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## Research Article

### PORTAL FOR CHILD CARE INSTITUTES

**Upendra Tiwari, Himanshu Bansal, Kartik Choudhary and Manish Kumar**

Computer Science and Engineering, ABES Institute of Technology, Ghaziabad, India

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#### ABSTRACT

In this paper authors describes the lack of proper care and protection that children are facing is a global issue with a huge number of children facing it. Under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 provides help to all such kind of children in the child care institutes. Children without proper care and protection are disrespected and do not have access to education, health social protection.

The ministry of women and child development introduced a scheme ICPS (Integrated Child Protection Scheme). This scheme emphasizes on providing such children a healthy, safe and secure environment by funding CCI's across the country and creating quality services.

The problem tried to solve in this project are:-

- i.) The manipulation of data of children and staff provided by CCI's.
- ii.) CWC's do not complete their proceedings on time.
- iii.) Identities of children kept are not tracked.

There is necessity to improve the condition of such children so as to convert them into productive citizens by providing timely counselling sessions and finding people ready to adopt/ their original families and helping them in the child's proper development.

The main focus of this project is to improve the quality of work carried out currently in the department and prevent manipulation of data, so that the funds are not wasted and proper facilities could be provided. Parents or people searching for their child can also find them if they are in such Institutions.

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#### INTRODUCTION

India is committed to safeguarding the rights of its children. The Constitution of India through various key provisions recognizes the vulnerabilities faced by children and upholds their right to protection. Article 15 (3) of the Constitution guarantees special attention to children through necessary and special laws and policies that safeguard their rights.

The spirit of the State towards safeguarding its children is reflected in the key legislations for the protection of children i.e. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (Amended in 2016), Right to Education Act, 2009 (Amended in 2012), and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 etc.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 is the key legislation for juvenile justice in India. The Act emphasizes the restoration and reintegration of children through various non-institutional and institutional measures. The Act recognizes the role of family care and support in the

development of children and prescribes various measures for non-institutional care for children in difficult circumstances.

It is in this milieu that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India directed the Ministry of Women and Child Development to prepare a Manual for the Caregivers of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) aimed at improving the standard of care and services to be provided in CCIs for children in conflict with law.

All children have specific needs and rights. It is a well-established fact that children have unique vulnerabilities owing to specific needs and demands at different stages of growth till the time they reach adulthood. Children in conflict with law should be treated as children in difficult circumstances and the approach of the juvenile justice system should be aimed at addressing the vulnerabilities of children and ensuring their rehabilitation. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 promotes the institutionalization of children as a last resort. The institutionalization of children when necessary should be in the best interest of children, and aimed at educating, rehabilitating and preparing children for their re-integration into the society upon release. It is important that children, irrespective of the offences committed by them

\*Corresponding author: **Upendra Tiwari**

Computer Science and Engineering, ABES Institute of Technology, Ghaziabad, India

[or alleged to be committed by them], should be treated with respect and dignity while in custody in CCIs, focusing on their potential and capabilities as children. Studies indicate that the most effective way to find constructive solutions to involvement of children in activities that violate a law is to involve children in the process of rehabilitation.

Portal for child care institute is a web based application that aims to verify the demand of funds made by the CCI's under ICPS, keep an eye on the functioning of CWC's ,i.e., to check whether the proceedings are carried out timely and have a count of the staff working and children staying in such institutions.

This portal also aims to help parents find their missing child.

### Fundamentals

**There are few principles or fundamentals of child care institutes, such as**

**Principle of presumption of innocence:** A child in child care institute should be assumed as innocent.

**Principle of dignity and worth:** A child in child care institute should be treated with dignity and should be treated equally irrespective of sex, caste, colour, religion, etc.

**Principle of participation:** A child in child care institute should have right to participation in each and every decision related to him/her.

**Principle of best interest:** The decision regarding the child in child care institute should be based upon the best interest of the child.

**Principle of family responsibility:** The child in child care institute must be taken care of the fact that the best care and the responsibility lies with the family of the child.

**Principle of safety:** Each child in the child care institute must ensure that he/she may not be maltreated or abused by any of the staff in the institute.

**Positive measures:** The Child Welfare officer and the staff must ensure that the child have every opportunity to develop and grow in the enabling environment.

**Principle of non-stigmatizing semantics:** The child should be treated with dignity and should be non-stigmatized.

**Principle of non-waiver of rights:** The child's right should not be waived off in any circumstances.

**Principle of equality and non-discrimination:** While dealing with children in child care institute, the treatment given to the child should be non-discriminating.

**Principle of right to privacy and confidentiality:** Every child has right to privacy and his case should be kept confidential and should not be disclosed with other staff members of the child care institute.

**Principle of institutionalization as a measure of last resort:** Before placing the child in the institution, the agency and the caregivers should make ensure that institution should be the last option for the child.

**Principle of repatriation and restoration:** The Child Welfare Officer should make ensure that the children coming under the missing category should be re-united with the family as soon as possible. The efforts should be made to trace the family.

**Principle of fresh start:** While children who have offended must be held accountable for their action, every child has the capacity to change for the better and must have a second chance - a right to a fresh start. The principle of fresh start signifies a new beginning in the life of the child in conflict with law. All past records of any child under the Juvenile Justice system should be erased except in special circumstances.

**Principle of diversion:** Measures for dealing with children in conflict with law without resorting to judicial proceedings shall be promoted unless it is in the best interest of the child or the society as a whole.

**Principles of natural justice:** Basic procedural standards of fairness shall be adhered to, including the right to a fair hearing, rule against bias and the right to review, by all persons or bodies, acting in a judicial capacity under this Act.



Figure 1 The Inspection Model

### CCI'S AND CWC'S

The purpose of Child Care Institution portal is to get into records the complete information about the Child Care Institutions. This project tries to resolve the issues that the government is facing by knowing the exact details of working staff and children kept and the record for the money spent for their welfare. Child Care Institute (CCI) seeks to shift child care from the periphery of global social policy to the centre, so that it is seen as a core set of social services and as a core part of social security. The major concern for WIEGO within the wider debate on child care provision is the relationship between child care provision and the ability of women. A child care institution as defined under the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, means Children Home, Open Shelter, Observation Home, Special Home, Place of Safety, specialized Adoption Agency and a Fit Facility recognized under the Act for providing care and protection to children, who are in need of such services. Children in conflict with law are provided residential care and protection in Observation Home, Special Home, and Places of Safety. The monitoring of dashboard by higher level officer directly will ensure timely action. Observation Homes and special Homes have a unique objective and purpose for the services provided for children in conflict with law, and hence the approach of each would be different. Place of Safety functions as Observation Home or a special Home for children between the age of 16-18 years of age, who are accused or found guilty of committing a heinous offence.

They are defined as under section 41, JJ Act 2015:

Table 1

	Observation Home	Special Home	Place of Safety
Purpose	For temporary reception, care & rehabilitation of any child alleged to be in conflict with law, during the pendency of any enquiry under this Act. For every child alleged to be in conflict with law who is not placed under the charge of parent or guardian	For rehabilitation of those children in conflict with law who are found to have committed an offence and who are placed there by an order of the Juvenile Justice Board made under section 18	To place a person above the age of eighteen years or child in conflict with law, who is between the age of sixteen to eighteen years and is accused of or convicted for committing a heinous offence.  During the process of inquiry or person convicted of committing an offence
Duration of care	Does not exceed 4 months	Does not exceed 3 years	
Establishment	The State Government shall establish and maintain in every district or a group of districts, either by itself, or through voluntary or non-governmental Organizations Observation Homes	The State Government shall establish and maintain in every district or a group of districts, either by itself, or through voluntary or non-governmental, Organizations Special Homes	The State Government shall set up at least one place of safety in a State

**Working**

The cases that are taken up on those sittings and the consequent decision on them should also be fed into the system Desired Outcome:

A dashboard which helps multiple users track the cases of children in Child Care Institutions and cases pending before the Child Welfare Committee.

The monitoring of dashboard by higher level officer directly will ensure timely action.

The complete record will be displayed on online portal from various logins. This project will have various user logins such as

**Officials of Child Care institutions:** For entering the data of children and staff. They will be able to know the progress of the case, next hearing for preparing necessary documentation.

**Parents who are searching for their children:** They can login into a particular CCI database to search for their missing children.

**Child Welfare Committee members:** It will be able to tell them of the pendency list and the case-wise details for necessary action at their end.

**District Child Protection Unit:** Since the Probation Officer is the nodal officer in the district, he/she can monitor the work of

CWC. He/she can use the data on the database for the purpose of inspections anytime or to monitor the attendance of staff.

**District Magistrate:** The DM is mandated under the Juvenile Justice Act to review the functioning of CWCs. This dashboard can enable him/her to do so and take necessary action. He/she can use the data on the database for the purpose of inspections anytime or to monitor the attendance of staff.

**States:** For having a state-wide view and being able to review the performance of various districts.

**Centre:** For monitoring the country-wide performance.

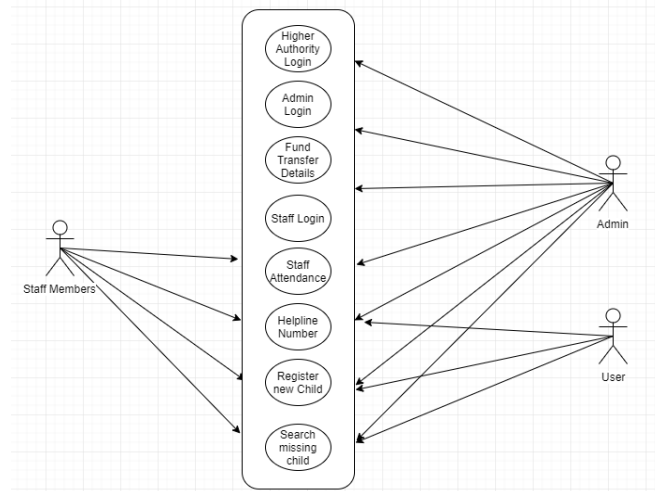


Fig 2 Use Case Diagram

The Use-Case diagram for the project is shown in Fig3.

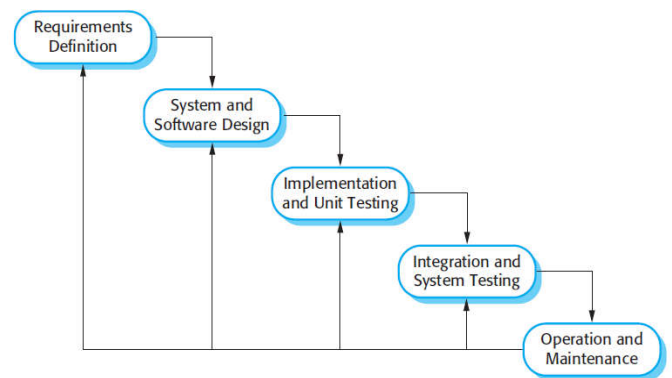


Fig 3 Approach for problem- solving

**CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE**

Lack of proper care and protection to children has always been a major issue. The funds given by the government are not properly utilized or are not being used for the exact purpose for which they are released. The project will aim to help all children either lost, abandoned, orphanage, or surrendered and will bring the functionality from base to higher authorities, so that all activities can be monitored.

The attendance of staff and children will help the government in releasing funds accordingly, i.e., as per the requirement and manipulation of data would not be possible.

This project also aims to keep track on the CWC's, and monitoring them to ensure proceedings are carried out timely

and their remains no pending case. If pending case still persists, it will be notified to the higher authorities.

The feature for parents who have lost their child can also find, if registered, from the website.

The tracking of children may also be carried out easily helping the government, and minimizing the manipulation of data.

In future, there are certain points that are to be covered to improve the software or may also be the additional features which are to be implemented but will be implemented after the initial phase. Such points are:-

- Attendance tracking of children.
- Location tracking using GPS.
- For a person in hurry, if missing child is found, the person may just fill the form with location and the photo of the child.
- Parents can search their missing child.

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