

SUMMARY

India has made significant commitments towards ensuring the basic rights of children i.e. right to survival, right to protection, right to development and right to participation. Despite these rights, there are gaps in terms of unmet needs due to which children feel neglected, unsafe, unprotected and vulnerable. One reason may be those children and even adults are not aware of the needs and rights of children due to which they are not able to realize their strength and right approach to deal with vulnerability around them. In this lesson you learnt about the needs of children and government initiatives towards children's rights.

NEEDS OF CHILDREN**Build Your Understanding**

- ✚ A need can be defined as something that is essential for a person to lead a healthy and productive life.
- ✚ There is a difference between 'needs' and 'wants'. The 'wants' may be desirable but they are not essential for an individual.

Psychological Needs: Fulfilment of the above-mentioned psychological needs of children help develop a positive self-concept

- a) **Security, safety and protection:** It is essential that they grow up in an environment where they feel physically, psychologically and emotionally safe and secure.
- b) **Love and affection:** The need for love and affection is the foundation for developing healthy relations and establishing trust with others.

Unmet needs of love and affection lead to maladjustment due to the inability to connect emotionally with others.

- c) **Understanding and acceptance:** A feeling of being valued boosts the confidence of children.

Need of Health and Nutrition Including Supplementary Nutrition: Foundation of good health is laid during the early years of life.

- a) Physical health is influenced by many factors, such as biology/ genes, and environmental factors like nutrition,

immunisation, and opportunities for physical activities and exercise.

- b) Age-appropriate gain in height and weight indicates normal health of children.
- c) Every child must be given a nutritional supplement to avoid nutritional deficiencies in diet.
- d) Medical check-up of all children is a must at least once a year.

Play, Early Stimulation and Learning Needs:

An environment that is full of praise and encouragement, opportunities to play, explore and experiment helps children grow and learn.

- a) Playing provides children with an outlet for emotions.
- b) It develops imagination, problem-solving, decision-making skills, good relationships and learns to care and share.
- c) Free conservation, storytelling and rhymes contribute immensely in developing language, creativity and imagination which are essential for learning.

RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Build Your Understanding

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - ‘children’s rights’ are the human rights of children primarily pertaining to the rights of protection and care to the minor.

They are the minimum entitlements and freedom that should be accorded to all persons below the age of 18 regardless of race, colour, gender, language, religion, opinions, wealth, birth status or ability and therefore apply to all people everywhere.

INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF CHILDREN’S NEEDS AND CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

All children have common needs irrespective of their socio-economic and cultural background which should be fulfilled for their holistic development.

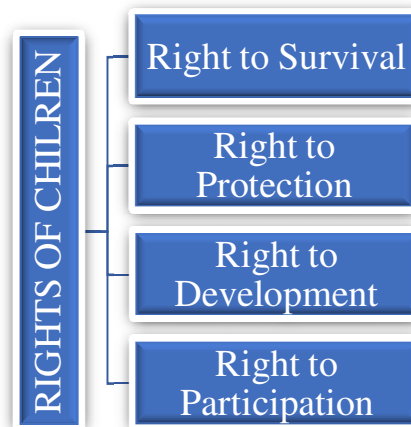
Needs and ‘rights’ are mutually interdependent. ‘Right’ is a recognition of children’s entitlement to have their ‘needs’ fulfilled.

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNCRC)

On 20 November 1989, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

This Convention formulated the standards for physical, moral, mental, spiritual, and social development of children.

India adopted the convention in December 1992.



GOVERNMENT ACTS AND PLANS TO ACHIEVE CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

<p>Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) – An Integrated Scheme for School Education, 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme for the school education extending from preschool to class 12. • Goal is to improve school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling to all children and equitable learning • Vision of the Scheme is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from pre-school to senior secondary stage synchronized with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for Education • Subsumes three schemes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) - Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) - Teacher Education (TE).
<p>National Minimum Guidelines for Setting up and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has released National Minimum Guidelines for setting up and running crèches in 2018 under Maternity Benefit Act, 2017 mandating that “every

Running Crèches under Maternity Benefit Act, 2017	<p>establishment having 50 or more employees shall have the facility of crèche”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim - to facilitate the employer in establishing and managing crèche facility for their employees having children mainly from 6 months to 6 years against key parameters.
The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act has increased the duration of paid maternity leave available for female employees from 12 weeks to 26 weeks. • The amended Act has mandated crèche facility for every establishment employing 50 or more employees.
Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in hazardous occupations identified in a list by the law and to regulate the services of children in non-hazardous occupations. • Laying down penalties for employment of children in violation of the provisions of this Act
The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act promotes and protects the right to equality, life with dignity and respect for integrity equally with others in various aspects of life • The types of disabilities have been increased from seven (The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995) to 21, with power to the Central Government to add more • Reservation in higher education (not less than 5%) and government jobs (not less than 4%) have also been included.
National Plan of Action for Children, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act committed to provide equal opportunities for all children and protect their rights. • This plan intends to provide comprehensive policy focus to address vulnerabilities of children - Survival, Health and Nutrition, Education & Development, Protection and Participation
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme was launched in 2015 to address gender imbalance and discrimination against the girl child. • Objectives are prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination, ensuring survival and protection of the girl child, and ensuring education and participation of the girl child. • Joint venture of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.
The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act creates a robust legal framework for the protection of the rights of all children whether alleged or found to be in conflict with law or children in need of care and protection, by catering to their basic needs through proper care, protection, development, treatment, social re-integration, by adopting a child- friendly approach.
Protection of Children from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act was enacted by the Government of India to provide an extremely strong legal framework for the protection of children from offences

Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012	<p>of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides safeguard to the interest of the child at every stage of the judicial process, by incorporating child-friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated Special Courts.
Regulatory Guidelines for Private Play Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives of the guidelines are to bring inclusiveness and uniformity in all educational institutions providing pre-school education, to prevent violation of child rights and abuse against children.
Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution of India provides free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to 14 years. • 'Free education' means that no child shall be liable to pay any kind of fee or charges or expenses. • 'Compulsory education' means it is the responsibility of the appropriate Government and local authorities to provide free elementary education.
Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICPS brings together multiple existing child protection schemes of the Ministry under one comprehensive umbrella, and integrates additional interventions for protecting children and preventing harm. • The scheme set up a child protection data management system to formulate and implement effective intervention strategies and monitor their outcomes.
The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act is to prohibit solemnization of child marriage and connected and incidental matters
Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act was passed to stop female foeticide and control the declining sex ratio in the country. • The Act banned the use of sex selection techniques before and after conception

EVALUATE YOURSELF

- Q1.** Differentiate between wants and needs of a child. Being a child; describe what your needs are and how these needs are associated with rights.
- Q2.** What do you understand about the term 'Unmet needs of Child'? Observe your surroundings and on the basis of your observation; describe how unmet needs impact the development of children.

PRACTICE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Write a report on 'Government Policies and Plans' formulated for the welfare and development of children to ensure children's rights.