Welfare Wing under the Education Department had moved to the new Directorate of Social Welfare. Within a short span of time, Social Welfare Department officially started functioning as a separate department independent of the Education Department and the newly established Social Welfare Department was entrusted with the following different functions:<sup>41</sup>

- (1) Welfare of Women and Children.
- (2) Welfare of the handicapped persons which includes economic rehabilitation, prosthetic aids to physically handicapped persons and their training for income generating trades.
- (3) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations.
- (4) Homes for Orphans.
- (5) Welfare of poor and destitute.
- (6) Implementation of Children's Act, immoral traffic in Women and Girls Act and such other social security schemes.
- (7) Integrated Child Development Services and functional literacy for adult women.
- (8) Components of health, nutrition and non-formal education of children below 6 years and pregnant and nursing mothers.

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<sup>41</sup> Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs New Delhi Letter No. 4-11022/1/82-UTL dt. 6<sup>th</sup> April 1983 (Secretariat Record Room, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl).

Along with the increase in its responsibilities and expansion of welfare activities, the infrastructure facilities have been improved and the staff strength has also been increased considerably to address the different functions entrusted to it. By way of performing welfare functions in an effective manner, the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Mizoram, has been divided into the following Wings:

- (1) Child Welfare
- (2) Nutrition
- (3) Welfare of Handicapped
- (4) Welfare of the Aged
- (5) Women Welfare
- (6) Correctional Services
- (7) Tribal Welfare.

### **3.4 District Level Institutional Arrangement for Child Welfare Administration in Aizawl District**

Along with the increase in the number of functions entrusted to the new Department of Social Welfare, the Union Territory Government had, for the first time, made an inclusive institutional arrangement below the Directorate for the effective implementation of welfare schemes and projects at different levels.

Like many other State Governments in India, the Government of Mizoram has been carrying out ICDS through Social Welfare Department. Nutrition Wing of the Department actually executes nutritional works through ICDS as there are CDPO in each of the Rural Development Blocks. Moreover there are one or two Supervisors at the Block level who should supervise many Anganwadi workers performing their duties at the village level. It is, therefore, evident that the Department of Social Welfare co-ordinates various functional and welfare activities of ICDS and Nutrition in Mizoram.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> Lalkima, C., op.cit., p. 67.

**Table: 3.2 Integrated Child Development Projects in Aizawl District**

Sl. No.	Name of District	No.	Name of Project	No. of AWCs
1.	Aizawl	1.	Aizawl Urban	161
		2.	Tlangnuam	73
		3.	Aibawk	50
		4.	Darlawn	77
		5.	Thingsulthliah	92
		6.	Phullen	39
				<b>Total=492</b>

Source: Records of ICDS Government of Mizoram

Non Government Organisations can be regarded as one of the most important factors for the successful implementation of different Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes in Aizawl District. In Mizoram there are a number of NGOs, which have played an important role for welfare of children. Whereas, some NGOs did not concerned directly with welfare and development of children. Some of the NGOs which have played an important role in child welfare and development in Aizawl District are MHIP, MHT and MHA.

MHIP (Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl) is an important NGO which have played a vital role for development of children in Aizawl district. The main aim of this organisation is upliftment of women and children. It seeks justice for a child who is neglected in nutrition or in the family and society. It has taken up crèche centre and anganwadi centre. The Orphanage Home named, '*Hmangaihte Run*', one of the Special Adoption Agencies in Mizoram, located at Aizawl is owned by the MHIP. Another Voluntary Organisation which has played an important role for children is MHT (Mizo Hmeichhe Tangrual). It also aims to improve and uplift children. This organisation runs Children's Home for motherless babies in Aizawl since 1969 till today. The Mizoram Hmeithai (Widows) Association (MHA) is another Voluntary Organisation which stands for children. The main objectives of this organisation are to uplift the status of widows and assist them to earn their livelihood and to help children of widows. In 1998 this organisation established residential school for under privileged children in Aizawl. In this school, orphan, fatherless children, illegitimate children, children from broken families and those below poverty line are provided with free education and sheltering.

### **3.5 Conclusion**

In this Chapter, an effort has been made to discuss the origin of Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram under the Assam Government and its subsequent developments under the Union Territory Government and The State Government of Mizoram. Child Welfare Administration can be trace back from the year, when the United Nations declared International Year of the Child in 1970. The Government of India also adopted a policy resolution for children in 1974. Consequently, a number of Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes have been introduced at different levels. The national concern for children is widely reflected in the constitutional and legislatives provisions. Accordingly, in Mizoram, after the achievement of Union Territory in 1972, Child Welfare Administration has greatly developed in Mizoram.

## CHAPTER-IV

### CHILD WELFARE SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES

#### 4.0 Introduction

Children are the hope of their parents and simultaneously important assets for future development of any nation. Therefore, every nation must pay full attention to its children to ensure that they are given proper care in a congenial atmosphere where they will receive adequate opportunities and facilities for proper education, guidance and training for their overall development to become good citizens in future.

The growth and development of children into mature and happy persons with attractive personalities mainly depends upon the care and attention they receive from their respective parents and the society in which they live. If a child does not get proper education, diet and other basic amenities in formative years, it is obvious that his or her very development into a self-sustaining being is retarded. So, it becomes the duty of every State to protect children's right by legislative and other means.<sup>1</sup> With the realisation of this important aspect of child's life in today's complex world, much interest is being shown in respect of welfare and development of children both at national and international levels. However, the present study focuses on those Child Welfare Schemes and Projects implemented by the Central and the State Governments with special reference to Aizawl District of Mizoram.

#### 4.1 Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes at the International Level

Since its inception as an international body in 1945, the United Nations (UN) was concerned with the needs and problems of children and other vulnerable groups resulting from the Second World War. At the beginning, its programmes were remedial and rehabilitative in nature. However, the emphasis had been shifted from remedial to preventive and development approaches in social welfare with the

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<sup>1</sup> Das, Dipak, 'Child Labour in India, Rights, Welfare and Protection', Deep and Deep, New Delhi, p. 2, 2011.

joining of the UN by a larger number of developing countries and those liberated from colonial rule were admitted as its members.

The most important contribution of the UN regarding Child Welfare and Development is the creation of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) by the General Assembly on December 11, 1946 to provide massive emergency relief to the destitute young victims of the Second World War. The Fund began to focus its attention on the widespread malnutrition, diseases and illiteracy afflicting millions of children throughout the developing world.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, the UNICEF promotes and augments the available resources for the success of "Child Survival and Development Revolution." Though the UNICEF relies on the contributions from member-Governments and private donors, its contribution in child welfare in India has been significant. The UNICEF has given assistance for rural primary health centres, pre-vocational training, Integrated Child Development Services Projects, Applied Nutrition-Programme, children in difficult circumstances etc.

After signing the Framework of Basic Agreement with India in 1978, the UNICEF Projects are being implemented in India through various Ministries and Departments dealing with children which includes Ministry of Women and Child Development, Department of Elementary Education, Department of Family Welfare and NACO, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Department of Drinking Water Supply (Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission). As the nodal Ministry, the Ministry of Women and Child Development coordinates the implementation of the Master Plan of Operations (MPO) which, *inter alia*, aims at improving the care and protection of children, levels of their nutrition and ensuring universal elementary education. The nodal Ministry conducts periodic review meetings to coordinate and monitor the implementation and expenditure of the UNICEF programmes in India.<sup>3</sup>

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), which was created under the League of Nations in 1919, aims at improving labour conditions, raising living standards and promoting economic and social stability. ILO also aims at promoting

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<sup>2</sup> Sachdeva, D. R., 'Social welfare Administration in India', Kitabmahal, Allahabad, p. 314, 1993.

<sup>3</sup> <http://wed.nic.in/> accessed on 14.3.2013

social justice and peace. It assists states for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of working children through child welfare programmes, social security measures and anti-child labour measures etc.<sup>4</sup>

World Health Organisation (WHO) has assisted India in developing child health services as an integral part of maternity and child welfare and nutritional services.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), founded in 1945, has played an important part in increasing food production and taking measures aimed at development of rural families with particular reference to women and children. It also helps the people of the world in their continuing fight against hunger and malnutrition. This has been sought to be done through the People's Action for Development (India) (now CAPART) and the World Food Programme.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) helps to develop text books and promotion and teaching of national languages to the children of migrant workers, training of staff for pre-school children and assists projects to set up production of children's books and libraries especially for destitute children. A National Commission on UNESCO is functioning as part of the Ministry of HRD in India.<sup>5</sup>

The UNESCO and the ILO have helped India in child education and prevention of child labour respectively. The International Union for Child Welfare, CARE, Children Christian Fund, India Sponsorship Committee, CASP, PLAN, USAID, Norwegian Agency for Development and other international voluntary agencies have taken keen interest in developing child welfare services in India.<sup>6</sup> Besides these, the other international agencies contributing towards women and child development in India are: Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). However, the efforts of the international bodies are only supplementary to the national effort. It

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<sup>4</sup> Chowdhry, D. Paul, 'Child Welfare and Development', Atma Ram & Sons, Delhi, p. 380, 1963.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p. 381.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p. 12.



would be necessary to get assistance from different agencies for the benefit of the children.<sup>7</sup>

#### **4.2 Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes in India**

During the British rule in India, Child Welfare Administration included only education, maternity and child welfare services. In the absence of proper institutional arrangements from the Government side, various voluntary agencies had shouldered almost all the responsibilities for ensuring welfare and development of children in the country. During those tedious years, child welfare and development including social welfare in India are suffering from over three decades of neglect and under funding. When the Constitution of India was enacted after independence, Child Welfare Administration was taken over by the Central and the State Governments. It was only after the setting up of Planning Commission in India in 1951 that child welfare and development started receiving greater attention. Even the contents of the succeeding Five Year Plan Documents of the Planning Commission have emphasised the importance of accelerating child welfare and development of the nation. So, in order to cater to the needs of thousands of children, Government of India has widened the scope of child welfare to include various recreational activities like playground, holiday homes, libraries, clubs, children's home etc., treatment of psychological problems through child guidance clinic or education and welfare of special children like handicapped, abandoned, delinquent, orphaned, working children etc.

Although the post-independent India took up the responsibility of promoting welfare, the Government of India did not have either a separate Department or Ministry of Social Welfare. Till 1964, Central Social Welfare Board, which was established in August 1953, was given the responsibility of planning, initiating and implementing child welfare programmes in India. Apart from giving Grants to Agencies running various child welfare programmes, the Board initiated a scheme called "Welfare Extension Projects," and thereafter, child welfare became one of the

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 384.

important and major components of this scheme.<sup>8</sup> Child Welfare Schemes in India comprises of the following:

**(1) Financial Assistance to Dependent Children:**

This scheme was initiated to provide assistance to orphan and destitute children below the age of sixteen whose parents are unable to maintain them due to some chronic disease or permanent disability, but to no more than two children in a family, preference being given to the school going children.

**(2) Maintenance of Orphan and Destitute Girls:**

The State Government is to provide free of cost maintenance to orphan girls between the ages of 6-16 years at Bal Bhawan Jalandhar.

**(3) Foster Care Services Scheme:**

In 1961, Foster Care Services Scheme was started for providing destitute, orphan and unattached children proper physical, mental and emotional growth and a normal family setting thus eliminating the ill effects of impersonal treatment of institutionalization.

**(4) State After Care Home for Boys:**

Among the States of the Indian Union, Ludhiana (started in 1967-68) for orphan and destitute boys between the age group of 16-21 years, discharged from correctional or non-correctional institutes to provide education and training in various crafts.

**(5) Implementation of the East Punjab Children Act, 1969:**

The Act provides for the setting up of institutions for admission of the destitute, delinquent and school dropouts between the age of 8-16 years as well as those who, due to immaturity, commit some crimes, for preparing a congenial atmosphere for their physical and mental development. This is to enable them to develop into normal and law abiding citizens. Such children are, in the first instance,

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<sup>8</sup> Chowdhary, D. Paul, *op.cit.*, p. 4.

admitted in the Reception-cum-observation Homes, where the Superintendent prepares their case history and produces them before the children's Courts, which order either for their restoration to their parents or transfer to a certified school.

**(6) Special Nutrition Programme:**

The programme provides protein diet to the children in the age group of 0-6 years and expectant and nursing mothers for a period of 33 days in a year.

**(7) Family and Child Welfare Project:**

This project caters to the needs of children up to the age of 5 years and women living in rural areas. Children are provided preschool education and refreshment while in Balwaris; camps are arranged for girls and women in rural areas where they are taught home craft, mother craft, poultry and dairy keeping etc.

**(8) Integrated Development Services Scheme (IDSS):**

This Scheme provides free package of services namely supplementary nutrition, immunization health and nutrition education, health check-up, non-formal preschool education and referral services to children below six years. It is a centrally sponsored scheme and was first introduced in Nurpur Bedi Block of the State in 1975-76. Since then it has been extended to other blocks and slum areas in Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Patiala. The scheme has brought substantial benefits to the children and mothers particularly those belonging to poor socio economic groups in reducing infant mortality, improving health and nutritional status of children and providing preschool education for children.<sup>9</sup>

### **4.3 Role of Government of India in Child Welfare and Development**

The long reign of the British rule and the consequent struggle for freedom by the Indians against the colonial rulers had far-reaching consequences on Child Welfare and Development in India. When India got Independence in 1947, the Government recognised the need for providing Child Welfare and Development services as an essential pre-requisite for the development of India as a new nation.

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<sup>9</sup> Sachdeva. D.R., op.cit., p. 147.

Hence, Child Welfare and Development has become one of the most important priorities almost in all sectors of development planning.

The adoption of National Children's Policy and creation of National Children's fund by the Government of India is an evidence of the nation's concern and interest in child welfare and development. Launching of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in October 2, 1975 in the country was-to improve the nutrition and health status of children in the age group of 0-6 years; to lay the foundations for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child; to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school drop outs; to achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and to enhance the capability of the mothers through proper nutrition and health education, for looking after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child. All these major measures indicate Government of India's commitment in providing various services for the welfare and development of children.

The Government of India has set up Ministry of Welfare as the nodal Ministry to formulate Social Welfare Policy to provide for infrastructure in the form of various institutions and to coordinate the welfare programmes of other ministries, and trained personnel for the execution of its welfare programmes of multi-dimensional nature. The founding Fathers of our Constitution provided safeguards for children in Articles 15, 24, 39, 55 of the Constitution. The adoption of Policy Resolution for children by Parliament and the Constitution of National Children's Board are other land-marks towards safeguarding the interests of children.<sup>10</sup>

All the Union Territories and State Governments in India have established their Departments of Social Welfare to administer the Centrally Sponsored Projects and to manage different Programmes at the State level. The State Social Welfare Advisory Boards (SSWAB) and the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) have been entrusted with the responsibility of motivating Voluntary Organizations through an elaborate grants-in-aid system to undertake welfare programmes on a

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<sup>10</sup> Chowdhary, D. Paul., op.cit., p. 3.

large scale both in urban and rural areas to supplement and support the efforts of various Governments which have been formed from time to time.

However, financial constraints and population explosion have been preventing the Government of India against provision of welfare services on the range and scale of western countries. Social services for children are being organised both by Government and voluntary agencies. Economically, politically and socially, children are the need of future national growth. Recognizing this fact, the Government of India during the last five decades, has taken various legislative as well as executive steps to protect children as provided in the Indian Constitution.

The National Policy for Children lies down that the State shall provide adequate services towards children, both before and after birth and during the growing stages for their full physical, mental and social development. The Government of India has also adopted the National Charter for Children; it is a statement of intent embodying the Government's agenda for children. . The document emphasizes Government of India's commitment to children's rights to survival, health and nutrition, standard of living, play and leisure, early childhood care, education, protection of the girl child, empowering adolescents, equality, life and liberty, name and nationality, freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly, the right to a family and the right to be protected from economic exploitation and all forms of abuse. The document also provides for protection of children in difficult circumstances, children with disabilities, children from marginalized and disadvantaged communities, and child victims. The document while stipulating the duties of the State and the Community towards children also emphasizes the duties of children towards family, society and the nation. The National Charter for Children was notified in the Gazette of India on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2004.<sup>11</sup>

Ministry of Women and Child Development has prepared a National Plan of Action for Children 2005 after harmonizing the goals for children set in the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children held in 2002 and the monitorable targets set in the tenth Five year Plan and goals for children in related Ministries or

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<sup>11</sup> <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=2396>

Departments. The Action Plan has been prepared in consultation with concerned Ministries and Departments, States or UT Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations and experts. The National Plan of Action includes goals, objectives, strategies and activities for improving nutritional status of children, reducing IMR and MMR, increasing enrolment ratio and reducing dropout rates, universalization of primary education, increasing coverage for immunization etc. Several Ministries and Departments of the Government of India are implementing various schemes and programmes for the benefit of children. Some of the Schemes and Programmes are as under:<sup>12</sup>

**(1) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):**

Integrated Child Development Services as a part of the world's largest programme are implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development with the aim of enhancing the health, nutrition and learning opportunities of infants, young children (0-6 years) and their mothers. The Scheme provides an integrated approach for converging basic services through community based workers and helpers. The services are provided at a centre called the 'ANGANWADI', which literally means a courtyard play centre, a child care centre located within the village itself. The package of services provided includes-

- Supplementary nutrition,
- Immunization,
- Health check-up,
- Referral services,
- Pre-school non-formal education and
- Nutrition and health education

It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Governments with 100% financial assistance from the Central Government for all inputs other than supplementary nutrition which the States were to provide from their own resources. However, from the year 2005-06, the Government of India has decided to provide Central assistance to States for supplementary nutrition to the

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<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

extent of 50% of the actual expenditure incurred by the States or 50% of the cost norms, whichever is less.

**(2) Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers:**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a new Crèche Scheme in January 2006. The Scheme has been named Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche for the Children of Working Mothers. These crèches have been allocated to the Central Social Welfare Board, Indian Council for Child Welfare and Bhartiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh in the ratio of 80:11:9. The priority has been given to uncovered districts or areas and tribal areas while extending the scheme to maintain balance regional coverage. Eligibility criteria under the Revised Scheme have also been enhanced from Rs. 1800/- to Rs. 12000/- per month per family. So far about 25605 crèches have been sanctioned including 5137 crèches sanctioned under erstwhile National Crèche Scheme up to 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2006.<sup>13</sup>

**(3) Nutrition Component of Prime Minister Gramodya Yojana and Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls:**

Implemented in 51 districts with additional central assistance provided by the Planning Commission, this scheme directly and indirectly contributes to promoting nutrition of children. A National Nutrition Mission has also been set up with a view to enable policy direction to concerned Departments of the Government for addressing the problem of malnutrition in a mission mode.

**(4) Reproductive and Child Health Programme:**

Implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the programme provides effective maternal and child health care, micronutrient interventions for vulnerable groups, reproductive health services for adolescent etc. some important programmes cover are- immunization for children for DTP, polio and Tetanus Toxoid for Women, Iron and Folic for pregnant women. This programme integrates all family welfare and women and child health services with the explicit objective of providing beneficiaries with 'need based, client centered, demand driven, and high

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<sup>13</sup> <http://wed.nic.in/>

quality integrated RCH services'. The strategy for the RCH programme shifts the policy emphasis from achieving demographic targets to meeting the health needs of women and children.

**(5) Pulse Polio Immunization Programme:**

Implemented by the Ministry of health and family Welfare, this programme covers all children below five years. It is a massive programme covering 166 million children in every round of National Immunization day. The other immunization programmes include Hepatitis B, DPT and other routine immunization. Other notable programmes for child health include, Universal immunization programme, control of deaths due to acute respiratory infections, control of diarrhoeal diseases, provision of essential new-born care to address the issue of the neonates, prophylactic programmes for the prevention and treatment of two micronutrient deficiencies relating to Vitamin A and Iron, Anaemia control programme, border district Cluster strategy and Integrated Management of Neo-natal and childhood illness.

**(6) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA):**

Implemented by the Department of Education, this programme provides for school infrastructure and quality improvement in education of the children. The specific objectives are: All children to be in school; Universal retention by 2010; Bridging all gender and social gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010. The Government of India is committed to realising the goal of universalization of elementary education by 2010. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the National flagship programme, the Government aims to provide free and compulsory elementary education to all children in the 6-14 age groups by 2010.

**(7) A National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level:**

This programme has been implemented by the Department of Education for children in difficult circumstances including dropout girls, working girls, girls from marginalized social groups, girls with low levels of achievement to gain quality



elementary education and to develop self-esteem of girls through a community based approach.

**(8) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya:**

This is a new scheme being implemented by the Department of Education, which enables opening of 750 special residential schools for the girl child belonging to SC or ST, OBC and minority in educationally backward blocks having low female literacy.

**(9) Mid-Day Meal Scheme:**

This is also one of the important schemes of the Government for universal enrolment and retention of children in schools. Under the programme, nutrition and snacks are provided to children attending schools. However, this scheme has been implemented in Mizoram as a component of the National Flagship Programme of SSA.

**(10) Integrated Programme for Street Children:**

This programme is being implemented by the Ministry of Social justice and empowerment. This programme aims at preventing destitution of children and facilitates their withdrawal from life on the streets. The programme is targeted towards children without homes and family ties, especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

**(11) Integrated Programme for Juvenile Justice:**

This programme is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with a view to providing care to children in difficult circumstances and children in conflict with the law through Government institutions and through NGOs. Some special features of the scheme are: - Establishment of a National Advisory Board on Juvenile Justice; Creation of a Juvenile Justice Fund; training, orientation and sensitization of judicial, administrative police and NGOs responsible for implementation of JJ Act; Financial assistance to bring about a qualitative

improvement in the existing infrastructure; Expansion of non-institutional services such as sponsorship, foster care, probation etc. as and an alternate institutional care.

**(12) Child Helpline:**

Childline India Foundation (CIF) is a toll free telephone service (1098) which anyone can call for assistance in the interest of children. Being run with the support of Women and Child Welfare Ministry is working in 72 cities across the country. The *Shishu Greh* Scheme is also being implemented by the Ministry to promote adoptions within the country and to ensure minimum standards in the care of abandoned, orphaned, destitute children. Grant-in-Aid up to a ceiling of Rs. 6 lakh is provided per unit of 10 Children in a *Shishu Greh*.

**(13) The National Rural Health Mission:**

It is a scheme of health Ministry seeks to provide effective healthcare to rural population including large population of children throughout the country with special focus on 18 States. It aims to undertake architectural correction of the health system to enable it to effectively handle increased allocations as promised under the national Common Minimum Programme and promote policies that strengthen public health management and service delivery in the country.

**(14) Elimination of Child Labour:**

This is the Project implemented by the Ministry of Labour for rehabilitation of working children and elimination of child labour. Under the Project based Action Plan of the Policy, National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) have been set up in different areas to rehabilitate child labour. A major activity undertaken under the NCLP is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc. to children withdrawn from employment. 150 Child Labour Projects have so far been sanctioned for rehabilitating children in the most endemic areas and 1.5 lakh children have already been mainstreamed in the special schools.

**(15) Prevention of Offences Against Children:**

After wide consultations, a Draft Bill for offences against children has been prepared and circulated to the State Governments for their comments and views. After obtaining the comments of the state Governments and concerned ministries and departments, a draft has been prepared and circulated to the concerned Ministries and Departments for their comments and use.

**(16) Child Budgeting:**

The Government of India is also introducing child budgeting. The key objectives of this endeavour are: (a) to analyse budgetary provisions on social sector, (b) to identify the magnitude of budgetary allocations made by the Centre or State Governments on schemes meant for addressing specific needs of children, and (c) to examine the trend in child specific expenditure etc.

The main agendas for the exercise of child budgeting is to review resource allocations for children; explore ways to increase budgetary allocations for children; assess budget utilization rates for social sector and child specific programmes, identify blockages and constraints to effective utilization; identify methods for tracking expenditure and monitoring performance to ensure that outlays translate into outcomes for children.

**(17) Pilot Project for Combating Trafficking of Women and Children:**

The Pilot Projects being implemented are viz:- (1) to combat trafficking women and children for commercial sexual exploitation under the sanction of tradition (2) pilot project to combat trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation in destination areas. So far 30 projects have been sanctioned benefiting about 1500 women and girls.<sup>14</sup>

**(18) The Commission for Protection of the Child Rights Act 2005**

The Government of India has recently notified the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005 in the Gazette of India on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 as Act No. 4 of 2006. The Act envisages setting up a National Commission at the

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<sup>14</sup> <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=23966>.

National level and the State Commissions at the state level. The proposed Commission would be set up for proper enforcement of children's rights and effective implementation of laws and programmes relating to children. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights will be a statutory body to be set up under the commission for Protection of Childs Rights Act. The proposed Commission will have a chairperson and six other Members, including two women members, a Member Secretary and other supporting staff. The Chairperson would be a person of eminence in the field of child development. The members would be the experts in the field of child health, education, child care and development, juvenile justice, children with disabilities, elimination of child labour, child psychology or sociology and laws relating to children. The officers and the staff of the Commission will be provided by the Central Government. The proposed Commission would be set up for proper enforcement of children's rights and effective implementation of laws and programmes relating to children.<sup>15</sup>

(a) The Functions of the Commission are:

- (1) To examine and review the safeguards provided by Constitution or any law for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation.
- (2) To present to the Central Government, annually reports upon the working of those safeguards.
- (3) To examine all factors that inhibits the enjoyment of rights of most vulnerable children and children in need of special care and protection.
- (4) To study treaties and other international instruments and undertake periodical review of existing policies, programmes and other activities on child rights and make recommendation for their effective implementation in the best interest of children.

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<sup>15</sup> <http://wed.nic.in/>

- (b) The Commission is to undertake and promote research in the following field of child rights.
- (1) Spread child rights literacy among various sections of the society and promote awareness.
  - (2) Inspect any juvenile custodial home, or any other place of residence or institution meant for children for the purpose of treatment, reformation or protection and take up with these authorities for remedial action.
- (c) The Powers of the Commission include the following:
- (1) Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath.
  - (2) Requiring the discovery and production of any document.
  - (3) Receiving evidence on affidavits.
  - (4) Requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office.
  - (5) Issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents.
  - (6) Forwarding any case to a Magistrate having jurisdiction to try the same and the Magistrate to whom any such case is forwarded shall proceed to hear the complaint against the accused.
  - (7) Recommending to the concerned Government or authority the initiation of proceedings for prosecution or such other action as deem fit against the concerned persons.
  - (8) Approaching the Supreme Court or the High Court concerned for such directions, orders or writs as that Court may deem necessary.
  - (9) Recommending to the concerned Government or authority for the grant of such interim relief to the victim or the members of his family as the Commission consider necessary.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <http://wed.nic.in/>

#### **4.4 Child Welfare Schemes and Projects Implemented in Aizawl District of Mizoram:**

Mizoram Government has been implementing various Child Welfare Schemes, Programmes and Projects covering the length and breadth of the State. The Centrally Sponsored Child Welfare and Development Schemes which were adopted or introduced in the state of Mizoram have been implemented within Aizawl district. Out of the Central Schemes and Projects, the Government of Mizoram has been implementing the following Child Welfare Schemes, Programmes and Projects in Aizawl District:

**A. Integrated Child Development Services (I.C.D.S):** The following programmes have been implemented under IDCS.

**(a) Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP):**<sup>17</sup> Supplementary Nutrition Programme aims at eradicating the protein-Calorie and micronutrient or deficiency prevalence in the developing States. The programme covers various categories of beneficiaries like 6 months to 6 years children, pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls. Besides, children below 6 years of age who are regular children registered in the Anganwadi Centres are entitled to this facility.

**(b) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG):** A pilot project of NPAG (Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls) was launched by the Planning Commission during 2002 – 2003. Under the scheme, all adolescent girls of 11 – 19 years should be weighed and undernourished adolescent girls less than 35 Kgs. would be identified and provided food grains, i.e. Rice, free of cost @ 6 Kgs. Per month for 3 consecutive months. The nutritional status of the identified undernourished adolescent girls will be checked regularly as per the operational guidelines framed by the Government of India.

**(c) Kishore Shakti Yojana (KSY):** Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) seeks to empower adolescent girls, so as to enable them to take charge of their lives. It is viewed as a holistic initiative for the development of adolescent girls. The programme through its interventions aims at bringing about a difference in the lives

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<sup>17</sup> Citizens' Charter, Social Welfare Department, Government of Mizoram, pp. 17, 19.

of the adolescent girls. It seeks to provide them with an opportunity to realize their full potential.

**(d) Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction Programme (CBPR):** In order to combat micronutrient deficiency disorders and to fill the gap left by the Supplementary Nutrition Programme in providing protective nutrients in lactating and nursing mothers and children below 6 years, the CBPR programme will be implemented in Mizoram during the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. The programme is to be implemented in 100 pilot projects within Aizawl district.

The programme aims to provide a minimum of three days of vegetables and greens in a week to children below 6 years and pregnant and nursing mothers through the Anganwadi Centres. Its objective is to develop kitchen gardens for growing greens and vegetables at select Anganwadi Centres and introduce the same in the SNP menu.

**(e) Balica Samriddhi Yojana (BSY):** The recast Balica Samriddhi Yojana will be a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme to extend 100% central assistance to State or Union Territories to provide benefits under the Scheme in accordance with the norms, guidelines and conditions laid down by the Central Government.

The main objectives of the Scheme are to change negative family and community attitudes towards the girl child at birth and towards her mother, to improve enrolment and retention of girl children in schools.

**(f) Mini Kitchen Gardening (MKG):** Anganwadi Kitchen Gardening is a new thing in the ICDS operation. 10 (ten) pioneer ICDS Projects are selected which would launch the Scheme in the selected Anganwadi Centres. The idea is that the Anganwadi may provide fresh vegetables to the children and set examples for the mothers and the villagers on the benefit of kitchen gardening.

**(g) Anganwadi Training Centre (AWTC):** Anganwadi Workers' Training Centre established by Social Welfare Department at Aizawl in 1984, is the only training centre catering to the training needs of all Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers all over Mizoram State.

**(h) Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG-SABLA):** This scheme is being implemented in selected 200 districts across the country using the ICDS platform. The target groups of this scheme are Adolescent Girls: 11–18 years. The main objectives of this project are to enable self-development and empowerment of adolescent girls, to improve their nutrition and health status. This scheme also spread awareness among adolescent girls about health, hygiene, nutrition, ARSH, family and child care. This scheme upgrade their home-base skill, life skill and vocational skill and give out-of-school adolescent girls formal or non-formal education. SABLA scheme inform and guide adolescent girl about existing public services like PHC, Post Office, Bank, Police Station etc.

**(i) Kishori Diwas (KD):** Kishori Diwas is a special Health Day under the non-nutrition component of RGSEAG – SABLA. Kishori Diwas is celebrated once in three months with the corresponding Monthly village Health and Nutrition Day. On this day, the Anganwadi Workers with the help of health functionaries, including Medical Officer, Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), will mobilize Adolescent Girls and their families, especially Mother, to assemble at the Anganwadi Centre.

**(j) Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY):** The main objectives of this scheme are promoting appropriate practices, care and service, utilization during pregnancy, safe delivery and lactation. This scheme also encourages women to follow (optimal) Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices including early and exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months. IGMSY scheme contribute a better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and lactating women.

**B. Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS):** The Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child development has formulated a new Centrally Sponsored scheme called Integrated Child Protection Scheme to be implemented based on the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act 2000, amended by Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act 2006 Dt. 22.8.2006.



(a) **Child Line:** Child helpline is a toll free telephone service (1098) which anyone can call for assistance in the interest of children. The child line functions for 24 hours a day by dialling Phone number 1098 (toll free) through BSNL (Landline and Mobile) and Aircel for children in need of care and protection. In Mizoram, the Child Line functions only in Aizawl District.

Being run with the support of women, Child Welfare Ministry is working in 72 cities across the country. The *Shishu Greh Scheme* is also being implemented by the Ministry to promote adoptions within the country and to ensure minimum standards in the care of abandoned or orphaned or destitute children. Grant-in-Aid up to a ceiling of Rs. 6 lakh is provided per unit of 10 children in Shishu Greh.<sup>18</sup>

(b) **Family-Based Non - Institutional Care:**

(i) **Sponsorship:** The State Government may make rules for the purposes of carrying out various schemes of sponsorship of children, such as individual to individual sponsorship, group sponsorship or community sponsorship.<sup>19</sup>

(ii) **Foster Care:** Foster Care services are designed for neglected or dependent children who lack the protective atmosphere of families or institutions. The foster care may be used for temporary placement of those infants who are ultimately to be given for adoption. The State Government may make rules for the purpose of carrying out the scheme of foster care programme of children.<sup>20</sup>

(iii) **Adoption:** Adoption means the process through which the adopted child is permanently separated from his biological parents and become the legitimate child of his adoptive parents with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities that are attached to the relationship.<sup>21</sup> The State Government has set up Adoption Cell in Social Welfare Department to co-ordinate, regulate and monitor the works of adoption and to render all assistance to the

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<sup>18</sup> <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=23966>.

<sup>19</sup> The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, p. 14.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> The Juvenile Justice (Care and protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006.

Advisory Board on adoption. Programme Officer (District ICDS Cell) is to function as Nodal Officer.

(iv) **After-Care:** Under Section 44 of Juvenile justice (Care and Protection of children) Act, 2000, the State Government may make Rule for recognition of after-care organisations for the purpose of taking care of juveniles or the children after they leave Special Homes.

(c) **Institutional Services:** Following are some of the Institutional services provided to juveniles or children in need of help.

(i) **Shelter Homes:** The State Government may recognize reputed and capable Voluntary Organisations and provide them assistance to set up and administer Shelter Homes for juveniles or children as may be required to function as drop-in-centres for the children in the need of urgent support.

(ii) **Children's Homes:** The State Government may establish and maintain either by itself or in association with the Voluntary Organisations, Children's Homes, in every district or group of districts, as the case may be, for the reception of child in need of care and protection during the pendency of any inquiry and subsequently for their care, treatment, education, training, development and rehabilitation.

(iii) **Observation Homes cum Special Homes:** Remand Home (Correctional Institution) "Observation Homes" means a Home established by a State Government or by a Voluntary Organisation and certified by that State Government under section 8 as an Observation Home for the Juvenile in Conflict with Law.<sup>22</sup>

To implement the Juvenile Justice Act 1986, the Government of Mizoram established the Remand Home or Correctional Institution under the Department of Social Welfare in the year 1986. The Remand Home at Durtlang is to keep the Juveniles in Conflict with Law in safe custody until the final disposal of the cases.

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<sup>22</sup> The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act, 2000, p. 3.

**(d) Juvenile Justice Board (JJB):** For the State of Mizoram, one Juvenile Justice Board has been constituted to exercise powers and discharge the duties conferred or imposed on such Boards in relation to Juveniles in Conflict with Law<sup>23</sup> under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 which is implemented in the State of Mizoram. In the year 2003, the Juvenile Justice Rules has been framed and implemented.<sup>24</sup> The Board consists of a Judicial Magistrate of the first class and two Social Workers.

**(e) Child Welfare Committee (CWC):** The State Government may, by notification in Official Gazette, constitute for every district or group of districts, specified in the notification, one or more Child Welfare Committees for exercising the powers and discharge the duties conferred on such Committees in relation to child in need of care and protection under this Act. The Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and four other members as the State Government may think fit to appoint, of whom at least one shall be a woman and another, an expert on matters concerning children.

The Committee shall function as a Bench of Magistrates and shall have the powers conferred by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 on a Metropolitan Magistrate or, as the case may be, a Judicial Magistrate of the first class.<sup>25</sup>

**(f) Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU):** Under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, a Special Juvenile Police Unit is to be created in every district to coordinate and upgrade police treatment of the Juvenile and the Children in Need of Care and Protection.

**(g) Pre School:** The Scheme of Pre-school Education is implemented by Social Welfare Department through MHIP within Aizawl District where Anganwadi Centre under ICDS Scheme does not operated 26 (Twenty Six) Pre-School Centres have been opened in Mizoram. The Scheme has benefited children below 6 years.

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<sup>23</sup> The term 'children in conflict with the law' mainly refers to any children below 18 years of age who are in contact with the justice system as a result of being suspected or accused of committing an offence.

<sup>24</sup> Citizen's Charter 2010, p 20.

<sup>25</sup> The juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, pp. 10,11.

(h) **Day Care (Crèches):** This Scheme was implemented in the State with as many as 40 Nos. of Crèches or Day Care Centre. However, as 2 Creches or day Care Centre have been converted to Anganwadi Centres, there are 38 Day Care Centres, 28 are at Aizawl District and 10 Centres are at Lunglei District. The Scheme benefits children below 3 years of age.

(i) **Bal Bhavan:** Bal Bhavan was founded by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in 1956 and is a creativity resource centre for children within the age group of 5-16 years. It is an out of school activity centre aims at identifying, nurture and enhances the many hidden talents of children. Under the Department of Social Welfare, the Mizoram Bal Bhavan Society was formed as per the instruction of National Bal Bhavan, Government of India and is registered under the Mizoram Societies Registration Act, 2005 (Act No. 13 of 2005)<sup>26</sup>

(j) **Child Marriage Act:** The prohibition of Child Marriage Act is enacted and notified in the Gazette of India on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 and repealed 192 Act. Draft Rules for Mizoram State being proposed and sent to Government for obtaining further vetting from the law and Judicial Department, Government of Mizoram on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2008. Cases of Child Marriage have not been heard much in the State of Mizoram.

(k) **State Council for Child's Welfare (SCCW):** The State Council for Child Welfare has been constituted by Ad hoc Members and Registered under Registrar, Firms and Societies Mizoram, Aizawl on 7.5.2002 under SR/MZ-08 of 2002-2003 and affiliated in Indian Council for Child Welfare dealing with National Bravery Awards to Children etc. and various National Awards running with pre-school etc.

(l) **The Mizoram Commission for the Protection of Child's Rights:** The National Commission for protection of Child Rights has been constituted as a Statutory Organization under the Commission's for Protection of Child's Right Act 2005. State Governments are requested to constitute State Commission for Protection of Child Rights in line with National Commission for Protection of Child Rights as required under the Act.

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<sup>26</sup> Registration No. MSR 233 of 12.2.2009.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights is concerned about the violence on children or child abuse in the country. Hence the Draft Rules for the Mizoram Commission for Protection of Child Right Rules, 2009 has been drafted and sent to Government for approval on 31.8.2009.<sup>27</sup>

(m) **Children Library:** Children Recreational Centre-Cum Library scheme provides materials and financial assistance on yearly basis to eight branches of Voluntary Organization imparted through i.e. YMA those who are running children recreational centre-cum-library for strengthening and up-gradation of library etc. as under

#### **4.5 Views of Inmates of Various Children's Homes About Different Aspects of Child Welfare Administration in Aizawl District - Results and Discussions**

In order to make an empirical study of the performance of Child Welfare Programmes the researcher has administered questionnaires to 200 Inmates of Homes randomly selected as samples and then used those data collected from 100 male and 100 female Inmates for the present study.

First of all, with a view to finding out the reason for joining Homes by members of the Target Group, the researcher asked the question to the Home Inmates.

**Table: 4.1 The Main Reason for Joining of Homes by the Target Groups**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Poverty</b>	<b>Divorce of parents</b>	<b>Demise of parents</b>
1.	What is the main reason for joining Children's Home?	27.77%	38.85%	33.38%

*Source: Field Work*

From the above table, it has been found that the main reason for joining Children Home by various inmates is divorce of parents, 33.88% of the respondents joined Children's Home due to divorce of parents, 27.77% joined because of poverty and 33.38% joined due to demise of parents.

<sup>27</sup> Citizens' Charter 2010, Social Welfare Department Government of Mizoram, p.28.

**Table: 4.2 Condition of Inmates**

Questions	Yes	No
Have you ever been in similar Home earlier	20.93%	79.06%

Source: Field Work

The score from the respondents' shows that most of the inmates have never been in similar Homes earlier. 79.06% of the respondents have never been in similar Home, 20.93% were shifted from other Homes to their present Home.

**Table: 4.3 Reason for Shift to Other Homes**

Questions	Age bar of the Home rule	Financial problem	Health problem
Why leaved the earlier?	69.64%	5.35%	25%

Source: Field Work

They have been staying in their respective Homes for as long as possible. The 69.64% of the respondents were shifted to other Homes from the earlier mainly due to age bar of the Home rule. Only 5.35% of the respondents were shifted from other Homes due to financial problems and 25% were shifted due to health problem.

**Table: 4.4 Admission or Referral to Children's Home**

Questions	Relatives	Neighbours	NGOs
Who brought you in the Home?	82.05%	7.69%	10.25%

Source: Field Work

The touching result coming out from the analysis of respondent from various inmates is that majority of the respondent around 82.05 % were registered in the Children's Homes by their own relatives. 10.25% of the respondents were placed in the Home by NGOs while 7.69% were brought by their neighbours. It was further exposed that the relatives of the inmates were not willing to look after their relative's children who are in need of care and protection.

**Table: 4.5 General Awareness of MSCCW/CWC**

Sl. No	Questions	Yes	No
1.	Are you aware of the existence of State Council for Child Welfare?	20.00%	80.00%
2.	Can you tell any name of Child Welfare Committee members?	19.56%	80.43%

3.	Have any such person (SCCW/CWC member) talked to you?	26.08%	73.91%
4.	Have you ever been visited by MSCCW/CWC officials	32.55%	67.44%

*Source: Field Work*

The main reason behind the existence of State Council for Child Welfare is to promote and develop children under difficult circumstances including physically and mentally handicapped, refugee children and orphan etc. An analysis of data concerning awareness on the existence of SCCW reveals that only 20.00% of the respondents knew about this Council whereas, 80% of the respondents were not aware of SCCW which has been established for them. This finding reveals that the SCCW has yet to do many things in order to achieve its aims and objectives.

When asked whether they know any name of Child Welfare Committee member, only 19.56% of the Children in Need of Care and Protection who are presently enrolled in Children's Homes know member of CWC, whereas, 80.43% of them do not know even one of the members of CWC who are supposedly there for them. Apart from this, 73.91% of the respondents declared that any such person i.e. (member of SCCW/CWC) have never spoken to them. Whereas, 26.08% of the respondents mentioned that some of the members have had a conversation with them. 67.44% of the responses received indicated that SCCW/CWC officials have never visited them, whereas, 32.55% disclosed that they were often visited by these officials. This is mainly because such officials seldom visit the Homes but only as and when called for a purpose. From this study, it may be suggested that the Homes should be visited more often by the officials to further establish welfare of the Home and inmates.

This finding clearly shows that there is a wide gap between the member of SCCW/CWC and the children who are in need of care and protection, who are considered as the main causes for the existence of SCCW/CWC.

**Table: 4.6 Various Activities in Children's Homes**

Sl. No	Questions	Study	Devotion/ worship service	Working	All of them
1.	What are the main activities in the Home?	17.64%	3.92%	7.84%	70.58%

	<b>Questions</b>			<b>Library</b>	<b>Laboratory</b>	<b>Computer</b>	
2.	Which study facilities are available in the Home?			33.96%	7.54%	58.50%	
	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Foot ball</b>	<b>Cric ket</b>	<b>Badmin ton</b>	<b>Basket ball</b>	<b>Table Tennis</b>	<b>All of them</b>
3.	What type of sport facilities are provided in the Home?	38.38%	7.07%	18.18%	21.21%	12.12%	3.03%

Source: Field Work

The common activities in Children's Homes are: - study; devotion or worship service; working and playing games. Most of the respondents highlighted that they were nurtured with various good activities in their respective Homes. Majority of the respondents i.e. 70.58% have expressed that all the above activities as their main activity. 17.64% of the respondents narrated that study of their lesson is the main activity, 7.84% clarified that working is their main activities, only 3.92% revealed that devotion and worship service is the main activity of their Home.

The different study facilities mainly available in the Children's Homes are computer or internet; library; and few homes i.e. 7.54% have laboratory. The score signified that 58.50% have computer or internet facility and around 33.96% have libraries.

Responses received indicated that a very few respondents 3.03% were endowed with a good and satisfactory sport facilities like football, cricket, badminton, basketball, table tennis etc. 38.38% of the respondents clarified that the available sport facility in their Home is football, Basketball is also another common available sport facility, 21.21% of the respondents have basketball, 18.18% of the respondents can play badminton in their Home, only 7.07% of the respondents can play cricket in their Home.

**Table: 4.7 Medical Reports in a Month**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Once</b>	<b>Twice</b>	<b>More than twice</b>	<b>Never</b>
1.	How many times in a month you received medical attendants?	6.97%	2.32%	0%	90.69%

Source: Field Work



The overall sample aggregation show that the medical attendance received by almost all the Homes was not satisfactory. 90.69% of the respondents revealed that they never receive medical attendance in their respective Homes. 6.97% of the respondents proclaimed that they receive a visit from a doctor once a month. Only 2.32% reported that they are visited by two times in a month by a doctor.

**Table: 4.8 Ground Information**

Sl. No	Questions	Yes	No
1.	Have you ever quarrelled with other inmates?	34.09%	65.90%
	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Very strict</b>	<b>Normal</b>
2.	How strict the Home discipline is?	6.8%	93.18%
	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
3.	Are other inmates friendly to you?	95.34%	2.30%
4.	Is the Home good for you?	95.23%	0%
	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Normal</b>
5.	How do you comment about your diet?	72.09%	25.58%
			<b>Not satisfactory</b>
			2.32%

*Source: Field Work*

Among the various respondents taken up for analysis under the present study, it has been found that the inmates do not quarrel with each other. Around 34.09% alleged that they often quarrelled with other inmates. 65.90% of the respondents never quarrel with other inmates. Almost all the inmates' respondents said that other inmates of the Home are friendly. 95.34% of the respondents proclaimed that other inmates are friendly and 2.30% said that they are not friendly; again only 2.30% dare not say so.

Unlike various Recreation Centres and Jails, the discipline in each and every Home is very free. 93.18 % of the respondent said that the Home discipline is loose. Only 6.8% said that the Home discipline is very strict. This analysis shows that various Children's Homes provided a good atmosphere for inmates. It is also very interesting to note that the entire Children's Homes are good enough for the up-bringing of children; each and every child has their own right to live happily and freely. 72.09% of the respondents are satisfied with their diet, 25.58% have no idea and only 2.32% are not satisfied with their diet.

**Table: 4.9 Respondents View on Workers in the Home**

Sl. No	Questions	Yes	No	
1.	Do you know the name of your Home in charge?	90.69%	9.30%	
2.	Is the Home in charge kind to you?	97.61%	2.32%	
3.	Are the workers of the Home friendly?	100%	0%	
	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No Idea</b>
4.	Do you want to go out from Home?	2.38%	83.33%	14.25%
	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Every morning</b>	<b>Every night</b>	<b>Once a week</b>
5.	When does Home in charge visit you?	57.14%	16.32%	26.53%

Source: Field Work

Most of the Home in-charge lives together with the inmates in the Home. This must be the reason why most of the respondents are in close contact with their Home in-charge and are very much fond of them. 90.69% know their Home in charge's name and only 9.30% of the respondents did not know the name of their Home in charge. Almost all the respondents pointed out that the Home in charge is kind to them. This may be because of shyness. Only 2.32% of the respondents alleged the Home in charge is cruel towards them.

Cent percent of the respondents declared that other workers in their Homes are very kind and helpful. 57.14% of the respondents said that the Home in charge visits them every morning, while 16.32% were visited by their Home in charge every night. 26.53% of the respondents reported that they were visited only once in a week by their Home in charge. Responses received indicated that majority of the respondents did not want to go out from their Home. Only 2.38% want to go out from Home, 83.33% did not want to go out and they believed that staying in the Home is good for them.

**Table: 4.10 Devotion Report**

Question	Daily	Only on Sunday	Never
How many times devotion you have?	62.5%	37.5%	0%

Source: Field Work

Most of the Children's Homes are a good ground for spiritual development and upliftment. Almost all the respondents have devotion services in their respective Homes. 62.5% of the respondents have devotions daily, while 37.5% have on sun days only.

#### **4.6 Conclusion**

This chapter is devoted to discussing various Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes and the process of their implementation in Mizoram under different situations. It deals with a global view of Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes. It also deals with different Child Welfare Schemes in India since 1951, after the inception of Planning Commission in India child welfare started getting greater attention. Before independence, child welfare included only education and maternity and child welfare services, though there were few institutions for the care and protection of handicapped children. The various voluntary agencies shouldered almost all the responsibilities for the welfare and development of children. It was only after independence and the Constitution was enacted that the responsibility for child welfare and development was taken over by the Government. This chapter also study views of inmates of various Children's Homes about different aspects of Child Welfare Administration in Aizawl district.

**CHAPTER –V**

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN  
CHILD WELFARE ADMINISTRATION**

**5.0 Introduction**

Financial Management relates to the system which generates, regulates and distributes the monetary resources needed for the sustenance and growth of organisation.<sup>1</sup>In fact, almost all the activities of an organisation have financial implications. Financial Management, therefore, refers to the efficient and effective utilisation of the public funds (money) in such a manner as to implement and accomplish the set objectives of the organisation. Financial Management is that specialised function directly associated not only with the top management either at the national or state level but also with those subordinate officials implementing Child Welfare Schemes at the departmental level. In Mizoram, the Department of Social Welfare is the nodal department which needs financial resources for carrying out various Child Welfare Schemes. Undeniably, implementation of Child Welfare Schemes at any level has financial implications and the State Government has to raise a huge amount of funds from different sources. In this chapter, financial management in Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram has been studied with reference to Child Welfare Schemes and Projects implemented within the jurisdiction of Aizawl District by the Department of Social Welfare sometimes in collaboration with the Department of Health Services and Family Welfare.

**5.1 Financial Management with Reference to Child Welfare Schemes**

There are several Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes taken up for implementation by Social Welfare Department, Government of Mizoram. Let us peruse each one of them for having better understanding of financial management in Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes. Child Welfare Schemes implemented in Mizoram in general and in Aizawl District in particular includes *inter alia* Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS),

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<sup>1</sup> Thavaraj, M.J.K., 'Financial Management of Government', Sultan Chand, New Delhi, 1978, p.1.

Pre-School, Day Care (Crèches), Bal Bhavan and enforcement of Prohibition of Child Marriage Act. Social Welfare Department of the State Government is thus required to mobilise monetary or financial resources for the implementation of the aforesaid schemes and projects.

It is also relevant to note that, apart from financial requirements for implementation of these Schemes *per se*, the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the schemes demand a huge financial support. All these have made it crystal clear that it is essential for Child Welfare Administration of the State to have a proper and sound financial management for the effective implementation of Child Welfare Schemes and Projects either at the State or the District level.

### **5.1.(0) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a centrally sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Social Welfare which, *inter alia*, aims at the delivery of package of services such as, supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, non-formal pre-school education and health and nutrition to all women.<sup>2</sup> The ICDS covers eligible beneficiaries which include pregnant and lactating mothers, children below 6 years of age and adolescent girls between 11-18 years. Here, a mother and her child are considered as one unit and child health is closely related to maternal health.

The National Policy for Children adopted in August 1974 was the most significant developments in the field of child welfare as it recognised children as the Nation's most important asset and declared that the nation is responsible for their nurture and care. In pursuance of the National policy for children's welfare, emphasis was laid on the integrated development of childhood services and, services for expectant and nursing women. Thus, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) was the scheme developed to make a co-ordinate effort for an integrated programme of delivery of a package of such services under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of India, in 1975. The schemes called for co-ordinated and concerted efforts by the different Ministries, Departments and Voluntary

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<sup>2</sup> Sachdeva, D. R. *Social Welfare Administration in India*, Kitab Mahal, 22-A, Sarojini Naidu Marg, Allahabad, 1990, pp. 320-321.

Organisations. The magnitude of the task called for a number of projects on an experimental basis in 1975-1976 which was formally launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct' 1975.

In 1978-1979, the Central Government allotted one ICDS Project to the Union Territory of Mizoram and the Government of Mizoram had instantly directed two Departments namely Department of Health and Social Welfare Department to take up the work for implementation of the Project. One of the criteria prescribed for selecting a Project Centre was that the selected Community Development (C.D) Block should have 10,000 adult population out of which 7,000 should be tribals.<sup>3</sup>

Unfortunately, in the sparse and thinly populated area like Mizoram, there was no even a single C.D. Block fulfilling the criteria to open ICDS Project. However, in spite of the failure of any of the C.D. Blocks to satisfy the population norm, the Central Government had, on special consideration, allowed the Government of Mizoram to open ICDS Projects in each C.D. Block. East Lungdar C.D. Block was selected for opening the first ICDS Project Centre in 1978 which became operational with 52 Anganwadi Centres since 1978-1979. In 1979-80, Hnahthial ICDS Project was created and, in 1981-82, Lawngtlai ICDS Project. Gradually, additional ICDS Projects and Anganwadi Centres were sanctioned, implemented and opened in Mizoram. In 2008-2009, after 30 years of implementation of the Scheme in the State, Mizoram has become one of the best performing States on the scheme in the whole of India. However, it is significant to note that this successful implementation of ICDS Project in Mizoram has been possible due mainly to the concerted efforts of the two concerned Departments - Social Welfare Department and the Department of Health and Family Welfare - with full support and extensive participation of various Voluntary Organisations.

Government of India recommended for the ICDS staff at three levels; Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Supervisor and Anganwadi Worker. At the CD Block level, CDPO as officer of the nodal department has to render services in convergence with the staff of Health and Family Welfare Department which has been given the responsibility of determining and indicating the norms of health and nutrition services to be attained in the ICDS Project areas. Therefore, the medical

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<sup>3</sup> Till such time, Rural Development Block was called Community Development Block.

personnel and staff in the rural areas are engaged to do (a) Health Check-up, (b) Immunization, (c) Referral services and (d) Health and nutrition education. Besides, health infrastructures in the project areas have been strengthened so as to ensure effective delivery of health services to pre-school children and pregnant and nursing women. The Health Department of Mizoram has been authorised to make additional budgetary provisions and release funds for producing or procuring medicines and vaccines to cover target group populations in ICDS Project areas. Over and above, Health Department of the State has been assigned the responsibility of making appropriate arrangements to conduct necessary training and orientation of medical and para-medical personal in the ICDS Projects.

Until January 2009, there were 23 ICDS Projects and 1980 number of Anganwadi Centres with an average enrolment of 1,16,129 children below 6 (six) years. Today, there are as many as 27 ICDS Projects covering 27 RD Blocks in the entire State of Mizoram. Out of the 27 ICDS Projects, 1 Urban Project, i.e. Aizawl Urban ICDS Project, is located in the urban area and the other 26 ICDS Projects are functioning in the rural areas of the State. Under them, there are 1,980 functional Anganwadi Centres today. 1(one) Anganwadi Training Centre for Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi helpers is opened at Aizawl with hostel facilities attached to it. Recently, the Government of India has sanctioned 4 additional ICDS Projects with supporting staff and these new Projects will be opened shortly after the completion of all the required formalities.

Evidently, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a central Scheme sponsored by the Ministry of Social Welfare. The Central Government is responsible for budgetary control and administration of the scheme. The Ministry of Social Welfare released funds for ICDS to the States and the Union Territories so as to enable them to install projects. However, active co-operation and effective co-ordination of all concerned Ministries and the Departments at the Centre and the State level is the basis of the welfare services function. The Central Social Welfare Board and Social Welfare Advisory Board in the States and the Voluntary Organizations are important Agencies for implementing ICDS Scheme. Therefore, the ICDS programme is basically an inter-departmental endeavour in setting up co-

ordination forums at all levels-States, District, Block and local unit levels.<sup>4</sup> The ICDS Projects in Mizoram mainly focus on children below six years, pregnant, lactating mother and adolescent girl (11-18 years).The Integrated Child Development Services' has the following main objectives:

(a) **NPAG (Nutrition Programmes for Adolescent Girls):**A pilot project of NPAG (Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls) was launched by the Planning Commission in 2002 – 2003. Under the scheme, all adolescent girls of 11-19 years will be weighed and undernourished adolescent girls less than 35 Kgs. will be identified and provided food grains, i.e. Rice, free of cost @ 6 Kgs. Per month for 3 consecutive months. The nutritional status of the identified undernourished adolescent girls will be checked regularly as per the operational guidelines framed by the Government of India.

(b) **SNP (Supplementary Nutrition Programmes):** The main aims and objectives of ICDS projects are to improve the health status and nutritional standard of mothers and children in the age group of 0-6. Under the scheme of this project, mothers and children are considered as one unit and they form supremely important assets of the Nation. The beneficiaries of this programme are provided supplementary nutrition as per the revised financial norms fixed by the Government of India for Supplementary Nutrition under ICDS Scheme with effect from 10.12.2008:

**Table: 5.1 Beneficiaries of SNP**

Sl. no	Beneficiaries of SNP	Period of benefit	Rate per day
1.	Children	6 months to 72 months	Rs. 4/- per day per child
2.	Severely Malnourished Children	6 months to 72 months	Rs. 6/- per day per child
3.	Pregnant and lactating Mothers	-	Rs.5/- per day per beneficiary

*Source: Records of ICDS Government of Mizoram*

However, the cost sharing ratio between the Centre and the States of North East has been revised as 90:10 for all components including Supplementary

<sup>4</sup> Lalkima, C. *Social welfare Administration in a Tribal State: A Case Study of Mizoram*, Spectrum Publications, Guwahati: Delhi, p.65.



Nutrition Programme effective from the year 2009-2010.<sup>5</sup> Implementation of Supplementary Nutrition Programme has been done under ICDS Scheme through the services of 1980 Anganwadi Centres functioning in all the villages of the State. In addition to the regular children registered in those Anganwadi Centres, children below 6 years of age taken care of by the following NGOs etc. are also provided supplementary nutrition under the Scheme:

- (i) Central Jail or District Jails
- (ii) 5 (five) Fit Institutions under Juvenile Justice Act
- (iii) Crèches or Day Care Centres
- (iv) F.O.C. (Friends of Children)
- (v) Z.E.P. (Zoram Entu Pawl)
- (vi) The Disciples Society
- (v) Early Intervention Centre (E.I.C).

In order to promote the health of children and nourishing mothers residing in Mizoram, Social Welfare Department of the State Government had sanctioned a large amount of fund for the procurement of the following identified food items under a Special Nutrition Programme during the year 2012-2013.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 5.2: Sanctioned Food Items for Special Nutrition Programme**

Sl. No	Food Item	District	Quantity in Kgs or Litres	Rate (In rupees)	Amount (In rupees)
1.	Infant Milk substitute	<i>Aizawl</i>	61916	179.00	1,10,82,964.00
		<i>Lunglei</i>	52026	180.00	93,64,680.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>113942</b>		<b>2,04,47,644.00</b>
2	Fresh Milk	<i>Aizawl</i>	172270	40.00	68,90,800.00
3	Milk Cereal	<i>Aizawl</i>	182149	37.00	67,39,513.00
		<i>Lunglei</i>	123050	38.00	46,75,900.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>305199</b>		<b>1,14,15,413.00</b>
4	Soya Cereal Powder	<i>Aizawl</i>	240898	27.00	65,04,246.00
		<i>Lunglei</i>	154056	29.00	44,67,624.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>394954</b>		<b>1,09,71,870.00</b>

<sup>5</sup> Draft Annual Plan (Nutrition)(2236) 2011-2012.

<sup>6</sup> No.B. 16011/16/2013-SWD, Government of Mizoram, Social welfare Department, Secretariat annexe-II, Treasury Square, Aizawl, Dated Aizawl, the 28<sup>th</sup> March, 3013.

5	Malted Milk Food	<i>Aizawl</i>	113032	139.00	1,57,11,448.00
		<i>Lunglei</i>	59401	175.00	1,03,95,175.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>172433</b>		<b>2,61,06,623.00</b>
6	High Protein Biscuits	<i>Aizawl</i>	212116.183	82.00	1,73,93,527.00
		<i>Lunglei</i>	128330	86.00	1,10,36,380.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>340446.183</b>		<b>2,84,29,907.00</b>
7	Masur Dal	<i>Aizawl</i>	36862.365	85.00	31,33,301.00
		<i>Lunglei</i>	68760	90.00	61,88,400.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105622.365</b>		<b>93,21,701.00</b>
8	Edible Oil	<i>Aizawl</i>	65310	105.00	68,57,550.00
		<i>Lunglei</i>	36960	110.00	40,65,600.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102270</b>		<b>1,09,23,150.00</b>
9	Multi Vitamin	<i>Aizawl</i>	18277 tins	99.00	18,09,423.00
		<i>Lunglei</i>	10384 tins	126.00	13,08,384.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28661 tins</b>		<b>31,17,807.00</b>
10	Vitamin B Complex	<i>Aizawl</i>	770618 bottles	13.50	1,04,03,343.00
		<i>Lunglei</i>	435848 bottles	15.00	65,37,720.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1206466 bottles</b>		<b>1,69,41,063.00</b>
11	Calcium Tablets	<i>Aizawl</i>	NIL	NIL	NIL
		<i>Lunglei</i>	5280 tins	72.00	3,80,160.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5280 tins</b>	<b>72.00</b>	<b>3,80,160.00</b>
12	Double Fortified Salt	<i>Aizawl</i>	98070	34.00	33,34,380.00
		<i>Lunglei</i>	55040	36.00	19,81,440.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>153110</b>		<b>53,15,820.00</b>
13	Rice	11262.70 quintals		565.00	63,63,426.00
		Transportation cost			23,72,408.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>87,35,834.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>					<b>15,89,97,792.00</b>

Source: Records of ICDS Government of Mizoram

In addition to the provision of supplementary nutrition to the targeted beneficiaries, the Department has taken up Community Food and Nutrition

Extension Centre with the objective of teaching the masses the scientific and domestic methods of food preservation of the locally available food or fruits. Accordingly, women folk are trained on the line of food processing, preservation, cooking and nutrition education in the Centre. Locally Available Food Programme (LVFP) is also implemented in the following 8 (eight) ICDS Projects in Mizoram viz:-

- (1) Thingsulthliah ICDS Projects
- (2) Tlangnuam ICDS Projects
- (3) Aibawk ICDS Project
- (4) Aizawl Urban ICDS Project
- (5) Thingdawl ICDS Project
- (6) Bilkhawthlir ICDS Project
- (7) Serchhip ICDS Project
- (8) Phullen ICDS Project

Social Welfare Department of Government of Mizoram had sanctioned a huge amount of money for the procurement of the following locally available food items:<sup>7</sup>

**Table: 5.3 Procurement of Locally Available Food**

Sl. No	Particulars	District	Quantity	Rate	Amount in rupees
1	1. Thingsulthliah ICDS Project				17,34,070.00
	2. Tlangnuam ICDS Project				16,52,708.00
	3. Aibawk ICDS Project				5,58,877.00
	4. Aizawl Urban ICDS Project				41,73,666.00
	5. Thingdawl ICDS Project				15,35,862.00
	6. Bilkhawthlir ICDS Project				11,59,869.00
	7. Serchhip ICDS Project				13,53,267.00
	8. Phullen ICDS Project				6,67,831.00
				<b>Total</b>	<b>1,28,36,159.00</b>
2	Motor Chana	Aizawl	232962	50.00	1,16,48,100.00
		Lunglei	144232	55.00	79,32,760.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>377194</b>		<b>1,95,80,860.00</b>
3	Groundnut	Aizawl	93259	125.00	1,16,57,375.00

<sup>7</sup> No.B.16011/16/2013-SWD/Pt,Government of Mizoram,Social welfare department, Secretariat Annexe-II,Treasury Square, Aizawl, Dated Aizawl, the 28<sup>th</sup> march, 2013.

		Lunglei	61006	130.00	79,30,780.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>154265</b>		<b>1,95,88,155.00</b>
4	Masur Dal	Aizawl	91627. 635	85.00	77,88,349.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>					<b>5,97,93,523.00</b>

(Rupees Five Crores Ninety Seven Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Five Hundred twenty Three) only.

Source: Records of ICDS Government of Mizoram

(c) **KSY (Kishori Shakti Yojana):** Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) is a scheme for Adolescent Girls and is implemented where Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) or Sabla is not implemented. The broad objectives of the Scheme are to improve the nutritional, health and development status of adolescent girls, promote awareness of health, hygiene, nutrition and family care, link them to opportunities for learning life skills, going back to school, help them gain a better understanding of their social environment and take initiatives to become productive members of the society. The followings are the number of projects and beneficiaries of this scheme in July 2013:<sup>8</sup>

**Table: 5.4 KSY Projects and Beneficiaries**

Sl.no	District	No. of Project	No. of AWCs	Beneficiaries
1	Champhai	4	247	513
2	Kolasib	2	118	354
3	Mamit	3	254	733
4	Serchhip	2	152	1884
5	Lawngtlai	4	235	933

Source: Records of ICDS Government of Mizoram

(d) **CBPR (Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction Programme):** The CBPR programme has been introduced to combat micronutrient deficiency disorders and to fill the gap left by the Supplementary Nutrition Programme in providing protective nutrients in lactating and nursing mothers and children below 6 years. The programme has been designed for implementation in 100 pilot projects within Aizawl district.

The programme aims to provide a minimum of three days of vegetables and greens in a week to children below 6 years and pregnant and nursing mothers through the Anganwadi Centres. Its objective is to develop kitchen gardens for growing greens and vegetables at select Anganwadi Centres and introduce the same

<sup>8</sup> MPR & MMER (ICDS) July, 2013.

in the SNP menu. It is hoped that this would substantially decrease micronutrient deficiencies in a cost effective and sustainable manner.

(e) **BSY (Balica Samriddhi Yojana):** The recast Balica Samriddhi Yojana will be a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme to extend 100% Central assistance to State or Union Territories to provide benefits under the Scheme in accordance with the norms, guidelines and conditions laid down by the Central Government.

The main objectives of the Scheme are to change negative family and community attitudes towards the girl child at birth and towards her mother, to improve enrolment and retention of girls' children in schools, to raise the age at marriage of girls, to assist the girl to undertake income generating activities.

(f) **MKG (Mini Kitchen Garden):** Anganwadi Kitchen Gardening is a new thing in the ICDS operation. 10 (ten) pioneer ICDS Projects are selected which would launch the Scheme in the selected Anganwadi Centres. The idea is that the Anganwadi may provide fresh vegetables to the children and set examples for the mothers and the villagers on the benefit of kitchen gardening.

### 5.1.(1) Benefits Derived from the Expenditure by the People from

**Table: 5.5 The Implementing District, ICDS Project and Year-Wise Beneficiaries**

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>ICDS PROJECT</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2011-13</b>	<b>2012-14</b>
Aizawl	1. Aizawl Urban	10232	12500	13474
	2. Tlangnuam	2811	3790	3886
	3. Aibawk	968	1130	1063
	4. Thingsulthliah	2440	2599	2567
	5. Phullen	949	1039	1042
	6. Darlawn	201	1589	1670
	<b>SUB TOTAL :</b>	<b>17601</b>	<b>22647</b>	<b>23702</b>
Lunglei	1. Lunglei	2521	2331	1638
	2. Hnahthial	1917	1804	1499
	3. Lungsen	1530	1580	1520
	4. Bunghmun	295	1101	2703
	<b>SUB TOTAL :</b>	<b>17601</b>	<b>22647</b>	<b>23702</b>
Saiha	1. Saiha	783	1517	2317
	2. Tuipang	1209	1291	1291
	<b>SUB TOTAL :</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>2808</b>	<b>3608</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>26326</b>	<b>32271</b>	<b>34670</b>

Source: MPR&MMER (ICDS) July, 2013.

## 5.2 Integrated Child Protection Schemes (ICPS)

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, has formulated a new Centrally Sponsored scheme called Integrated Child Protection Scheme. The scheme aims at contributing to the improvement in the well-being of children in difficult circumstances, as well as the reduction of vulnerabilities to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children from parents. This intervention will provide financial support for setting up of child protection structures, setting up and maintenance of Homes for Children in Need of Care and Protection, creating State Child Protection Society, providing trainings, capacity building, advocacy, monitoring etc. The Scheme is to be implemented based on the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act 2000, amended by Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act 2006 Dt. 22.8.2006.

- (a) JJ (Juvenile Justice, Care and Protection of Children Act 2000 and its Amendment Act 2006.
- (b) SH (Special Home)
- (c) Adoption Cell
- (d) Children Court. JJB
- (e) Child Welfare Committees

### (a) Pre-School

The Scheme of Pre-school Education is implemented by Social Welfare Department through MHIP within Aizawl District where Anganwadi Centre under ICDS Scheme does not operated 26(Twenty Six) Pre-School Centres have been opened in Mizoram. The Scheme has benefited children below 6 years.

### (b) Crèches or Day Care

This Scheme was implemented in the State with as many as 40 numbers of Crèches or Day Care Centres. However, after the conversion of 2 Creches or Day Care Centres into Anganwadi Centres, there are 38 numbers of Day Care Centres, 28 Centres at Aizawl District and 10 Centres at Lunglei District. The Scheme benefits children below 3 years of age.

**(c) Bal Bhavan**

Bal Bhavan was founded by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in 1956 for the realization of his dream of an out of school for children. Truly speaking, Bal Bhavan is a creativity resource centre for children within the age group of 5-16 years. It is an out of school activity centre aiming at enhancing the creative abilities of children by providing them with numerous activities and opportunities. It also aims at identifying, nurture and enhances the many hidden talents of children.

In Mizoram, Bal Bhavan Society was formed under the Department of Social Welfare as per the instruction of National Bal Bhavan, Government of India, and is currently registered under the Mizoram Societies Registration Act, 2005.<sup>9</sup> The Mizoram Bal Bhavan was inaugurated at the YMA *Run*, Khatla by his Excellency the Governor of Mizoram on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2009. The main activities of Bal Bhavan include the following:

- (1) Music: Guitar, Keyboard and Foundation Music course
- (2) Folk Songs and Dance
- (3) Dramas

**(d) The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act**

The prohibition of Child Marriage Act has been enacted and notified in the Gazette of India on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2007. Draft Rules for Mizoram State have been sent to the Government for obtaining further vetting from the Law and Judicial Department, Government of Mizoram, on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2008. Cases of Child Marriage have not been heard much in the State of Mizoram.

**(e) State Council for Child Welfare**

The State Council for Child Welfare has been constituted with Ad hoc Members and is registered under Firms and Societies Registration Act.<sup>10</sup> It is affiliated to the Indian Council for Child Welfare dealing with National Bravery Awards to Children etc. and various National Awards running with pre-school etc.

<sup>9</sup> Act No. 13 of 2005 of Registration No. MSR 233 of 12.2.2009.

<sup>10</sup> Registrar, Firms and Societies Mizoram, under SR/MZ-08 of 2002-2003

**(f) The Mizoram Commission for the Protection of Child Right**

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has been constituted as a Statutory Organization under the Commission for Protection of Child's Right Act 2005. The Commission is concerned about violence on children or child abuse in the country. Different State Governments are requested to constitute State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights in line with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Thus, the Government of Mizoram had drafted the Rules for the Mizoram Commission for Protection of Child Right Rules, 2009 and sent it to the Government for approval on 31.8.2009.<sup>11</sup>

**(g) Children Library**

Under Children's Recreational Centre-cum-Library scheme, materials and financial assistance are, on yearly basis, provided to eight Branches of YMA which Voluntary Organization imparted through i.e. those who are running children recreational Centre-cum-library for strengthening and up-gradation of library etc. as under:<sup>12</sup>

**Table: 5.6 Number of YMA Branches in Aizawl District Receiving Financial Assistance**

<b>No. of YMA's Branches</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>(Non-Plan)Expenditure</b>
8 Branches	2007-2008	Rs.1,00,000/-
	2008-2009	Rs.1,00,000/-

*Source: Records of ICPS Government of Mizoram*

**5.3 Conclusion**

The fifth chapter is concerned with the study of different Child Welfare Schemes undertaken by Government of Mizoram. This chapter has examined financial management in Child Welfare Administration with reference to those Child Welfare Projects and Schemes implemented, from time to time, by the State Government so that it would be possible to understand the impact of fund utilised by the State Government for the uplift of the living condition of children.

<sup>11</sup> Citizens' Charter 2010, Social Welfare Department Government of Mizoram, p,28.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, p, 30.



**CHAPTER VI**  
**ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN**  
**CHILD WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**6.0 Introduction**

Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) is an organisation voluntarily formed the people with a specific purpose. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is of the view that NGOs are “established and governed by a group of private citizens for a stated philanthropic purpose and supported by voluntary individual contributions.”<sup>1</sup> According to the UN, any kind of private organization that is independent from Government control can be termed an "NGO" provided it is not-for-profit, non-criminal and not simply an opposition political party.”<sup>2</sup> This term “NGO” is also used to refer “principally to those private organisations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, or undertake community development.”<sup>3</sup> Pokharel also tries to define NGO as the entity which should have “at least four features such as: development oriented, non-political, democratic in character, and non-profit making.”<sup>4</sup>

Voluntary Organisations also come into existence spontaneously, voluntarily and without compulsion and control to fulfil particular needs of some groups of people. According to the Encyclopedia of Social Work in India, “A Voluntary Organization, properly speaking, is an organization whether its workers are paid or unpaid, initiated and governed by its own members without external

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<sup>1</sup> OECD. *Voluntary Aid for Development. The Role of Non-Governmental Organisation*, OECD., Paris, 1988, p.14.

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Governmental\\_organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Governmental_organization), Retrieved 2013-12-24.

<sup>3</sup> Korten, David, C., ‘The Role of Non-Governmental Organisations in Development: Changing Patterns and Perspectives’, in Samuel Paul and Israel Arturo (Eds.), *Non Governmental Organizations and the World Bank Cooperation for Development*, World Bank, Washington D.C., (1991), p. 21.

<sup>4</sup> Pokharel, Tika, Prasad, ‘NGOs and Their Functioning in Nepal’, in: Juha Vartola et.al. (Eds.), *Development NGOs Facing the 21st Century Perspectives from South Asia*, Institute for Human Development, Kathmandu, 2000, p. 55.

control.<sup>5</sup> Generally, the programme of Voluntary Organizations includes provision of drinking water, housing, education, improved environmental sanitation, and maternity and child welfare. There is no denying the fact that the State alone cannot provide adequate welfare services to its citizens and hence needs the services of Voluntary Organizations to supplement its activities in Social Administration in general and Child Welfare Administration in particular. In a “Welfare State” like India, Voluntary Organizations have made commendable contributions to welfare activities. In this connection, S.L. Goel and R.K. Jain have said: “Voluntary action is the soul of democracy. It is the life and blood of democracy.”<sup>6</sup>

In Mizoram, there is no any clear cut demarcation between NGO and Voluntary Organisation. Depending upon the time and place, one NGO could be recognised by the people as a Voluntary Organisation. Hence, the operational definition of NGO for the present study can suitably be given as an independent voluntary association of people acting together on a continuous basis, for some common purpose, other than achieving Government office, making money or illegal activities. Since the distinction between NGO and Voluntary Organisation is blurred in Mizoram, this operational definition of NGO includes the characteristics of both the NGO and the Voluntary Organisation.

Although Mizoram is one of the smallest States in India, there is a large number of Voluntary Organizations formed by different groups of people with the aim of meeting various local needs. Thus, these Voluntary Organizations have been playing very significant roles for the development and welfare of children in the State of Mizoram.

**Table: 6.1 Membership of NGOs in Mizoram and Aizawl District**

Year	Mizoram or Aizawl District	YMA	MUP	MHIP
2012 - 13	Mizoram	389,557	50,394	243,477
2012 - 13	Aizawl District	180,998	25,128	109,985

*Source: Government of Mizoram. Statistical Abstract of Mizoram: 2013, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, P.231.*

<sup>5</sup> *Encyclopedia of Social Work in India*, Vol-II., p. 407.

<sup>6</sup> Goel, S.L., & Jain, R.K., ‘Social welfare Administration’, Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi., p. 245. 2002.

Surprisingly, barring few of them like Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), most of these Voluntary Organisations have not joined hands with any of the Voluntary Organisations formed in other parts of the country. Although various Voluntary Organisations have been formed with definite objectives in Mizoram, voluntary works or efforts to help children-in-need in the society are still found wanting. In the prevailing circumstances, Voluntary Organisations can have a greater role to play in the Mizo society.<sup>7</sup>

Besides, Voluntary Organisations will not be able to meet the various demands and needs of Children-in-Need of Care and Protection in Mizoram unless they are properly guided and financially assisted by the State Government. Therefore, it is necessary on the part of the State Government to provide financial assistance and guidance to those Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to enable them to effectively perform their functions with regards to Child Welfare and Development. Evidently, Social Welfare Department of Mizoram State is responsible for coordinating the activities of NGOs functioning as Voluntary Agencies.

The Second Five Year Plan of India also duly recognised the important role ever played by NGOs and other Voluntary Organisations and hence came out with a clear suggestion that private organizations should be assisted to extend the scope of their activities. Accordingly, the Centre and the State Governments were enjoined to supplement private efforts in this direction.<sup>8</sup> Since then, in every successive Five Year Plan, there has been a noticeable increase in the Plan Outlay of the Union Government for Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Social Welfare Schemes. In the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-1990), the Plan Outlay for Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Social Welfare Sector were Rs. 799.97 cores while the plan outlay for the States and the Union Territories was Rs.191.87 cores and Rs.20.52 crores respectively.<sup>9</sup> The Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) and the State Social Welfare Advisory Boards (SSWAB) are also entrusted with the

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<sup>7</sup> Lalkima, C., 'Social Welfare Administration in a Tribal State: A Case study of Mizoram', Spectrum Publication, Guwahati: Delhi, p. 37, 1997.

<sup>8</sup> Second Five Year Plan., p. 601

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

responsibility of promoting, stimulating and strengthening Voluntary Organizations for action in the field of social welfare.

### **6.1 Non-Governmental Organisations in Mizoram: Their Role in Child Welfare and Development in Aizawl District**

Although there are numerous NGOs in Mizoram, only few of them are involved in Child Welfare and Development activities. Therefore, the present study does not necessarily deal with all the NGOs operating in the State but only those which have directly or indirectly played an important role in Child Welfare and Development in the State of Mizoram general and in Aizawl District in particular. The role played by these organisations will be studied one after another as follows:

#### **(1) Young Mizo Association (YMA)**

Young Mizo Association (YMA), as it is popularly known today, was formerly called Young Lushai Association (YLA) when it was formed on June 15, 1935 by the Christian Missionaries and the pioneering Mizo Christians.<sup>10</sup> With the growth of Christianity in the Mizo society, the Welsh Christian Missionaries and the Mizo Church leaders had felt it necessary to mobilize the Mizo youths who were not so much involved in the main current of development of Christianity. On 5<sup>th</sup> June 1935 the Missionaries and the Mizo Church leaders had assembled in the residence of Missionary, Miss. K. Hughes, at Mission *Veng*, Aizawl, and resolved to form a group of Mizo Christian Youth within the framework of the Church organization whose members should strictly adhere to the Christian norms of life. On 15<sup>th</sup> June 1935, by calling a public meeting at the Nepali School near Mission *Veng*, Aizawl, a Christian Youth organisation, named as Young Lushai Association (YLA), was formally formed. The first office bearers and other committee members of the YLA for the year 1935-1936 were simultaneously elected on the same day.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> [www.centralyma.org.in/news.php](http://www.centralyma.org.in/news.php)

<sup>11</sup> Lalropuia, C., History of Young Mizo Association. Colden Jubilee (1935-1985) Central Young Mizo Association, Aizawl, p, 1-2.

The Aims and Objectives of YMA are:<sup>12</sup> (1) Good use or Proper utilization of leisure time, (2) Striving towards a holistic development of the Mizo society, and (3) Reverence for a good Christian life. YMA has the following 10(ten) Commitments to be fulfilled:<sup>13</sup>

- (1) Self-discipline and righteous
- (2) Good manager of the family
- (3) Just and fruitful
- (4) Tolerant
- (5) Polite
- (6) Chivalrous and useful
- (7) Socially active
- (8) Respectful of Religion
- (9) Preservative of culture
- (10) Abstain from liquor and drugs.

YMA is the largest non-political Voluntary Organization among the Mizo youths residing in and outside Mizoram. On 14<sup>th</sup> May 1977, YMA was officially registered with the Government of Mizoram under Society Registration Act.<sup>14</sup> Then, the association had formally introduced its flag which is tri-coloured and of equal size: red at the top signifying the popularity of YMA, white in the middle signifying the purity of YMA and black at the bottom signifying that bereaved and poor are the friend of YMA.<sup>15</sup>

Most organizations confine themselves within the development of their own organizations, and their activities are mostly limited to their specific aims and objectives. On the other hand, the purpose of forming YMA is exclusively for others. And the YMA has constantly been helping the needy not only from the society but also outside of it. Though there is no any specific Article in its Constitution, YMA has been taking as its sole responsibility to construct houses for

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<sup>12</sup> Aims and Objectives of YMA vide Constitution of Young Mizo Association, Constitution of Young Mizo Association, 1984 (Revised), Aizawl, p. 2.

<sup>13</sup> En.wikipedia/wiki/young-Mizo-association.

<sup>14</sup> Society Registration No. 5 of 1977, Society Act 1860 (Act XXI of 1960).

<sup>15</sup> Central Young Mizo Association, Constitution of Young Mizo Association, 1984 (Revised), Aizawl, p. 2.

the homeless to live in. Besides, YMA has been taking the responsibility of parenting those who are physically or mentally challenged.

With regards to Child Welfare and Development, YMA plays a supporting role in identifying Children in Need of Care and Protection and those in conflict with law and enrolling many of them in various Remand Homes and Orphanages Homes.

## **(2) Mizo Hmeichhe Tangrual (MHT)**

Mizo Hmeichhe Tangrual (MHT) or Mizo Women's Organisation was formed at Mission Veng<sup>16</sup> by the Mizo Women of Aizawl town on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1946, with the permission and full support of Mr. Mc Donald, the then Superintendent of the Lushai hills.<sup>17</sup> The fundamental objective of the first Mizo Women Organization in Mizoram was to improve and uplift the status of women in Mizo society. It also aimed to promote health, education and cleanliness among the Mizo women. Till the outbreak of insurgency by Mizo National Front (MNF) in Mizoram in the year 1966, the MHT remained the second largest Voluntary Organization in Mizoram.

In the following years of MNF insurgency, the common masses had faced crucial problems of poverty and hardship leading to their starvation. As a consequence, there was an increase in the number of motherless babies due to maternity deaths. Within a short span of time, there was an increase in infant mortality rate due to lack of maternal care and malnutrition. So, the MHT had decided to run a Home for motherless babies. Eventually, in 1969, they had started running the Home, the first of its kind in Mizoram, with one child namely Thangsavunga, the son of Mr. Zuala of Samlukhai village, whose mother had faced maternal death. Thus, a Warden of the Home was appointed and was properly trained in the Presbyterian Church Hospital at Durtlang.

Normally, the Home kept the babies for four years. On attaining the age of four, a baby was allowed to go to his father or guardian. Mrs. Hmingthangi, the Midwife and House Mother, said: "A joyful day for the father to receive his baby on

<sup>16</sup> 'Veng' in Mizo language means a locality or street.

<sup>17</sup> Biaksiami, 'The Book on Mizo Women Organization', p.1.

attaining four years of age is the day of loneliness for the staff at Home.”<sup>18</sup> Since its inception, this Voluntary Organisation has taken care of as many as 170 orphan babies.<sup>19</sup>

### (3) Mizoram Upa Pawl (MUP)

Mizoram Upa Pawl (MUP), as it is popularly known today, was formerly called Zoram Upa Pawl (ZUP). In this connection, it is necessary to narrate that the ZUP, as an association, was formed by the Aizawl-based Service Pensioners at Mission Veng in 1957.<sup>20</sup> But, within three years of its formation, this association had changed its name from Zoram Pensioners’ Association to *Upa Lengkhawm* (Aged Persons’ Association). However, on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 1961, the meeting of Zoram Aged Persons’ Association at Aizawl had once again adopted its original name “Zoram Upa Pawl (ZUP).” Ultimately, the MUP had changed its name to Mizoram Upa Pawl (MUP) in 1992.<sup>21</sup> It is now registered as (MUP) Mizoram Upa Pawl (Mizoram Aged Persons’ Association) under the Societies Registration Act, Government of Mizoram. The main Aims and Objectives of MUP are:-

- (a) To keep the administrative authorities of the Mizo District informed about the good and right courses of actions for the development of the Mizo society,
- (b) To contribute ideas and
- (c) To give full support to those who were striving for all round development of Mizoram.

Although there are numerous NGOs in Mizoram, all of them are not directly concerned about Child Welfare. Though they are NGOs actively playing a significant role in the Mizo community, even the MUP and the YMA, are not directly involved in Child Welfare activities. However, the two NGOs would not turn a deaf ear to the calls of those children in need of help and assistance. Although their written Constitutions do not directly focus on Child Welfare, these two

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<sup>18</sup> Lalkima, C., op.cit., p.49.

<sup>19</sup> Latest Registered Record maintained by the *Mizo Hmeichhe Tangrual*.

<sup>20</sup> History of Mizoram Aged Persons Association (ZUP) Published by ZUP. Aizawl, Mizoram 1982, p. 6.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*, p. 9.

organisations, in case the need arises, will go up to the extent of taking bold steps to ensure that children are provided with the right kind of help. The fact remains that the two non-political organizations have a great concern about Child Welfare and Development in Mizo society.

**(4) Mizoram Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl (MHIP)**

The first Mizo Women's Organization, called 'Mizo Hmeichhe Tangrual,' did not have any Branch outside Aizawl town while any individual woman could be a member of this organization. Under such kind of situation, the desire of some Mizo women to organize themselves as an association for the promotion of welfare works particularly for women and destitute children of the Mizo society continued to grow and, on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1974, Mizoram Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl (Mizoram Women Federation) was founded.<sup>22</sup> The operational area of MHIP covers the entire area of Mizoram State with its headquarter located at Aizawl. The organisation is sub-divided into 7 (seven) Sub-headquarters which are further divided into 16 (sixteen) Blocks and 700 (seven hundred) Branches. MHIP has become a strong social force devoted solely to the welfare and uplift of the weaker sections of the society, particularly women and children. Currently, MHIP is one of the biggest registered Non-Governmental Organisations in Mizoram.<sup>23</sup>

Membership is accepted from any woman on attaining the age of 14 years and above. A woman can become a member of the MHIP on payment of Rs 2/- to its Branch in a village to which she belongs. In addition, any other organisation(s) which is or are solely engaged in social welfare works may also be affiliated to MHIP.

The MHIP has been trying to involve itself wherever there is social injustice in the Mizo community. An unmarried mother would be given the proper guidance and counselling, sometimes even to the extent of providing monetary or material support to the destitute women and children. In some extraordinary cases wherein some families need medical treatment outside Mizoram but too poor to proceed are given a helping hand by the MHIP at such difficult times. Being a women's

<sup>22</sup> MHIP (Mizoram Women Federation) *Constitution*, p.1.

<sup>23</sup> Society Registration No. 5 of 1977, Society Act 1860 (Act XXI of 1960).



organisation, most of its activities emphasise on the uplift of women and children.<sup>24</sup> Branches in different villages are guided by the MHIP leadership to seek justice for children who are, on many occasions, neglected in nutrition or in the family and society within the jurisdictions of their respective Branches.

The main aims of this organization is to develop the Mizo society by rendering welfare services to women, destitute children, the poor, the handicapped and also by uplifting the status of women in the society. With this aim in view, the MHIP has taken up the following welfare programmes for the benefit of children under the patronage of Mizoram State Social Welfare Advisory Board (MSSWAB):

- (a) Crèche Centres
- (b) Condensed Course of Education
- (c) Balwadi Centres
- (d) Awareness Generation Projects
- (e) Anganwadi Centres
- (f) Family Counselling Centres
- (g) Piggery Units
- (h) Working Women Hostels
- (i) Vocational Training Courses.

In Mizoram, the above mentioned Child Welfare Programmes of Social Welfare Department are implemented by the MHIP Headquarter through its Branches in different urban localities and villages within the length and breadth of the State as follows:

**(a) Creches or Day Care Centre:**

These Centres provide services to small children (0-3 years) by giving food, care and protection. The scheme has been found very fruitful and essential for working and ailing mothers. As of today, there are 38 (thirty eight) number of such Centres implemented by the Department of Social Welfare through MHIP.

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<sup>24</sup> <http://socialwelfare.mizoram.gov.in/page/other-activities.html>.

**(b) Pre-School:**

To cater to the needs of children between the age group of 3-6 years, the Department of Social Welfare has involved MHIP to run the Centres of non-formal education. Accordingly, MHIP Branches run the Centres by imparting informal education and distributing nutrition to children between the age group of 3-6 years. In all, there are 26 (twenty six) such Centres run by MHIP in the State of Mizoram.

**c) Orphanages:**

The Department of Social Welfare provides grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations which are engaged for the promotion of welfare of the orphans and also for the maintenance of orphanages in different parts of the States. In order to fulfil the eligibility criteria, a Voluntary Organisation should be officially registered by the State Government under the Societies Registration Act. The orphanage Home, named 'Hmangaihte Run,' is one of the Special Adoption Agencies (SAA) in Mizoram owned by the MHIP. It is located at Zemabawk locality.

In order to practically monitor and supervise the process of implementation of various child welfare programmes, the leaders of MHIP Headquarter have regularly visited their Branches in the interior and remote villages. Surprisingly, these field visits by the MHIP leaders are purely voluntary and the expenses for such voluntary activities have to be borne by themselves.

The MHIP has never based its programmes and activities on sound finance etc. each financial problems is tackled as the need arises. The chief source of finance is the membership fees. Other requirements are based on donation and contribution. When there is a requirement for a big budget the whole organisation will take up fund raising programmes like, hawking of vegetables, carrying of firewood and sale of goods, manual labour work of any kind etc. There is no assured financial provision from the State Government, the Union Government or any Foreign Funding agency. This does not however imply that none is welcome.<sup>25</sup>In spite of its uncertain financial source, the MHIP attempts to help the poor and the destitute without discrimination on ground of caste, creed or religion. Every year, on the eve

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<sup>25</sup> <http://socialwelfare.mizoram.gov.in/page/other-activities.html>.

of Christmas, it is mandatory for MHIP to visit the following Homes and institutions with appropriate 'Gift Packages' for all the inmates:

- (i) Motherless Baby Home, Tuikual
- (ii) Hermon Children Home, Durtlang
- (iii) Blessing Home, Sakawrtuichhun
- (iv) Muanna In- Destitute Home, Zuangtui
- (vi) Social Guidance Agency, Tuikual
- (vii) Civil Hospital, Aizawl
- (viii) T.B Hospital, Zemabawk
- (ix) Synod Hospital, Durtlang
- (x) Central Jail, Tanhril
- (xi) TNT Drugs Addict Camp, Zuangtui
- (xii) SOG De-addict Camp, Selesih.

Although the primary concern of MHIP is uplift of the weaker sections of the Mizo society, yet with the ever-evolving demands of contemporary Mizo society, its activities and the problems taken up by it may vary in many ways. Under the emerging situation, MHIP Headquarter would not hesitate to take up those schemes- which are likely falling within the purview of the Government or semi-Government -as long as they are meant for helping the destitute and the weaker sections of the Mizo society. One such instance of Project taken by the MHIP Headquarter is the construction of 'Home for the Orphans and the Destitute Women' at Berawtlang, Aizawl. The value of this Project is Rupees 50 lakh. That is why, MHIP organisation may be recognised as the mother of social, economic and cultural liberty.<sup>26</sup>

#### **(5) Mizoram Hmeithai Association (MHA)**

The Mizoram Hmeithai (Widows) Association (MHA) was set up by the Mizo Widows as a registered organisation in the year 1987.<sup>27</sup> It is a non-political and non-religious Voluntary Organization which is free from any discrimination on grounds of Castes or Creed. The operational area of this organization is the whole of

<sup>26</sup> <http://socialwelfare.mizoram.gov.in/page/other-activities.html>.

<sup>27</sup> Registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1890 under No.S.R.20 of 1987.

Mizoram. The MHA is the leading and perhaps the best Women Organization in the State of Mizoram.

This organisation was started as a result of twenty five years insurgency, counter insurgency and ethnic violence, covering the entire population of widows and children of men who lost their lives due to such turbulence. Accordingly, the main aims and objectives of this organization are to uplift the status of widows and to assist them to earn their livelihood and to help children of widows.<sup>28</sup>

Consequent upon the return of peace to Mizoram in the wake of peace settlement, the newly established organization took membership of widows whose husbands had passed away due to natural death, divorces including single women with children. As a voluntary Association of single women, the MHA has been dedicating itself to the service of others without any benefit or profit to its individual members.

Since its inception, the MHA has been collecting second-hand text books of class V to class X for the fatherless and widow's children. Many poor students without parents are provided text books and school uniforms. Beyond providing help to the poor children, the fatherless, those below poverty line, the orphan, the abandoned and street children by supplying text books, school uniforms etc.

MHA came to realize that, inspite of their assistance, some poor widows, foster parents or orphans etc were still unable to send their children to schools. So, they had decided to open a Residential school for all these under-privileged children. Finally, under the sponsorship of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, the School became operationalised by starting opening of Class V for girls from the year 1998. The medium of instruction in the school is in English.

The school is a Residential School where orphans, fatherless children, illegitimate children, children from broken families and those below poverty line are provided with free education and sheltering. Besides running the Residential School, MHA also takes care of SOS babies who have unfortunately been abandoned in Hospitals and the streets by arranging local adoption. Ever since MHA opened its

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<sup>28</sup> The Mizoram Hmeithai Association Constitution Preamble to the constitution, p. 1

Residential school for underprivileged girls, orphans, fatherless children, broken family children, abandoned and street children, not less than (twenty five) 25 unfortunate girls passed out HSLC examination with high ranking marks every year. In recognition of its commendable contributions towards child welfare, the MHA was awarded National Award for Child Welfare by Shri Manohar Joshi, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, in 2002.

## **6.2 Opinions of NGO Leaders About Different Aspects of Child Welfare Administration in Aizawl District- Results and Discussions**

The Government of Mizoram has been taking up various Child Welfare and Development Schemes and Projects. In fact, most of these schemes and projects are implemented with the cooperation and assistance of Non-Governmental Organisations. Thus, in order to make an empirical study of the success or failure of these Schemes and Projects, the researcher has administered questionnaires to 200 NGO leaders randomly selected as samples of the present study and then used those data collected from 100 male and 100 female NGO leaders. For this study, NGO leaders have been found as neutral sources of information. The data pertaining to different aspects of Child Welfare and Development Schemes are analysed to find out the results as follows:

### **(a) General Awareness of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on the Implementation of Child Welfare and Development Schemes**

With a view to understanding the level of general awareness of NGO leaders on the reality of implementation of different child welfare schemes, the researcher has administered questionnaires to the NGO leaders selected as samples from Aizawl District.

**Table: 6.2 Respondents' General awareness on MSCCW**

<b>Sl. no.</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No Idea</b>
1.	Are you aware of the existence of the Mizoram State Council for Child Welfare (MSCCW)	08.16%	91.83%	0%
2.	Do you know any person who is a member in the MSCCW?	19.56%	80.43%	0%

3.	The Mizoram State Council for Child Welfare is not popular as it should be -	64.00%	16.00%	20.00%
4.	Do you agree that Aizawl District needs a separate District Council for Child Welfare (DCCW)	76.50%	23.50%	0%
5.	Do you consider yourself aware of the function of the Mizoram State Council for Child Welfare?	44.68%	55.31%	0%

*Source: Field work*

An analysis of the responses shows that 91.83% of the respondents are not aware of the existence of the Mizoram State Council for Child Welfare (MSCCW) which was set up way back in May, 2002. By the same year, the Council was registered under Firms and Societies Act, Government of Mizoram and was duly affiliated to Indian Council for Child Welfare. While 80.43% of the respondents do not know any of the persons as member in the MSCCW, 76.50% of them agree to have a separate District Council for Child Welfare in Aizawl. The present findings reveal that the general masses are not much aware of the MSCCW. While 64% of the respondents agree that MSCCW is not as popular as it should be, 16% do not agree and 20% of them do not have any idea regarding this question. 44.68% of the respondents considered themselves as well aware of the functions of MSCCW whereas, 55.315% of them declared that they are not aware of the functions of MSCCW.

**(b) NGO's Views on Children's Awareness on Child Welfare and Development Schemes:**

Through questionnaire method, the researcher collected information about the views of NGO leaders on the level of perception of Mizo children with regards to Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes of the Central Government.

**Table: 6.3 NGO leaders' Views on Children's Awareness on their Welfare Schemes**

Sl. no.	Questions	Yes	No	No Idea
1.	Do you think that Mizo children are aware of the various Child Welfare Schemes and Developmental programmes of the Central Government meant for them?	30.61%	55.10%	14.28%

2.	Do you think that contemporary Mizo children are more developed than the past?	88.85%	10.63%	08.51%
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*Source: Field work*

The above responses received by the researcher indicated that NGO leaders considered 55.10% of the Mizo children are not aware of the various Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes of the Central Government meant for their development. The NGO leaders considered that only 30.61% of Mizo children are aware of the aforesaid Schemes and Programmes of the Central Government. 14.28% have no idea regarding this question. With regard to replies to question number 2 above, NGO leaders are of the view that contemporary Mizo children are more developed than those children of the past.

**(c) NGO leaders' Views on the Best Option for Giving Awareness of the Schemes to Children**

In order to identify the best option for giving awareness to the children about Child Welfare and Development Programme, the researcher asked NGO leaders to identify what, according to them, will be the best instrument from the following four options for giving awareness of Child Welfare and Development Programme.

**Table: 6.4 Option for Making Children Aware of Child Welfare Schemes**

Question	Seminar, Workshop etc.	Audio Media	Print Media	Visual Media
Which one would be the best possible tool to make children aware of the various schemes and programme?	22.22%	09.25%	05.55%	62.96%

*Source: Field work*

From the above responses, 62.96 % of the respondents from among NGO leaders considered visual media as the best possible tool for making children aware of the various schemes and programmes while 22.22% of them favoured Seminars and Workshops. While 9.25% of them suggested audio media, 5.55% of them advocated print media as the best instrument

(d) **Level of Satisfaction Regarding Implementation of Child Welfare Schemes by Government.**

**Table: 6.5 Level of Satisfaction on Various Schemes**

Sl. No	Questions	Yes	No	No Idea
1.	Do you think that Child Welfare Schemes in Mizoram are successful?	16.66%	41.66%	41.66%
2.	The role played by children in the process of implementation of child development schemes in Mizoram is significant.	48.97%	26.53%	24.48%
3.	Can you tell any name in your localities that have been benefited by the schemes?	25.00%	75.00%	0%

*Source: Field work*

In majority of the observation most of the respondents have no idea whether various Child Welfare schemes and Projects are successful or not. 41.66% have no idea; again another 41.66% perceived that Child Welfare Schemes in Mizoram are not successful, only 16.66% of the respondents accepted that it was successful.

When asked whether children play their role in the process of development, 48.97% of the respondents considered children as playing their role in the process of implementation of Child Development Schemes and 26.53% of them give negative replies.

It is further surprising to observe that 75.00 % of the respondents cannot tell any name in their locality that have received benefit from various Schemes for Child Welfare and Development.

(e) **Quality of Implementation of various Child Welfare Schemes**

**Table: 6.6 Quality of Implementation**

Question	Very Good	Bad	No Idea
How do you find the quality of various Child Welfare Schemes implemented by Government of Mizoram?	18.00%	28.00%	54.00%

*Source: Field work*

It was further observed that 54.00% of the respondents have no idea regarding the implementation of various Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes



by the State Government. 28.00% were not satisfied with the way of implementation, while 18.00% of the respondents were satisfied.

**(f) Determining Factor for the Success of Child Welfare Schemes**

**Table: 6.7 Factor for Success**

Question	Govt. grants and subsidies	NGOs	Govt. policies
Which one do you think is the most important factor for the success of Child Welfare Schemes in Mizoram?	15.38%	26.92%	34.61%

*Source: Field work*

According to 34.61% of the respondents, various Government policies towards Child Welfare and Development are the most important factor for the success of Child Welfare Scheme in Mizoram. Whereas, 26.92% opined that NGOs are an important factors, while 15.38% observed that Government grants and subsidies are important factors, while the rest have no idea in this regards.

**(g) Factor responsible for the Retardation of Child Welfare Administration**

**Table: 6.8 Factor for Retardation**

Question	Cultural and religious belief	Corruption in programme implementation	Lack of family support	Govt. failure to support development for children	Children illiteracy
What is the main factor responsible for the retardation of child welfare administration in Mizoram	19.60%	25.49%	35.29%	13.72%	05.88%

*Source: Field work*

This survey also reveals that lack of family support is the main factor which retards Child Welfare and Development in Mizoram. 35.29% of the respondents opined that lack of family support is the main factor, 25.49% accepted that corruption in programme implementation is the main factor, 19.60% of the respondents opined that cultural and religious belief is the main factors which retards Child Welfare and Development in Mizoram. Whereas, 13.72% of the respondents alleged that inability of Government to support development for

children is the main factor, only 5.88% opined that children illiteracy as the main factor.

**(h) Status of Children in Mizo society**

**Table: 6.9 Status of Children**

Sl. No.	Questions	Yes	No	No Idea
1.	Are you satisfied with the present level of child care in Mizo community?	34.00%	48.00%	18.00%
2.	Do you think that NGOs in Mizoram are given proper training and education towards successful implementation of various Child Welfare Schemes?	37.50%	43.75%	18.75%
3.	Are you in favour of establishing Juvenile Police Stations in Mizoram?	74.00%	10.00%	16.00%
4.	Will the establishment of such Juvenile Police Stations in the state decrease the crime rate against children?	56.00%	26.00%	18.00%

*Source: Field work*

It was further observed that 48.00% were not satisfied with the present level of child care among Mizo community. 34.00% are satisfied and 18.00% have no idea regarding this issue. This analysis clearly reveals that promotion of the status of children in the Mizo community is the need of the present day's society.

The score implies that NGOs in Mizoram are not given proper training and education towards successful implementation of various Child Welfare Schemes and programmes. 43.75% opined that NGOs are not given proper training and education, 18.75% have no idea, and only 37.50% accepted that NGOs are given proper training and education towards successful implementation of various Child Welfare Schemes. 74.00% of the respondents favoured establishment of Juvenile Police Stations in Mizoram, thus, majority opined that the establishment of such Juvenile Police Station in the State would decrease the crime rate against children.

**(i) System of Administration and Child Welfare Schemes****Table: 6.10 System of Administration by State Government**

Question	Good	Bad	No Idea
How do you find the system of administration carried on by State Government regarding Child Welfare Schemes?	40.81%	24.48%	34.69%

Source: Field work

According to the opinion of 40.81% of the respondent the system of administration carried on by State Government regarding Child Welfare and Development Schemes are good enough, 34.69% have no idea and the rest opined that the system was not good.

**(j) Future of Child Welfare Schemes Under NGOs****Table: 6.11 Future of Child Welfare Scheme Under NGOs**

Question	Very successful	same as before	No Idea
If NGOs in Mizoram are provided with adequate capital to be invested in various Child Welfare Schemes, they will be -	39.58%	37.50%	22.91%

Source: Field work

39.58% opined that NGOs in Mizoram would be more successful in their aims and objectives regarding development of children if they are provided with adequate capital to invest in various Child Welfare Schemes. 22.9% of the respondents have no idea. 37.50% opined that they would be same as they are.

**(k) Government's Initiatives for Promotion and Protection of Children****Table: 6.12 Government Initiatives for Children**

Sl. no	Questions	Yes	No	No Idea
1.	Do you think that the State Government undertakes measures to promote children in the society satisfactorily?	22.00%	28.00%	50.00%
2.	Does the Government of Mizoram carry Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 successfully?	13.72%	35.29%	45.09%

Source: Field work

22.00% believed that the State Government undertakes measures to promote children in the society satisfactorily, while 28.00% were not satisfied and 50% of them have no idea on the matter.

The Government of Mizoram began to implement Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 in the year 2003. 13.72% of the respondents observed that the State Government has successfully implemented this Act, whereas, 35.29% opined that the State Government has not been successful in this regard, while 45.09% have no idea. Therefore, the above score on this question has clearly brought out that the State Government has not yet successfully carried out this Act.

**(I) Access of the Role of NGOs**

**Table: 6.13 Role of NGOs**

Sl. No.	Questions	Yes	No	No Idea
1.	Are the NGOs in Mizoram working efficiently to promote the status of children in the society?	36.73%	30.61%	32.65%
2.	Do you agree that there is a good cooperation between the NGOs and MSCCW/CWC in Mizoram?	52.00%	16.00%	32.00%
3.	Do you think that proper implementation of Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes can lead to socio-economic development of Mizoram	73.46%	12.24%	14.28%

*Source: Field work*

The survey attempted to access the role of NGOs in Mizoram in various aspects of Child Welfare and Development. 36.73% of the respondent opined that the NGOs in Mizoram have performed their purpose efficiently in respect of promotion or development of children in the society. While another 30.61% of the respondent opined that NGOs did not promote them and 32.65% of the respondents have no idea on the issue.

More than half of the respondents 52.00% agreed that there is a good co-operation between NGOs and MSCCW/CWC in Mizoram, while 32.00% have no idea. 16.00% of the respondents did not agree to this.

In an overwhelming response, it was clearly brought out by almost all the respondents that proper implementation of Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes can lead to socio-economic development of Mizoram. 73.46% have accepted, 12.24% have not accepted and the rest have no idea.

**(m) Opinion on Child Labour (Prohibition and Abolition) Act, 1986**

**Table: 6.14 Opinion on Child Labour**

Question	Yes	No	No Idea
Do you think that Child Labour (Prohibition and Abolition) Act, 1986 is successful in Mizoram?	28.00%	40.00%	32.00%

Source: Field work

Around 40.00% of the respondents disagree that Child Labour (Prohibition and Abolition) Act, 1986 has been successful in Mizoram. 32.00% have no idea, only 28.00% of the respondents opined that it is a success.

**(n) General awareness about CWC**

**Table: 6.15 Awareness on CWC**

Sl. No.	Questions	Yes	No	No Idea
1.	Are you aware of the existence of Child Welfare Committee (CWC)?	64.58%	20.83%	14.58%
2.	Can you tell any name of Child Welfare Committee member?	36.73%	63.26%	0%

Source: Field work

Almost majority of the respondent 64.58% were aware of the existence of Child Welfare Committee (CWC). 20.83% mentioned that they were not aware regarding CWC and 14.58% have no idea. It was surprising to find out that 63.26% of the respondents cannot tell any name of CWC members.

**(o) Ranking of Problems Faced by CWC**

**Table: 6.16 Problems of CWC**

Question	Political interference	Administration	Financial	Socio-Cultural
Which one do you consider is the most acute problem faced by the CWC?	13.46%	28.84%	32.69%	25.00%

Source: Field work

According to 32.69% of the respondents' financial problems is the most acute problem faced by CWC in Aizawl district. 28.84% opined that it was administrative problems, 25.00% felt that it was socio-cultural problems and 13.46% accepted that political interference is the main problem faced by CWC in Mizoram.

(p) **Idea about 'Mizo Sayings' on the Social Status of Children**

**Table: 6.17 Idea on Mizo Common Sayings**

Question	Agree	Not agree	No Idea
The sayings – 'Naupang te te uite rim in nam' (children exuding the smell of a pub) has been done away with -	37.50%	39.58%	22.91%

Source: Field Work

37.50% agreed that the common sayings - '*Naupang tete uite rim in nam*' (Children exuding the smell of a pub) has been done away with, whereas, 39.58% disagreed and the rest have no idea. As per the opinion of the majority of the respondents, this attitude towards children has not yet been done away with; rather it still lingers with us. This finding indicates that the status of children within the Mizo communities has not changed a lot. This common saying mirrors the traditional status of children who were considered no greater than dogs.

### 6.3 Conclusion

This chapter discusses role of different NGOs in the Welfare and Development of Children in the society. In Mizoram there are a number of Voluntary Organisations. These Voluntary Organisations are mainly formed with the aim to meet various local needs and have played an important role in the development and welfare of children in the society.

Some of the Voluntary Organisation did not concern directly with Child Welfare and Development. However, this chapter covered only some of the Voluntary Organisation which has played an important role in child welfare and development in the state of Mizoram.

This chapter has also examined the supporting role played by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOS) in the process of implementation of Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes in Aizawl District of Mizoram and, with the help of data collected from the leaders of NGOs, made an empirical study of the impacts of various Child Welfare Projects and Schemes implemented, from time to time, by Child Welfare Administration for the benefits of children in Aizawl district.

## **CHAPTER VII**

### **CONCLUSION**

“Child Welfare” in a general sense of the term includes every activity which promotes welfare of children. Child Welfare may include provision of protection, opportunities and help to children in order to enable them to make the best start in life on their journey to adulthood. Children need protection from abuse and exploitation; they are more affected than adults by the actions and inactions of Government and society. Therefore, Child Welfare Administration mainly involves all those organised operations, activities and efforts of the Government and Non-Governmental Organisations to improve health and well-being of children, including their safety and security.

Mizoram, with an area of 21,087 sq. Kilometres, is a green mountainous and hilly region, located in the extreme southern corner of North-East India. It is formerly known as the Lushai Hills of the composite State of Assam. In fact, Mizoram occupies an area of strategic importance due to its geographical location. It is bounded on the East by Burma, on the West by Bangladesh, in the north by Manipur and Cachar and in the North-West by Tripura. Three quarters of its boundary are international having a common open border with Bangladesh over a length of about 318 Kilometres and with Myanmar another 404 Kilometres. Thus, the indigenous Mizo tribes in Mizoram are surrounded by different nations and states inhabited by different communities. As the name of the land implies, ‘Mizoram’ is inhabited by all those original hill tribes and clans of the Mongoloid stock who are knit together by common customs, common traditions and common language such as Lusei, Hmar, Ralte, Paihte, Pawi, Lakher, Pang and their allied tribes who are also identifying themselves as ‘Mizos’. The whole of Mizoram is divided into eight districts and the present area of study, Aizawl District, is one of them. Child Welfare Administration has been gaining more and more relevance as an important component of the overall State Administration of Mizoram.



Today, Child Welfare and Development has been viewed as the supreme asset of the society and the foundation of fullest development of human resources in Mizoram.

**The main objectives of the proposed study are as follows:-**

- (1) To examine the Government initiatives for Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram.
- (2) To evaluate the different Child Welfare Projects and Schemes of the Union Government as implemented by the State Government, from time to time, in Aizawl District.
- (3) To examine the role played by NGOs for the effective implementation of Child Welfare and Development Programmes in the district.
- (4) To evaluate the achievement of Child Welfare and Development Programmes in the district under study.
- (5) To study financial management of Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram.

**Area of Study**

The present study on Child Welfare Administration is confined to Aizawl District which is the largest district of all the eight districts in Mizoram State. Although Aizawl District alone can present the whole picture of Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram, the researcher is strong opinion that no fruitful study on the subject can be made without referring to the whole situation in the State. Hence, the researcher has reflected off and on the whole situation of Child Welfare Administration with a view to making the present study inclusive.

**Research Questions**

This research work is an attempt to answer the following research questions:

- (1) How does the State Government implement Child Welfare Schemes, Projects, Policies and Programmes in Aizawl District?
- (2) Do children in Aizawl District really get benefits from Welfare Schemes, Projects, Policies and Programmes implemented by the State Government?

- (3) Is the involvement of NGOs in the process of implementation of different Child Welfare Schemes really necessary?

### **Scope of the Study**

The present study has been designed for carrying out a comprehensive study of various Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes implemented by the Mizoram State Government. It will examine the administrative and financial relations between the Government and some Non-Governmental Organisations involved in the process of implementation of different Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes. However, the present study has been restricted to the Aizawl District only. The present study has been taken up with a view to finding out whether there is a better scope for improvement of health and well-being of children through the implementation of Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes in Aizawl District.

The scope of this research is to study the impact of various Schemes and Policies for Child Welfare and Development. Mizoram, provided with various Schemes for Child Welfare and Development Programmes have not come up with the most satisfactory result. Lack of sincerity and efficiency from the implementing agency and ignorance of the Projects and Schemes has made it critical for these programmes. The proper implementation of these various schemes will be a remarkably welfare and development for children.

### **Methodology**

The present work has been based on primary and secondary data. The primary data have been collected, with the help of Questionnaire Method, Observation Method and Interviews Method, from the officials as well as the people involved directly or indirectly in Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram State. Various Child Welfare Schemes, Projects, Policies and Programmes of the Central Government taken up by the State Government have been analysed with a view to finding out their relevance for the present study. Sampling Method has been employed for identifying informants to represent the focused group of children below 18 years of age from whom authentic information have been collected for studying Child Welfare Programmes. Initially, 100

boys and 100 girls in the age group of 10 to 18 have been randomly selected as samples from different Children's Homes and Schools (Standard IV to XII) located in Aizawl District.

In addition, Questionnaires have been administered to 200 (100 male and 100 female) randomly selected NGO's leaders who are directly or indirectly involved in in the process of implementation of Child Welfare Schemes and Projects in Aizawl District. Thus, data collected from NGO leaders serve as authentic information for the researcher to make an empirical study of the success or failure of various Child Welfare Schemes and Projects implemented in Aizawl District by the concerned Administration of State.

### **Chapter-Wise Breakups**

The whole work is divided into seven Chapters:

The *first* Chapter is an introductory chapter which has introduced background of the present research and a number of literatures on the subject at local, regional, national and international levels have also been reviewed to establish the feasibility of the present study. Apart from these, this Chapter has explicated objectives of the study, statement of the problems, research gap, and area of the study, research questions, methodology, chapter-wise breakups and the importance of the present research.

The *second Chapter* has given a brief profile of Mizoram in general and Aizawl District in particular. It has also dealt with *inter alia* the socio-cultural, economic and political system of the indigenous people constituting the term "Mizo" like Lusei, Ralte, Hmar, Paite, Lai, Mara etc.

In the *third* Chapter, an attempt has been made to explore the origin of Child Welfare Administration in Mizoram under the Assam Government and its subsequent developments under the Union Territory Government and the State Government of Mizoram.

The *fourth* Chapter has examined various Child Welfare Projects, Schemes and Programmes and the process of their implementation in Mizoram under different situations.

The *fifth* Chapter has examined financial management in Child Welfare Administration with reference to those Child Welfare Projects and Schemes implemented, from time to time, by the State Government so that it would be possible to understand the impact of fund utilised by the State Government for the uplift of the living condition of children.

The *sixth* Chapter has examined the supporting role played by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the process of implementation of Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes in Aizawl District of Mizoram and, with the help of data collected from the leaders of NGOs, made an empirical study of the impacts of various Child Welfare Projects and Schemes implemented, from time to time, by Child Welfare Administration for the benefits of children in Aizawl District.

The *seventh* chapter is the concluding chapter which has brought out the summary and findings of the present study.

#### **A. Summary of the Study**

During the course of the present study we tried to evaluate the replies to our research questions. The first question was: ‘How does the State Government implement Child Welfare Schemes, Projects, Policies and Programmes in Aizawl District?’ It is learned that the State Government has played an important role in initiating and executing various schemes and policies for the welfare and development of children. In the light of the responses received, the following results have been drawn. Forty eight point nine seven percent (48.97%) of the respondents opined that the way various Child Welfare Schemes are being implemented by Government of Mizoram very well; but another half of the respondents fifty one point zero three percent (51.03%) do not agree that the Government of Mizoram is good in execution and implementation of different Child Welfare Schemes.

Responses on the second question, ‘Do Children in Aizawl District really get Benefit from Welfare Schemes, Projects, Policies and Programmes Implemented

by the State Government?’ reveals that only twenty two percent (22%) of the respondents opined that the State Government undertakes measures to promote children in the society satisfactorily, and majority of the respondents agreed that the State Government has to play a more pivotal role in promoting Child Welfare and Development.

In Mizoram the Social Welfare Department is implementing various schemes that cater to the needs of children of different age groups to mould their character as well their physical structure. In addition, foster care programme is also implemented for the orphans. The Government has taken up various schemes for the upliftment of children. The Government aims at eradicating micronutrient and deficiency prevalence in the State. Supplementary nutrition programme was launched to cover various categories of beneficiaries like children of 6 months to 6 years, pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls. There are 27 ICDS Projects in Mizoram under which each and every locality in the state is having an Anganwadi centre where supplementary nutrition food is provided. Besides the regular children registered in the Anganwadi Centres, children below 6 years of age taken care of by the NGOs etc. are also provided supplementary nutrition under the scheme.

The Government of Mizoram has also taken up community food and nutrition extension centres with the objective of teaching the masses, the scientific and domestic methods of food preservation of the locally available food or fruits. Accordingly women folk are trained in the line of food processing or preservation, cooking and nutrition education in the centre. The Supplementary Nutrition Programme undertaken by the State Government mainly aims at eradicating the protein-calorie and micronutrient or deficiency prevalence in the state. These beneficiaries are provided supplementary nutrition as per the financial norms fixed by the Government of India.

Under the scheme of a pilot project of NPAG, all adolescent girls of 11-19 years are weighed and undernourished adolescent girls less than 35 Kgs were provided food grains, i.e. rice, free of cost @ 6 Kgs per month for three consecutive months. To empower adolescent girls and to enable them to take charge of their lives, another scheme known as Kishor Shakti Yojana (KSY) was introduced by the Government. This scheme seeks to provide them with opportunities for learning life

skills, going back to school, help them gain a better understanding of their social environment and take initiatives to become productive members of the society.

In accordance with the norms, guidelines and conditions laid down by the Central Government, the Government of Mizoram also adopted Balica Samriddhi Yojana Scheme. The main objectives of the schemes are to change negative family and community attitudes towards the girl child at birth and towards her mother, to improve enrolment and retention of girls' children in schools, to rise the age at marriage of girls, to assist the girl to undertake income generating activities.

For the prevention of crimes committed by children, the State Government had passed the Mizoram Juvenile Justice Rules in 1988. The same Act has been repealed and substituted by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. In the year 2003, the JJ Rules was framed and implemented. The Government of Mizoram established the Remand Home (Observation or Special Home) in the year 1986, to keep in safe custody the Juveniles in conflict with law until the final disposal of the cases. The Home can accommodate 50 boys and 30 girls. Any inmate who wants to continue their studies are given the opportunity to do so. Various vocational skills like carpentry, tailoring etc are taught to the children.

Rapid growth of poverty and hardship of life caused juvenile delinquency in the Mizo society. Juvenile Justice Board is constituted for the state of Mizoram to exercise powers and discharge the duties conferred or imposed on such boards in relation to juveniles in conflict with law under this Act. The State Government also constituted Child Welfare Committee in various district. The committee has final authority to dispose cases for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of children as well as to provide for their basic needs and protection of human rights. To cater the problem of disadvantage children in Mizoram in a child centric way and with the guidance of centre Adoption Resource Agency, the social Welfare Department sponsors a Home under Friends of Children society as an adoption agency for the purpose of child welfare under the scheme of Shishu Greh. This home was run from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2004 with the grant received from Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) at Chaltlang near Directorate office of Social Welfare Department.

A creativity resource centre known as BAL Bhavan for the age group of 5-16 years was formed by the Department of Social Welfare on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2009. Bal Bhavan is an out of school activity centre aiming at enhancing the creative's abilities of children by providing them with numerous activities and opportunities. It also aims at identifying, nurturing and enhancing the many hidden talents of children.

The responses on the next question, 'Is the Involvement of NGOs in the Process of Implementation of Different Child Welfare Schemes Really Necessary?' revealed that the successful implementation of Child welfare and Development Schemes depends not only on the Government but also on the full support and participation of various Voluntary Organizations , i.e. NGOs and Church Based Institutions.

For the execution and implementation of Child Welfare and Development Programme, the NGOs and Government needs cooperation and mutual dependence. The NGOs have to pay full support to the Governmental policies and programmes. This present work has accessed the role of NGOs in Mizoram in various aspects of child welfare and development through questionnaire. Only thirty six point seven four percent (36.74%) of the respondents opined that the NGOs in Mizoram have performed their purpose efficiently in respect of promotion and development of children in the society. According to the opinion of the respondents it was found that various NGOs in Mizoram have to play more important role to promote the status of children in the society.

The role of Voluntary Organisations and their participation in Child Welfare and development has been recognized by the State Government as an important resource as well as to emphasize that social problems and social issues require active participation of people in the society.

In Mizoram there are many NGOs (Non-Government Organisation) which are formed with the aim to meet different needs of the local people. They played a significant role in the development and welfare of children in the community. Even though, some of the NGOs are not concerned with child welfare and development directly. Mizo society runs from traditional society to the modern society, this prevailing circumstance creates more pressure on various NGOs to play a greater role in the Mizo society. The different NGOs have made good contributions for

welfare activities in Mizo community, it is quite difficult for the Government to provide all the welfare services needed by the people, the Government and NGOs supplements each other to meet the requirements of various needs of the society for all round development of the State. The Voluntary Organisations and the state Government supplement each other to meet the requirements of various needs of the society for all round development of the State.

Some of the important NGOs which have played important role in child welfare and development in the State of Mizoram are: (a) MHT (Mizo Hmeichhe Tangrual), this Voluntary Organization was mainly formed with an aim to uplift and improve the status of women in society. This organization runs Motherless Babies Home since 1969 till today. (b) MHIP (Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl), this Voluntary Organization was founded in 1974. The main aim of this organization is Welfare and Development of Women and Children.

MHIP never fails to pay a visit to Children's Homes at Christmas time with many gift packages for all the inmates. This organization takes up different child welfare activities throughout the state of Mizoram. This Voluntary Organisation always seeks justice for children who are neglected in nutrition or in the family and society. Some of the major portion of the programme of Mizoram State Social Welfare Advisory Board i.e.- Crèche Centre, Condensed Course on Education, Balwadi Centre, Anganwadi Centre etc. are taken up by this organization. The scheme of pre-school education is implemented by Social welfare Department through MHIP (Mizoram Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl) within Aizawl district where Anganwadi centre under ICDS scheme does not operate, 26 (twenty six) pre-school centres have been opened in Mizoram. This scheme has benefited children below 6 (Six) years.

There are 38 numbers of Creches or Day Care Centres, which are implemented through MHIP. Besides these, the Orphanage Homes named 'Hmangaihte Run', located at Zemabawk, Aizawl one of the SAA (Special Adoption Agencies) in Mizoram is owned and run by MHIP. (c) MHA (Mizo Hmeithai Association i.e. Association of Widowed Mizo) which was started in 1987. In this organization only those Mizo woman whose husband has passed away or are divorced or are single parents living with her children can become a member. The



main aim and objectives of this organization is to uplift the status of widows and children of widows. This organization provides text books and school uniforms for the fatherless and widow's children.

The MHA also opened a residential school not only for poor widow's children, but also for illegitimate children and children from broken families with free education and sheltering. The poor babies who have been abandoned and unwanted in the hospitals and in the streets known as SOS babies are take care of by this widowed Association by arranging local adoptions.

Some of the NGOs in Mizoram are not directly involved with Child Welfare and Development. Out of such Voluntary Organizations the YMA which was formed in 1935 is the largest voluntary organization which has played a pivotal role for welfare and development of the society but does not openly deal with children. It is a non-political organization with the aim of helping the needy in the society. Unlike other Voluntary Organizations YMA is exclusively for others and not only for its member. Although the main aims and objectives of this organization does not straightforwardly focus on children, if ever the need arises to take steps and measures for the welfare and development of children, necessary action will be taken by the YMA to solve the problems.

It goes without saying that socio-economic development of the society will automatically eradicate poverty in the society which will lessen the number of inmates in various Children's Home. This clearly shows that the efficiency of the State Government determines the number of inmates in different Homes.

Child welfare strengthens and promotes future development of the nation. Therefore, it can be said that the welfare of children is the welfare of nation. In every future social and economic developmental planning, children need to be given priority, particularly in programmes of health and nutrition, social planning, educational facilities and immunization etc. Child advocates stress the need to improve child welfare policies and the welfare system. Improving the welfare of children requires a concerted effort from community services, health professionals and educators, neighbours, parents, extended family and the faith community as well as central, state, and local Government. Development of children is more important than development of material resources.

Societal practices like customs and traditions play a dominant role in the position of children in the society. Due to the prevailing customs and traditions, the status of Mizo children is still very low in the society. This could be clearly seen from the answer of the respondents in this study. The common saying of the Mizo – ‘Children exuding the smell of a pub’ is a clear mirror of the traditional position of Mizo children who were considered as no greater than dogs. During the field survey, it was observed that the position of children within the Mizo community has not yet changed much. Only thirty seven point five zero percent of the respondents (37.50%) agree with the common saying, ‘*Naupang tete uite rim in nam*’ (Children exuding the smell of a pub) has been done away with.

For all round development of the society, it is necessary to develop the children. The advancement of children will result in remarkable positive changes in the society. If there is a remarkable development of children who are the future of the nation, then the resultant constructive changes will surely indicate the development of the society.

## **B. Major Findings and Suggestions**

Some of the important major findings of the present study and the suggestions given against each finding are the following:

(1) From the study it has been found that though there are a good number of Child Welfare and Development Schemes and Programmes being initiated and implemented by both the Central and Mizoram State Government in the State, these strategies seem to fail to make positive results in the study area till date. One of the basic reasons behind it is the insufficient allocation of funds by the State Government.

Therefore, it has been suggested that the Government should allot more budgetary funds to the nodal Department for successful implementation of various Child Welfare Schemes.

(2) Mizoram State Council for Child Welfare is operating in the entire State without any other Council for Children at the District levels.

Therefore, as is raised by majority of the respondents, it has been suggested that the State Government should establish District Councils for Child Welfare in every district of Mizoram.

(3) It has been found that the trend of crimes against children is on the increase.

It is suggested and recommended to establish a separate Juvenile or Children Police Station for the security of children at least in Aizawl. Establishment of such Police Station will decrease crime against children.

(4) The responsibilities for providing care and protection to children rests primarily with the state, parents, guardians, teachers, society, NGOs and CBOs.

Therefore, it has been recommended that these duty bearers should fulfil their duty towards children.

(5) It has been found that most of the Children's Homes are established by individuals or groups on faith-based and some are established on church-based run mainly with missionary zeal to bring about a solution to the rising problems of children in the society. However, in spite of this, the entire Children's Homes are expected to fulfil the various minimum standard of care in the institution which required a large amount of money. It is very difficult and almost impossible for faith-based or church-based institutions to run their Homes efficiently without financial support from the Government. Hence, it goes without saying that, most of the child care institutions did not fulfil the minimum standard of care in their institution as per the rules laid down by Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.

Therefore, it is recommended that the State Government should provide at least the minimum standard facilities and basic amenities in Children's Homes. It is also suggested that the Children's Homes must be strengthened and equipped with skilled man power and be provided with minimum financial requirement to be able to achieve at least minimum standard of institution by the State Government.

(6) Most of the Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes that are launched by the State Government have not achieved desired results because of lacking enthusiasm and determination on the part of the execution and implementation for the success of the programme. It is found that half of the respondents opined that Mizo children are not aware of Central Government developmental programmes which are meant for them.

Therefore, it is suggested to organize a series of activities such as seminars, workshops, training etc. to make the common citizens aware of Child Welfare and Developmental Programmes by the State Government. Moreover, the Government should try to make best possible use of the media for awareness generation.

(7) Recently, the results of the Child Welfare and Developmental Schemes in different fields such as social, economic, political and educational have given a good development for children. The conditions of children have improved in all sphere of life but there is still a wide space for improvement and development. Though the Central Government launched many child welfare schemes and programmes, yet the conditions of children have not improved up to the mark. From the present study, it comes out that only sixteen point six six percent (16.66%) of the respondents opined that child welfare schemes in Mizoram are successful.

The present finding reveals that the State Government has to do much for the successful implementation of Child Welfare Schemes in Mizoram.

(8) According to the opinion of the respondents, it has been found that establishment of an independent Ministry or Department of Child Welfare and Development is one of the strongest suggestions. Seventy six point five zero percent (76.50%) of the respondents advocated that Mizoram needs a separate Department for Child Welfare and Development. In other words, we can say that, it is the need of the hour for upliftment of children in the society.

Therefore, it is suggested that a separate Department be established by the State Government.

(9) The temporary reception for Juvenile in Conflict with Law who is alleged to have committed an offence was certified in 'Observation Home' during

inquiry (not more than four months). While 'Special Home' is for rehabilitation and reception of Juvenile in Conflict with Law after condemned. From the study, it is found that such two types of juvenile are living together in one Home, i.e. Observation or Special Home with same treatments.

It is suggested that a separate Observation Home and Special Home should be established by the State Government.

(10) The study also discusses about Child Adoption in Mizoram. It has been found that the mind-set of the Mizo people as a whole will be changed with greater awareness about child adoption, which is the best possible means of absorption of children in need of care and protection. Child Adoption policy is launched by the Central Government to solve the problems of increasing abandonment, destitution and neglected children. In Mizoram Child Adoption schemes faces a number of problems such as lack of legal frame work in adoption, lack of awareness among the people about child adoption, lack of confidentiality maintained by the community. The general masses need awareness regarding legal child adoption and the mind-sets of the Mizo people have to be changed with greater knowledge about Child Adoption.

Therefore, it is suggested that the State Government should propagate Child Adoption Policy among the common citizens through visual and audio media.

(11) Development and uplift of children has been possible mainly through education. Education of children means education of the future society.

It is suggested that the Government should give priority or much importance to 'Free and Compulsory Primary Education to Children.'

(12) The Government should establish State Commission for Protection of Child Rights as suggested by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.

(13) The Government should organize special training and educational programme regarding Child Welfare and Development for workers in Children's Homes and NGOs leaders at least once in a year.

(14) The Government should include Child Welfare and Development as either compulsory or optional subject of study in colleges and schools in Mizoram.

(15) There should be regular monitoring and inspection regarding implementation and execution of Child Welfare and Developmental Schemes and Programmes.

(16) The Mizos in the past lived in a closed knitted society and practiced a joint family system. In cases where children were orphanage, abandoned and destitute, the close relatives would automatically take the responsibility of looking after them as their own. It was just because of a deep sense of duty towards children of our ancestor. The various Children's Homes received a lot of donations either in kind or in cash from the Community Based Organisations and common citizens. This shows that the level of humanitarian concern among the Mizo people is high towards children. This culture and tradition should be re-oriented with the spirit and values of up gradation of the position of children in the society.

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## APENDICES

### I. Glossary of Selected Local Terms

Chapchar	The time between Jhoom cutting and burning for Cultivation
Chapchar Kut	Name of the Mizo Grant festival performed during Chapchar
Hmeichhia	Women
Hmeichhe	Women's
Hmeithai	Widowed
Hnatlang	communal labour in which everyone or family is expected
Insuihkhawm	Joined or merged together
Khuavang	The name of a guardian spirit
Kut	Festival
Mim-Kut	Name of a Mizo festival held in honour the dead.
Naupang	Child
Pawl	Organisation or Association or Union
Pawl-Kut	Name of a Mizo festival performed after harvest.
Pialral	Paradise
Pu Vana	Heavenly Uncle
Ramhuai	Evil spirit
Rim	Smell
Tangrual	Being united or in join hands
Thangchhuah	One entitled the Paradise by performing the requisites.
Tlawmngaihna	The Mizo code of morals and good form
Uite	Puppy or young dog
Upa	Aged
Vanchung Nula	Damsel of the heaven
Vanhrika	The worm of the heaven
Veng	Locality

**II. District Wise CDPO Project**

Sl. No	Name of District	Name of Project	No. of AWCs
1.	Aizawl	Aizawl Urban	161
		Tlangnuam	73
		Aibawk	50
		Darlawn	77
		Thingsulthliah	92
		Phullen	39
2.	Champhai	<i>Khawzawl</i>	76
		<i>Ngopa</i>	42
		<i>Khawbung</i>	55
		<i>Champhai</i>	74
3.	Kolasib	<i>Thingdawl</i>	69
		<i>Bilkhawthlir</i>	49
4.	Lawngtlai	<i>Sangau</i>	46
		<i>Lawngtlai</i>	81
		<i>Bungtlang 'S'</i>	49
5.	Lunglei	<i>Bunghmun</i>	61
		<i>Chawngte</i>	59
		<i>Hnahthial</i>	103
		<i>Lunglei</i>	140
		<i>Lungsen</i>	79
6.	Mamit	<i>Reiek</i>	74
		<i>W.Phaileng</i>	95
		<i>Zawlnuam</i>	85
7.	Saiha	<i>Tuipang</i>	55
		<i>Saiha</i>	44
8.	Serchhip	<i>E.Lungdar</i>	59
		<i>Serchhip</i>	93
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27 Project</b>	<b>1980</b>

**III. List of Children's Homes in Mizoram.**

Sl No	Name of Homes & Address	District	Age Group	Capacity	Home Owner/In charge	Contact No	Nature of Homes
1.	Gan Sabra, Zonuam, Aizawl-796001	Aizawl	6-14	20	Lucy Maruati (Secretary)	94363 62493	N.G.O
2.	Muanna In, Mualpui, Aizawl-796001	Aizawl	6-18	30	Major Reuben Lalnunthara (Officer in-charge)	98632 26244	Church -Based

3.	<i>Bethani Children's Home Society, Sihhmui, Aizawl-796001</i>	<i>Aizawl</i>	6-14	25	<i>Lalramchhuanga (Superintendent)</i>	94361 56823	Church -Based
4.	<i>Thutak Nunpuitu In (TNT), Zuangtui, Aizawl-796001</i>	<i>Aizawl</i>	0-18	N/A	<i>Sangthankima Sailo.(Home in-charge)</i>	0389- 23250 75	Private
5.	<i>Synod Hmangaihna In, Durtlang, Aizawl-796001</i>	<i>Aizawl</i>	0-6	50	<i>Laldawnkimi (Superintendent)</i>	96152 34389	Church -Based
6.	<i>Abundant life Home, M.F.C, Durtlang, Aizawl-796001</i>	<i>Aizawl</i>	6-14	20	<i>Evan. Lalchungnunga</i>	94361 51024	Para- Church
7.	<i>Centre for Peace and Development, CDP-cum-Transitional Home, Dawrpui Vengthar (near Police Station),</i>	<i>Aizawl</i>	6-14	16	<i>Angela Ch. Ralte (Warden)</i>	97361 42099	Private
8.	<i>First Step Children's Home, Edenthar.</i>	<i>Aizawl</i>	6-10	N/A	<i>Khaia (Home Father)</i>	97742 29746	Private
9.	<i>Hermon Children,s Home, Durtlang, Aizawl-796001</i>	<i>Aizawl</i>	0-18	N/A	<i>Lalrosanga (Home Manager)</i>	0389- 23611 43	N.G.O
10.	<i>Motherless Babies Home, Khatla (near Industries Office), Aizawl-796001</i>	<i>Aizawl</i>	0-6	20	<i>Zohmai (Home Mother)</i>	98623 44938	N.G.O
11.	<i>Motherless Babies Home, Tuikual South,</i>	<i>Aizawl</i>	0-6	40	<i>Major Chhani (Officer in-charge)</i>	87946 42561	Church -Based
12.	<i>Hlimna In (Girl's Home), Saitual Venglai, Aizawl-796261</i>	<i>Aizawl</i>	6-18	50	<i>Major Lalbiaknungi (Officer in-charge)</i>	96150 24097	Church -Based
13.	<i>Genesareth Gospel Home,</i>	<i>Cham phai</i>	0-18	10 0	<i>Zatluanga (Director)</i>	96123 89463	N.G.O

	<i>New Champhai, Champhai</i>						
14.	<i>Lalchhungkua Orphanage Home, Hmar Veng, serchhip-796181</i>	<i>Serchhip</i>	0-18	25	<i>Pastor Ramthar nghaka (Superintendent)</i>	98627 26383	N.G.O
15.	<i>Zoar Urban Deprived Children's Home, Farm Veng, Dinthar, Serchhip-796181</i>	<i>Serchhip</i>	0-18	35	<i>M.S. Dawngzela (Superintendent)</i>	96126 75145	Church-based
16.	<i>Kawlkhuma Boys home, Chanmari-II, Lunglei-796701</i>	<i>Lunglei</i>	6-18	30	<i>Major J. Lalhmachhuana (Officer in-charge)</i>	98623 36277	Church-Based
17.	<i>Baptist church Orphanage, Ramzotlang, Serkawn, P.O Christian Hospital, Serkawn, Lunglei-796701</i>	<i>Lunglei</i>	0-5	50	<i>Dr. Lalramzauva (Superintendent)</i>	94361 47615	Church-Based
18.	<i>Bethel Centre, Chhumliamkawn, Sazaikawn, Lunglei-796701</i>	<i>Lunglei</i>	0-18	150	<i>K. Laltawnga (Director/ Home Father)</i>	94361 47518	Church-Based
19.	<i>Lairam Motherless Home, College Veng, Lawngtlai-796891</i>	<i>Lawngtlai</i>	0-3	30	<i>Linda Lalnunpari Fanchun (Supervisor)</i>	98626 13964	Private
20.	<i>Motherless Babies Home, Education Veng, Saiha-796901</i>	<i>Saiha</i>	0-5	25	<i>Lynn N. Ngohei (Secretary)</i>	03835- 22312 6	Private
21.	<i>Orphanage Boys Home, ECM Veng, Saiha-796901</i>	<i>Saiha</i>	0-18	18	<i>Major R. Zahluna (Officer in-charge)</i>	96122 95308	Church-Based
22.	<i>Adullam Centre, West Phaileng</i>	<i>Mamit</i>	0-18	30	<i>Lalngaihawmi (Home Mother)</i>	98629 02413	Private
23.	<i>Ferrando Children's</i>	<i>Mamit</i>	0-10	10	<i>Sister Angel-I (Home</i>	89741 43701	NGO



	Training Centre, <i>Model Veng, Lengpui (near Laldenga Fishing Farm)</i> ,				Mother)		
24.	Missionaries of Charity , <i>Venglai, Kolasib</i>	<i>Kolasib</i>	No age Limit	20	<i>Sister Dominica (Home in-charge)</i>	03837-20645	Church-Based
25.	Audrene Scism, <i>Khuangpuilam, near Petrol Pump, Kolasib</i>	<i>Kolasib</i>	6 months-18	40	<i>Rev. Lalrinmawia (Superintendent)</i>	03837-220543	Church-Based
26.	<i>Enna In, Orphanage Boys Home, ICAR Road, Vengthar, Kolasib – 796081</i>	<i>Kolasib</i>	6-18	25	<i>Major V.L Hruaia (Officer in-charge)</i>	8014565705	Church-Based
27.	<i>Davida Home, Khuangpuilam, Kolasib-796081</i>	<i>Kolasib</i>	0-18	30	<i>Zonunthari (Home Mother)</i>	9863842070	Private
28.	<i>Omega Centre Zophai, Bairabi – 796081</i>	<i>Kolasib</i>	0-18	40	<i>Jane Hriatthanhnu ni (Home Mother)</i>	8731068350	Private

Source: ICPS Monitoring Format Annual (2012-2013).

#### IV. Questionnaire for Members of NGOs

Put a tick ( ) mark in the appropriate answer

- Are you aware of the existence of the Mizoram State Council for Child Welfare (MSCCW)?
  - Yes
  - No
  - No idea

2. Do you agree that Aizawl District needs a separate District Council for Child Welfare (DCCW)?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
  
3. The Mizoram State Council for Child Welfare is not popular as it should be-
  - (1) Agree
  - (2) Not agree
  - (3) No idea
  
4. Do you know any person who is a member in the MSCCW?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
  
5. Do you consider yourself aware of the functions of Mizoram State Council for Child welfare?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
  
6. Do you think that Mizo children are aware of the various developmental Schemes and Programmes of the Central Government which are meant for them?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
  
7. Do you think that contemporary Mizo children are more developed than the past?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea

8. Which one would be the best possible tool to make children aware of the various Schemes and Programmes?
  - (1) Seminars, Workshops, etc
  - (2) Audio Media
  - (3) Print Media
  - (4) Visual Media
  
9. Do you think that Child Welfare Schemes in Mizoram are successful?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
  
10. The role played by children in the process of development in Mizoram is significant.
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
  
11. Can you tell any name in your localities that have been benefited by the schemes?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
  
12. Will development of children determine societal development?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
  
13. The way various Child Welfare Schemes are being implemented by Government of Mizoram is –
  - (1) Very good
  - (2) Bad
  - (3) No idea

14. Which one do you think is the most important factor for the success of Child welfare Schemes in Mizoram?
  - (1) Government grants and subsidies
  - (2) NGO's
  - (3) Government policies
  - (4) No idea
  
15. What is the main factor which retards child welfare and development in Mizoram?
  - (1) Cultural and religious Belief
  - (2) Corruption in Programme Implementation
  - (3) Lack of Family support
  - (4) Inability of Government to Support Development for children
  - (5) Children Illiteracy
  
16. Are you satisfied with the present level of child care in Mizo community?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
  
17. Do you think that NGOs in Mizoram are given proper training and education towards successful implementation of various Child Welfare Schemes?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
  
18. Are you in favour of establishing Juvenile Police Stations in Mizoram?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea

19. Will the establishment of such Juvenile Police Stations in the state decrease the crime rate against children?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
20. The system of administration carried on by State Government regarding Child Welfare Schemes are
- (1) Good
  - (2) Bad
  - (3) No idea
21. If NGOs in Mizoram are provided with adequate capital to invest in various Child Welfare Schemes, they will be –
- (1) Very successful
  - (2) The same as they are
  - (3) No idea
22. Do you think that the state Government undertakes measures to promote children in the society satisfactorily?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
23. Does the Government of Mizoram carry Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 successfully?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
24. Are the NGOs in Mizoram working efficiently to promote the status of children in the society?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea

25. Do you agree that there is a good co-operation between the NGOs and MSCCW/CWC in Mizoram?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
26. Do you think that proper implementation of child welfare schemes and programmes can lead to socio-economic development of mizoram?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
27. Do you think Child Labour (Prohibition and Abolition) Act, 1986 is successful in Mizoram?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
28. Are you aware of the existence of Child Welfare Committee (CWC)?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
29. Can you tell any name of Child Welfare Committee Member?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
30. Which one do you consider is the most acute problem faced by CWC in Aizawl District?
- (1) Political interference
  - (2) Administration
  - (3) Financial
  - (4) Socio-Cultural

31. The sayings – ‘Naupang te te Uite rim in nam’ has been done away with –
- (1) Agree
  - (2) Not agree
  - (3) No idea

**Personal data of Respondent (Not to be disclosed in any manner)**

- 1. Name of the respondent : \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Male / female : \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Age Category : 15-25/26-35/36-45/46-55/above 56
- 4. Education : (a) Illiterate ( ), (b) Primary school ( ),  
(c) Middle school ( ), (d) High school ( ),  
(e) 10+2/PUC ( ), (f) Graduation ( ),  
(g) Post Graduate ( ), (h) Any other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Marital Status : (a) Married ( ), (b) Unmarried ( ),  
(c) Widow ( ), (d) Separated ( )
- 6. Occupation : (a) Govt. servant ( ), (b) Private Service ( ),  
(c) Business ( ), (d) Farming ( ),  
(e) Any other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Membership in NGO : \_\_\_\_\_  
Present post(s) hold/held : \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Please write your comment on the implementation / success of Child Welfare Schemes and Programmes in Mizoram. Any other relevant information you want to highlight:-  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**V. Questionnaire for Empirical Information from Target Groups**

- 1. Name of Home : \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Name of inmate: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Male/female: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Education : \_\_\_\_\_
7. Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Parents marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_
9. If divorce when : \_\_\_\_\_
10. How long have you been here in this Home : \_\_\_\_\_

**Put a tick mark ( ) in the appropriate answer:**

1. What is the main reason for joining this Home?
  - (1) Poverty
  - (2) Divorce of Parents
  - (3) Overcrowded of the home
  
2. Have you ever been in similar Home earlier?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  
3. Why leaved the earlier?
  - (1) Age bar of the Home rule
  - (2) Financial Problem
  - (3) Due to overcrowd of Home.
  
4. Who brought you in the Home?
  - (1) Relatives
  - (2) Neighbours
  - (3) NGOs
  
5. Are you aware of the existence of State Council for Child Welfare?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  
6. Can you tell any name of Child Welfare Committee member?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No



7. Have any such person (SCCW/CWC member) talk to you?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
8. Have you ever been visited by CWC/MSCCW officials?
- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
9. What are the main activities in the Home?
- (1) Study
  - (2) Devotion/worship Service
  - (3) Working
  - (4) All above
10. Which study facilities are available in the Home?
- (1) Libraries
  - (2) Laboratory
  - (3) Computer/Internet
  - (4) Any other\_\_\_\_\_
11. What type of sport facilities are provided in the home?
- (1) Foot Ball
  - (2) Cricket
  - (3) Badminton
  - (4) Basket Ball
  - (5) Table Tennis
  - (6) All above
12. How many times in a month you receive medical attendance?
- (1) Once
  - (2) Twice
  - (3) More than Twice
  - (4) Never

13. Have you ever been visited by CWC/MSCCW officials?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  
14. How strict the Home discipline is?
  - (1) Very strict
  - (2) Normal
  - (3) Very free
  
15. Are other inmates friendly to you?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
  
16. Is the Home good for you?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) No idea
  
17. How do you comment about your diet?
  - (1) Satisfactory
  - (2) Normal
  - (3) Not satisfactory
  
18. Do you know the name of your Home in-charge?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  
19. Is the Home in-charge is kind to you?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  
20. Are the workers of the Home friendly?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No

21. Do you want to go out from Home?
  - (1) Yes
  - (2) No
  - (3) Dare not to say
  
22. When does Home in-charge visit you?
  - (1) Every morning
  - (2) Every night
  - (3) Once a week
  - (4) Any other \_\_\_\_\_
  
23. How many times devotion you have?
  - (1) Daily
  - (2) Only on Sunday

## **VI. Minimum Standard of Institutions**

### Minimum Standard of care

1. Location:
  - (a) Congenial child friendly environment
  - (b) Connected by various modes of transport
  - (c) Within the Vicinity of school and VTC
  
2. Size: Caseload of children Committed by JJB and CWC
  
3. Building:
  - (a) Homes for JLC and CNCP shall be separate
  - (b) Classification of boys and girls
  - (c) Segregation of children according to age group
  - (d) Classification on the basis of nature of case

4. Minimum Standard of Accommodation – Based on Capacity of Children:

- (a) Dormitory
- (b) Classroom
- (c) Workshop
- (d) Playground
- (e) Sickroom
- (f) Kitchen
- (g) Dining hall
- (h) Store Room
- (i) Recreation room
- (j) Library
- (k) Counseling and guidance room
- (l) Bathrooms and toilets

4. Sanitation and Hygiene:

- (a) Purified drinking water
- (b) Sufficient water for washing and bathing
- (c) Provision of mosquito net
- (d) Sufficient number of toilets (1 for 7 Children)
- (e) Sufficient number of bathrooms (1 for 10 children)

5. Clothing and bedding: As per scales and climatic conditions (Schedule 1 of MJJR)

6. Nutrition and diet Scale:

- (a) Should be made with nutritional expert
- (b) Three meals a day
- (c) Special meals on holidays and festivals
- (d) Infants and sick children to be provided special meals

7. Staffing Pattern:

- (a) superintendent/officer in charge (MSW)
- (b) Counselor (MA Psychology)
- (c) Probation Officer/Child welfare worker (MSW)
- (d) House Mother or House Father

- (e) Educator (Graduate)
- (f) Doctor
- (g) Paramedical staff
- (h) Store Keeper cum Accountant
- (i) Art and Craft cum Music teacher
- (j) PT Instructor
- (k) Cook
- (l) Helper
- (m) Gardener

8. Daily Routine:

- (a) Should be made with the Children's Committee
- (b) Should include educational class, games, moral education class, group activities, special programmes on Sunday and holidays.
- (c) Should be displayed

9. Medical care:

- (a) Medical checkup within 24 hours after admission
- (b) Medical checkup every month
- (c) Maintain medical record of each child
- (d) Doctor's on duty
- (e) Availability of medical equipments

10. Education:

- (a) Education to all children
- (b) Range of educational opportunities
- (c) Extra coaching

11. Vocational Training: Every institution should provide vocational training opportunities

12. Maintenance of case files: Every child should have a case file that include individual care plan

13. Regular Spiritual and Psychological counseling

## 14. Committees:

- (a) Management Committees
- (b) Children committees
- (c) Inspection Committees

## 15. Rewards and Earnings: May be granted to children

## 16. Visits: Once in a month, in special cases more than once

## 17. Communication:

- (a) Phone calls
- (b) Letters

## 18. Leave of Absence: To be allowed depending on the occasion

*Source: Amy Lalrinpuii, Programme Manager, State Child Protection Society, Mizoram.*

## **VII. Various Laws Connected with Children**

Various Laws (India, Regional and International) pertaining to and touching upon issues connected with children.

### **(A) Indian Laws:**

1. Articles – 24, 39(e) &(f) of the Constitution of India, in a nut shell prohibits employment of children below 14 (fourteen) years in any hazardous industries.
2. Child labor (prohibition and regulation) Act 1986, prohibits employing children below 14 years in the industries mentioned in scheduled A&B of the Act with the exception that they may be allowed to work in own family business and those undertakings run under the assistance and recognition of the Govt.(S-3). Offenders are punishable with imprisonment of not less than 3(three) month which may extend to 1(one) year or with fine up to Rs. 20,000/- (twenty thousand only)(S-4)
3. The Factories Act, 1948 (amended in 1949, 1950, 1954), a person below 14 years.
4. The Plantation Labour Act, 1951, S-24, below 12 years.

5. The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, S-109, below 15 years.
6. The Mines act, 1952, S-45.
7. The motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, S-21.
8. The Apprentice Act, 1961, S-3, below 14 years.
9. The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Condition of Employment) Act, 1966, S-24.
10. The Shops and Commercial Establishment Act.
11. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 restrains marriage involving a girl or a boy who is below 18 years and 21 years respectively, making offenders punishable with imprisonment or fine.
12. The Children Act, 1960.
13. The children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933.
14. The Commission for the Protection of Child Rights Act 2005.
15. The Commission for Protection of Child Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006.
16. The Infant Milk Substitutes Act, 1992.
17. The Infant Milk Substitutes Act, 2003.
18. The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles & Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 and amendment Act 2003.
19. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, and Amendment Act, 2006.
20. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
21. The Reformatory School Act, 1897.
22. The Young Persons (Harmful Publication) Act, 1956.
23. Section – 124 Cr. pc.
24. The Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, empowers the court to appoint a guardian for the person and / or property of a minor when it is satisfied that the appointment of guardian is for the welfare of the child.
25. 25. The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, where adoption of child under 15 years and maintenance of children given in ss-10&20.
26. The Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956.
27. IPC, Section 83: Nothing is an offence which is done by a child under 7 years of age. Any act done by a child above 7 years of age under 12 years is not an offence if the child is not sufficient maturity and understanding to judge the nature and consequences of the act.
28. IPC Sections – 315, 316.

29. IPC Section 317: Exposure and abandonment of a child under 12 years by parent, i.e. father or other is punishable with imprisonment which may extend to 7 years or with fine or both.
30. IPC Sections – 318, 330.
31. IPC Section 361: Kidnapping from lawful guardianship is the enticing of a male under 16 years of age, or a female under 18 years of age, or a person of unsound mind from custody of lawful guardian without consent of guardian. This offence is punishable with imprisonment which may extend to 7 years and fine.
32. Section 363A: Kidnapping or maiming a minor for purpose of begging is an offence. Kidnapping a minor for purpose of begging is punishable with imprisonment which may extend to 10 years and to fine. Maiming a minor for purpose of begging is punishable with imprisonment for life and fine. A person not being the lawful guardian of a minor who uses a minor for purpose of begging is presumed to have kidnapped the minor for purpose of begging.
33. IPC Sections – 366, 366A, 369, 370(4, 5, 6), 370A, 372, 373, 375 sixthly, 376C. In 1997 (4) Bom.CR 171 – The Public at Large vs. State of Maharashtra & others. This petition arose due to suo-moto notice taken by the Court of a newspaper article which indicated that minor girls were illegally confined and forced to be sex workers. The Respondents were directed by the Court to show cause as to why action had not been taken under sections – 36 and 366 of the Indian Penal Code, and sections 5 and 6 of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in women and Girls Act 1956 now know as the ITP Act 1956.
34. Criminal Procedure Code, Sections – 160(1) Proviso, & 273.
35. The protection of Human Rights act, 1993.
36. The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.
37. The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2000 and 2006.
38. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956, This Act is based on Articles 23 of the constitution which prohibits trafficking of human beings. Under this Act, a ‘child’ means a person who has not completed the age of 16 years. A ‘minor’ means a person who has completed the age of 16 years but has not completed the age of 18 years. This act punishes with imprisonment any person who procures or attempts to procure a child for prostitution, or any person who is found with a child in a brothel. It shall be presumed that a child or minor found in a brothel has been detained in such place for the purpose of prostitution.



Punishment is more stringent in case of an offence against a child or a minor. Where the person rescued is a child or minor, the Magistrate may direct the placement of the child or minor in an institution established or recognized under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act.

39. The protection of Women from Domestic violence Act 2005 stipulates provision for award of maintenance allowance to the victim women and her children.
40. The National Policy for children, 1974. It shall be the policy of the State to provide adequate services to children, both before and after birth and through the period of growth, to ensure their full physical, mental and social development. The State shall progressively increase the scope of such services so that, within a reasonable time, all children in the country enjoy optimum conditions for balanced growth.
41. The bonded labour system (Abolition) Act, 1976.
42. The Information Technology act, 2000.
43. The right of Children to free and compulsory Education Act, 2009.
44. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and Rules 2012.
45. The child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2012. The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of trade and commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution, Act, 2003, & the related Rules and regulations there under. Sections – 4 (prohibition of smoking in public place). S-6 (a)—prohibits sale of tobacco product to and by a person below 18 years. S-6 (b)— ditto within 100 yards of an educational institution. Punishable eighth fine of Rs. 200/-. S-5, 7, prohibits display/ advertisements, punishable with 2 years, and for subsequent conviction up to 5 years.

**(B) International and regional Instruments:**

1. The Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1992 (drafted by Eglantyne Jebb which was adopted by the League of Nations in 1924).
2. The Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1959(DRC) by UN – declared that children needs safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, separate from those of adults and that these protections should begin even before

birth. It reiterates the 1924 declaration that “Mankind owes to the child the best it has to give”. One of the key principles in the DRC is that a child is to enjoy special protection as well as opportunities and facilities, by law and by other means, for healthy and normal physical, mental, moral, spiritual and social development “in conditions of freedom and dignity”. The paramount consideration in enacting laws for this purpose is “the best interest of the child”. Among other DRC principles, a child is entitled to a name and nationality; to adequate nutrition, housing, recreation and medical services; to an education; and for the handicapped; to adequate nutrition, treatment, education and care’. Other important principles are “protection against neglect, cruelty and exploitation, trafficking, underage labour, and discrimination”.

3. The minimum Age Convention, 1973 – to abolish child labour. Article – 1: Each state party is to “pursue a national policy designed to ensure effective abolition of child labour and to rise progressively the minimum age for admission to employment to a level consistent with the fullest physical and mental development of young persons’. Article-2, minimum age may not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and in any case, less than 15(fifteen) years, but may be initially set at 14(fourteen) years if state’s economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed. Article-7, Exception to the age limits may also be permitted for light work or for such purposes as participation in artistic performances. If the employment may be hazardous to a young person’s health, safety, or morals, the minimum age is generally not to be less than 18(eighteen) year{Article-3(1)}.
4. UN Convention on the Rights of the child, 1989(CRC) is the most comprehensive document on the right of children. The CRC is primarily concerned with four aspects of children’s rights (the four Ps): Participation by children in decisions affecting them,; protection of children against discrimination and all forms of neglect and exploitation: prevention of harm to them: and provision of assistance to children for their basic needs. For the purpose of the CRC, a child is defined as “every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the laws applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.
5. On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2000. The UN adopted the optional protocol to the CRC on the sale of Children, Child prostitution, and child pornography 2000(sex trafficking

Protocol) and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in Armed Conflict (Child Soldiers protocol).

6. African Charter on the Rights and welfare of the Child 1990- is the first regional treaty on children's rights most of its provisions modeled after those in the CRC, with the main difference seen from the existence of provisions concerning children's duties, in line with African Human Rights Charter.
7. European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights 1996.
8. Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 contains two articles that specifically refer to children. Article-25(2) states: Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children whether born in or out of wedlock shall enjoy the same social protection. Article-26 calls for the right to education for all, and deals both with access to and the aims of education. Thus education is to be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages: elementary education is to be compulsory and education should be "directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
9. International covenant on Economic, social and Cultural Rights 1966. Under Article-10 the widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, particularly for its establishment and while it is responsible for the care and education of dependent children (item 1) in part. It further stipulates that "special measures of protection and assistance" should be taken on behalf of the young without any discrimination: that they should be protected from economic and social exploitation: that employing them in morally or medically harmful or dangerous work or in work likely to hamper their normal development should be punishable by law: and that age limit should be set below which the paid employment of child labour is prohibited and punishable by law (item-3). Article-12 addresses the right of all to "enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health", to be fully realized by, among other measures, state parties' providing "for the reduction of the stillbirth-rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child" {item2 (a)}. The ICESCR also provides for the right of everyone to education {article 013(1)} and stipulates" primary shall be compulsory and available free to all" {article-13(2a)}.
10. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966.

11. European Convention on Human Rights 1950.
12. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights 1981 (Banjul Charter).
13. American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica).
14. Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women 1979, in article-5(a) refer to the interest of children being paramount in relation to the common responsibility of men and women for their children's upbringing and development. It also calls for action to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make marriage registration compulsory {article-16(2)}.
15. The Haque Convention on Jurisdiction, etc, for the Protection of Children 1996.
16. The Haque Convention on Jurisdiction, etc, Relating to Adoption 1965.
17. European Convention on the Adoption of Children 1967.
18. Inter-American Convention on Conflict of Law Concerning the Adoption of Minors 1984.
19. The Haque Convention on the Protection of Children in Inter country Adoption 1993.
20. The Haque Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction 1980.
21. The European Convention Concerning the Custody of Children 1980.
22. Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 1999.