**THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS**

**(Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development - Call for input for the 2024 reports)**

**Submitted by: Dr. Finita G Roy**

**Affiliation: Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences, O. P. Jindal Global (Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University), India**

**Designation: Associate Professor**

**Response to the Special Rapporteur’s Questions**

**Q1.** What does the right to development mean for children in line with the relevant policy frameworks and normative instruments? What about the right to development of future generations?

**Ans.** As protected in legislative frameworks and normative instruments, children's right to development guarantees them access to healthcare, education, and a nurturing environment that promotes their well-being and potential realization. To protect future generations' chances for growth and prosperity within a framework that maintains the integrity of the environment and social systems for future generations, the right to development places a strong emphasis on sustainable practices, equitable resource distribution, and intergenerational justice.

**Q2.** How are the human rights of children and future generations impacted by development-related decisions (e.g., related to economic development or new technologies) made by the present adult generation? Please provide examples from your country or area of work.

**Ans:** In India, decisions for development made by the current adult generation can have a big impact on children's and future generations' human rights. Economic development initiatives, such as building massive infrastructure, might force communities to relocate, which affects children's access to stable housing, healthcare, and education.

Comparably, the adoption of new technologies in the absence of sufficient protections may jeopardize children's rights through exposure to hazardous content and online exploitation. Furthermore, as seen by instances when air and water pollution hurt children's health and development, decisions made regarding industrial development and pollution control may have long-term effects on the health and well-being of future generations.

Fostering sustainable and equitable development requires making sure that the rights of children and future generations are taken into account in development decisions in India and globally.

**Q3.** How to ensure a meaningful participation of children and future generations in development-related decisions at all levels (e.g., in policy formulation or impact assessment)? Are there any existing good practices or models?

**Ans:** A multifaceted strategy is necessary to ensure the meaningful engagement of children and future generations in decisions connected to development:

• Putting into practice rules and guidelines that clearly acknowledge children's and future generations' rights to take part in development-related decision-making processes.

• Educating kids about their rights and the value of becoming involved in society. Media campaigns, community initiatives, and school curriculum can all help achieve this.

• Supplying children, young people, and aspiring leaders with instruction and materials to give them the know-how needed to participate in decision-making processes.

• Establishing easily accessible forums, youth councils, and children's parliaments where young people can express their ideas and grievances.

• Actively involving children and youth in policy formulation, impact assessments, and decision-making processes at all levels of governance. This includes consulting with children and youth directly affected by development projects.

• Actively including young people in the creation of policies, impact analyses, and decision-making procedures at all governmental levels. Consultation with children and young people who are directly impacted by development programs is part of this.

• Encouraging communication and cooperation between generations to make sure that the interests and viewpoints of kids and future generations are considered when making decisions.

There are some excellent concepts and methods in India that encourage young people to participate in development decisions.

As an illustration, the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) offers a framework for involving kids in decisions that affect their well-being.

In India, several youth-led projects and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) strive to provide children and young people the ability to take part in local, national, and worldwide decision-making processes.

India's National Youth Policy places a strong emphasis on the value of youth involvement in governance and decision-making.

These programs demonstrate how children's and the next generation's meaningful participation in development-related decisions can be encouraged in India.

**Q4.** How to integrate an intersectional approach to the participation of children to ensure that differentiated impacts on children due to various discriminations, exclusions or vulnerabilities are considered? Kindly share any good practices.

**Ans:** Integrating an intersectional approach to children's participation requires recognizing and addressing the diverse and intersecting identities and experiences that shape their lives.

First, conduct comprehensive assessments to identify the specific vulnerabilities and discrimination children face based on factors such as gender, ethnicity, disability, socioeconomic status, and geographic location.

Second, inclusive platforms must be created that amplify the voices of marginalized children and ensure that their perspectives are included in decision-making processes.

Third, targeted measures and policies are implemented that respond to the unique needs and challenges of different groups of children.

Good practices include the "Bal Panchayat" model in India, where child-led councils represent various communities and advocate for the rights of marginalized children. In addition, initiatives such as "child-friendly spaces" provide children from vulnerable backgrounds with a safe environment to participate in decision-making and access support services

**Q5.**  What measures should be taken to protect and empower child human rights defenders?

**Ans:** Measures to protect and empower child human rights defenders should include providing legal protection against retaliation and harassment, ensuring access to training and resources for their advocacy work, providing psychosocial support to deal with stress and trauma, promoting support networks and mentoring opportunities, and raising awareness about their rights and contribution and their involvement in decision-making processes affecting their lives. In addition, cooperation between government agencies, civil society organizations, and communities is important to create a favorable environment for their activity.

**Q6** How to create child-friendly judicial and non-judicial remedial mechanisms to address violations of children’s rights in the context of development policies, projects or programmes?

**Ans:** Establishing child-friendly legal and non-legal compensation mechanisms involves several important steps. First, ensuring accessibility by providing information in a child-friendly format and creating child-friendly opportunities to report and make corrections. Second, add child-specific procedures and protocols that prioritize the well-being and protection of children during the legal or restorative process. Third, trained professionals with expertise in children's rights are assigned to handle cases involving children. Fourth, increase the participation and empowerment of children by including them in decision-making processes and respecting their opinions. Finally, promote accountability through monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of corrective actions and prevention of future violations.