Are we protecting our children in Pakistan

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Pakistan – As the world thinks about it

- Terrorism and religious extremism
- Nuclear State; threat to global peace
- Polio and extremely bad health indices
- Economics and Governance; Failed state
- (Malaysian plane landed in Pakistan :)

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Pakistan – As we are facing life in it

- Proxy wars – Safety and Security
- Refugees – Economic Burden
- Foreign Aid – Belief/religious Dichotomy
- Foreing interference – Fueling Infighting
- Population explosion – Human Suffering
- Exploitative rulers – Bad Governane
- Budgetary constrains – Lack of Education

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Pakistan - As it was meant to be

- Pakistan - the land of pure
- Governed through principles of Democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social Justice
- State Religion is Islam but freedom to practice any religion and develop their culture
- All fundamental rights including freedom of expression
- Welfare state – Free education, health

Provision of Human Rights, Child Rights

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International Commitments

- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.
- The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children.
- Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm Agenda).

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International Commitments

- The UN guidelines and standard minimum rules related to juvenile justice, including:
  - UN Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules);
  - UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Guidelines); and
  - UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Their Liberty.
- ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age.
- UN Declaration on Social and Legal Principles Relating to Protection and Welfare of Children, with Special Reference to Foster Placement and Adoption Nationally and Internationally.


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National Laws

- The female infanticide prevention act, 1870
- Guardian & ward act 1890
- The Punjab borstal act 1926
- Child marriages restrained act, 1929
- The factories act: 1934
- Pakistan penal code 1947
- The West Pakistan vaccination ordinance 1958
- The Punjab juvenile smoking ordinance 1959.
- Workers children (education) ordinance, 1972
- Constitution of Pakistan 1973
- Bonded labour system (abolition) act, 1992
- The compulsory education act 1994
- Abolition of whipping act, 1996.

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National Laws

- Juvenile justice system ordinance, 2000
- National database registration authority ordinance 2000.
- Prohibition of smoking and protection of non-smokers health ordinance 2002
- Protection of breast-feeding and child nutrition ordinance, 2002
- The Punjab local government ordinance, 2001
- Employment of children (amendment) act, 2011
Status of Child Protection in Pakistan

There is no authentic data from Pakistan

- About 9 children out of every hundred born do not live to see their 5th birthday, about 7 do not see their first.
- Almost 4 out of every 10 children are undernourished
- Less than 3/4 children receive their primary vaccination
- About half the children do not have access to safe drinking water or sanitation
- Almost ⅓ children never attend a primary school, and of those who do only half are able to complete 5 classes.
- About 90% children are still beaten up in school
- About 80% of all children are exposed to pornography
- Almost one child out of every four or six is exposed to sexual abuse

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What is Government of Pakistan doing

- Deficient Legislations
- Virtually no implementation
- Lack of Commitment
- Child Protection is not a priority
- Total lack of coordination with stakeholders
- National Policy and Plan of Action for Children 2006
- Child Protection Bill (Pending since 2006 esp after 18th Amendment of Pakistan Constitution making it a provincial matter)

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What are Civil Societies doing

- International NGOs are mostly implementing their own projects - Distant from real local needs
- Very few local NGOs are working on Child Protection as very little funding available
- Local Research is very limited, sketchy, unreliable and only consists of epidemiological data collection
- Advocacy is like a cry in the jungle
- Media is now active but still very immature
- Some awareness raising and a lot of service delivery
- Formation of Child Rights Movement in Pakistan and its Provinces

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How are we trying to make a difference

- Working
  - Independently,
  - In partnerships,
  - Networks
  - Groups

- Working through
  - Awareness raising,
  - Research
  - Capacity building,
  - Advocacy
  - Service Provision to distressed children

To
- Support Government in its initiative
- Acting as watchdogs

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Awareness

- Target
  - Youth in Universities, Colleges, Schools
  - Teachers
  - Parents
  - Care Givers
  - Children

- Activities
  - Lectures, Seminars, Internship,

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Research

- Include a component of action research in every activity
- Encourage students to conduct small scale studies
- Concentrate on Data Collection
- Papers in conferences
- Publication of research papers
Capacity Building

- Care Providers
  - Conferences
  - Trainings
  - Manuals
  - Curriculum changes

- Youth
  - Volunteer Project work
  - Internships

- Children
  - Empowerment

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Advocacy

- Lobbying sessions with National/Provincial Assembly members other opinion leaders
- Networking with other organizations working on various aspects of child protection. Child Rights Movement, WGCSA
- Involvement of Media in advocacy campaign
Service Delivery

- Child Protection System Development
  - Child Protection Unit
  - Repatriation and re-integration of Run Away Children in Punjab
  - Drop-In Center for Street Children at Lahore to provide them health, education, nutrition, recreation, and psychological support
  - Empowerment of street children through an outreach program
  - Child Friendly Spaces in Disaster struck areas

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Achievements

- A taboo subject of Child Abuse is now openly discussed
- Children Hospital, owned Hospital Child Protection Initiative and is now running with minimal support of PAHCHAAN
- Government at least has acknowledged Child Protection as a problem to be addressed
Aspirations

- Pakistan is the land of pure, where there is freedom to practice any religion, freedom of expression, peace and tolerance.
- It is a welfare state providing free education, health in letter and spirit.
- There is no abuse of any child or human right.
- And every child “Grows with Giggles”

(Vision of PAHCHAAN)
Thank you