



Indian Academy of Pediatrics

The Indian Academy of Pediatrics was established in 1963, at Mumbai with a little more than 150 pediatricians as its members. In its Golden Jubilee year, 2013, there are over 23,000 members across the country. It has 26 State, 303 District and City level Branches. The Academy has promoted different specialties in the field of Pediatrics through its various Chapters. It has several subspecialty chapters, which have promoted availability of highly specialized care to children with complex and chronic problems.

For more information please log on to: www.iapindia.org

Problems of Child Abuse and Neglect and Child Labour (CANCL)

CANCL- related problems are diverse and enormous. The outstanding ones include exploitation (employment of children in various capacities while they should be in school), street children, child labour, physical and sexual abuse. A burgeoning population (26 million babies are born every year, a majority in underprivileged and economically weaker sections), poverty and illiteracy pose intractable challenges. Widespread malnutrition, lack of education and absence of a safe and stimulatory environment have an adverse influence on the health and development of the children in their most formative years. A lack of social concern and apathy are also to be blamed.

Indian Child Abuse and Neglect and Child Labour (ICANCL)

Indian Child Abuse and Neglect and Child Labour Group (ICANCL Group) is a nationally registered society (registration no. S-68745/2010). It was started in 1996 within the framework of Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP).

Recognizing the impact of socioeconomic, cultural and environmental factors on child health, development and overall welfare, ICANCL Group specifically focuses on comprehensive child welfare, child rights, abuse, neglect, exploitation and rehabilitation.

The ICANCL Group addresses the problems of Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) with a multidisciplinary approach with other agencies and community organizations interested in child welfare. The group has committed its efforts to reach out the neglected, deprived and abused children for their comprehensive needs, which include health aspects, education, rehabilitation, protection and prevention. Membership of ICANCL Group is open to people of all disciplines interested in the protection of children. Advocacy, information and sensitization are the crucial issues. The Group has held a number of national and regional conferences and publishes a quarterly newsletter highlighting its work and informing on ICANCL issues.

Our logo depicts a boy and a girl leaping out of the shackles of barbed wire that represents child abuse, neglect and child labour. The girl holds a book, signifying the right to education. The boy has a ball, signifying the right to play, to be a child! They leap up together, holding hands, indicating their right to a joyous, healthy childhood. The rising sun represents hope, light, and a new awakening.

Aims and Objectives of ICANCL Group

The Group realizes that the problems must be tackled at various fronts, jointly with other agencies and organizations interested in child welfare. Advocacy, information and sensitization are the crucial issues.

1. To advocate on children's behalf, inform and sensitize the community, formulate recommendations for welfare and protection of children, and demand rights of children.

2. To provide health care to the neglected, deprived, abused and exploited children and help in their protection and rehabilitation in cooperation and collaboration with various organizations and national and international agencies.
3. To work with news media and information agencies toward bringing about social awareness and attitudinal changes and seek community participation in child welfare activities.

ICANCL Group Membership and Donations

Membership of ICANCL group is open to people of all disciplines interested in protection of children. All members of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) can become Ordinary Life Members of the ICANCL Group and physicians who are not IAP members can become Associate Life members. Members of the community who are interested in child welfare and share the ICANCL Group objectives can become Affiliate Life members.

ICANCL Group has members from various disciplines and agencies working for child welfare chapters. It has branches in several states and large cities. It works closely with other national and international agencies towards advocacy and information, sensitization of civil society and increasing government and bureaucratic involvement in ensuring the rights and protects of children. ICANCL members, individually and in groups have done commendable work among underprivileged and deprived children. The Group has a sizable membership, but we need a much wider representation. It is realized that members would have variable amounts of time to devote to ICANCL related activities. The Group would, however, welcome the support and endorsement of all who share our deep concern for children and help us to fight for their rights, which we shall pursue more aggressively. Health care, education and protection are the rights of every child, which the concerned authorities must provide.

CANCL Movement

We as a society need to make a world that is safe for our children. This is a mammoth task given the background of the huge child population, high incidence of preventable and chronic conditions, poverty, problems of abuse, child trafficking, and socio-cultural attitudes. Nevertheless, we are determined to fight for children's rights and to obtain social justice and equity for all children, particularly in the areas of education and health care. We shall seek revision and framing of legal measures for child protection. We shall make every effort to educate and inform the community to bring about a change in all issues that are detrimental to child welfare and development. The ICANCL Group needs the support of all those who share our concern and commitments and are willing to help.

Indian Child Abuse, Neglect & Child Labour (ICANCL) group 2017-2018

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ICANCL Branches

The ICANCL Group has established several State and City Branches. It aims to have Branches in all States and major cities. These are supported by their respective State Chapters of the IAP. Networking and close liaison are maintained between various branches. The Group will increase its advocacy endeavors with the help of media persons and leaders in various fields. ICANCL State branches will determine specific activities.

Current Activities

ICANCL members would provide Health Care and other support to the needy children (abused, destitute, street children, employed in hazardous work) with the help of local NGOs. Plans for future include:

- a) **Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program:** Several members continue to serve weekly for the orphans, vulnerable and street children of Delhi through drop in centers, BUDS; an NGO. The program has benefited more than 40,000 street children since its inception in year 2000.

- b) IAP Presidential Plan on Child Abuse and Neglect:** It is the first time in the history of IAP that the president has included child abuse and neglect in its presidential plan 2018-2019. The plan envisages training of pediatricians and medical professionals to prevent and respond child abuse and neglect in all the five regional zones of the country. Pediatricians, doctors and allied health care professionals are often the first point of contact for abused and neglected children. They play a key role in detecting child abuse and neglect, and provide immediate and longer-term care and support to children. As guardians of health, it is incumbent upon the medical sector to urgently plan and manifest its efforts to address child abuse and neglect in Indian socio-economic scenarios and tackle the many entrenched problems.
- c) UNICEF partnership with ICANCL group on Child Abuse and Neglect: Prevention and Response by Pediatricians & Medical Professionals:** The aims and objectives of the project include: a) development of a curriculum to raise awareness & understanding for prevention and response to child abuse and neglect by pediatricians and allied medical professionals, b) development of a package of communications for parents and caregivers training of selected pediatricians and medical doctors and c) selected pediatricians and medical professionals.

A multidisciplinary expert committee has been constituted to guide the production of a scientific, evidence-based Standard Operating Protocol & training manual for prompt assessment, examination and management of victims of child abuse & neglect by pediatricians & medical professionals. The curriculum will also cover new legislations, including the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act (2015) & the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and the role of pediatricians and allied professionals in ensuring protection of victims of child abuse. *The curriculum will also be made available in e-format to facilitate wider dissemination.* Endorsement for this curriculum will be sought from the Ministries for Health and Family Welfare as well as Women and Child Development of the Government of India.

- d) Indian Child Protection Medical professional Network (ICPMPN):** The formation of Indian Child Protection Medical professional Network (ICPMPN) – a collaboration between ICANCL Group and the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC), Virginia, USA. *ICPMPN is being developed for a network of paediatricians and allied medical doctors from across India.* Doctors from a variety of disciplines, including Pediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, forensic medicine, community medicine and mental health shall be trained to increase accessibility and improve the quality of medical evaluations for suspected victims of Child Sexual Abuse(CSA) /Child Sexual Exploitation(CSE), in compliance with the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO), Act, 2012, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India and Guidelines & Protocols: Medico-legal care for survivors/victims of Sexual Violence, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India.
- e) International and National Conferences:** The ICANCL group organized the 9th ISPCAN Asia Pacific Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect (APCCAN) at New Delhi in 2011. The conference left a major legacy and an outcome document, *Delhi Declaration* which addressed the commitment of 600 delegates from 40 countries to advocate realization child rights and protection of children in the region. The ICANCL Group holds periodic national conferences (CANCL CON) all across the country in order to educate, train and update pediatricians and multidisciplinary professionals regarding the most recent developments & best practice models in child protection. In the recent past, successful conferences include: Wayanad, Kerala (2015) and Vadodara, Gujarat (2017). The upcoming CANCL CON at Guwahati, Assam (January 4-6, 2019) shall focus on the theme: *“Working Together with Child Protection and Development”*.

f) **Workshops Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Prevention & Response:** The ICANCL group continues to organize periodic academic workshops and symposiums to advocate themes to address child rights and protection. The following academic training workshops were held recently: a) Workshop on CSA at National Conference of Indian Academy of Pediatrics (PEDICON Jan 2018), Nagpur, Maharashtra; b) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Dean's Committee Room, May 2018 c) IAP Indore Workshop 2018 on Management of Child Sexual Abuse, August 2018.