

1. DISCUSS THE CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA?

According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children – that India ratified in 1992 – all children are born with fundamental rights.

Right to Survival – to life, health, nutrition, name, nationality

Right to Development – to education, care, leisure, recreation, cultural activities

Right to Protection – from exploitation, abuse, neglect

Right to Participation – to expression, information, thought, religion.

The Constitutional provisions related to children in India are as follows.

Article-15 & 15(1): The State shall prohibit discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex. Nothing in this article prevents the State from making any special provision for women and children.

Article -21 A: The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age 6- 14years in such manner as the State may, by law determine.

Article-24: No child below the age of 14years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.

Article-39(f): Enjoins the State to ensure that 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.

Article-45: The State shall endeavor to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

Article-243 G: Provides for institutionalization of child care by seeking to entrust programmes of women and child development to Panchayat (item 25 of Schedule 11).

Despite the above measures, many a stone is left unturned to provide a conducive environment for the children in India to grow and flourish.