iProbono INDIA

WELFARE OF CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

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The children of prisoners are the invisible victims of crime and the penal system. They have done no wrong, yet they suffer the stigma of criminality. Their rights to nurture are affected both by the criminal action of their parent and by the state's response to it in the name of justice.

Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People (Written Submission)

Source:
Collateral Convicts: Children of incarcerated parents
Recommendations and good practice from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of General Discussion 2011

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- CoIP - Children of Incarcerated Parents
- CWC - Child Welfare Committee
- CNCP - Child in Need of Care and Protection
- DCPO - District Child Protection Officer
- DSLSA - Delhi State Legal Services Authority
- HC - High Court
- IG Prison - Inspector General of Prison
- JJ Act, 2015 - Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
- JJ MR, 2016 - Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016
- NCPCR - National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- NHRC - National Human Rights Commission
- PHQ - Prison Head Quarter
- PIO - Public Information Officer
- RTI Act - Right to Information Act, 2005
- SC - Supreme Court
- SLSA - State Legal Services Authority
- SJPU - Special Juvenile Police Unit
- UT - Union Territory
- WCD - Women and Child Development
- WP - Writ Petition

Introduction

The act of imprisonment extends beyond the question of personal liberty, leading to disruption of familial bonds, economic stress, stigmatisation and isolation for the families of the incarcerated persons. Children of Incarcerated Parents (CoIPs) often become unintended victims of the judicial system.

Drawing from judicial precedents, academic literature and experiences of organisations working with this vulnerable group of children, CoIPs may be categorised as –

- Children inside prisons: A child up to six years, whether born inside or outside of prison, can be admitted with their mothers if there's no alternative care.
- Children outside prison: Children who are left outside of prison, either from the time of their parent's arrest or those who have transitioned out after reaching the age of six. These children could be living with the remaining parent, with other caregivers, in a Child Care Institution, or on their own as an only child household.

The number of children living inside prisons has been published annually by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) [1] . According to the Prison Statistics of India published in December 2023, 1318 women were accompanied by 1492 children inside prisons in India.

In 2006, the Supreme Court in R.D Upadhyay v. State of Andhra Pradesh & Ors. [2] laid down minimum standards for care provision of mothers and their children inside prison, marking it to be the first time these children were recognised as distinct stakeholders in justice delivery. The judgement laid down guidelines, including ensuring basic facilities for childbirth, prenatal and postnatal care. Some of the key guidelines include:

- Prisons must have basic facilities for childbirth, prenatal and postnatal care.
- Child living in jail should be a last resort after exhausting other safe custody options.
- Female prisoners can keep their children with them in jail until they reach the age of six.
- Children should then be handed over to suitable surrogates or sent to institutions, with weekly visitation rights.
- Children in jail are entitled to food, shelter, medical care, clothing, education, and recreational facilities.
- Prisons should have a crèche for children below the age of three and a nursery for children below the age of six.
- Separate provisions for food, clothing, and medical care for children in jails.
- Clean drinking water, separate utensils, clothing, and bed sheets for children.
- Regular health checks, vaccinations, and adequate, clean, and hygienic sleeping facilities.
- Children should be separated from offenders relating to violent crimes on a priority basis.
- Adequate arrangements for education and recreational programs for children in all jails.
- States should bear expenses for food, clothing, and medical care for children in jails.

[1] Sukhramani, Neelam & Gupta, Shivangi (2020). Children of Incarcerated Parents. Indian Pediatrics, 57(3), 199- 203. ISSN (Online): 0974-7559
[2] R.D Upadhyay v. State of Andhra Pradesh & Ors. Writ Petition (C) 559 of 1994

In contrast, no data is available on the number of children living outside prisons, and there is limited information on safeguards available for such children. Policies vary from state to state (in the few states where they do exist), with inconsistent applicability.

This report sheds lights on the legal and institutional safeguards available for CoIP, both at the national and state levels, particularly focusing on those living outside prison environments. It seeks to explore the extent to which these safeguards ensure the protection, welfare, and holistic development of CoIP, while also identifying gaps in policy and practice. Further, the study aims to assess the implementation of the landmark directions issued in the RD Upadhyay judgement, with special emphasis on the provision and functioning of crèches within prisons, as these facilities are vital to safeguarding the rights and developmental needs of children residing with their mothers in custodial settings. Finally, the research intends to investigate whether CoIP are adequately recognised as Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, thereby determining the extent to which the statutory framework acknowledges their vulnerabilities and provides for their rehabilitation and support.

Children of incarcerated parents continue to be a largely misunderstood and yet, a very vulnerable group. The extensive discourse on the possibility of their culpability without evidence to support the same, has driven attention away from the fact that their childhood needs to be protected and that their entitlements cannot be denied by virtue of their parent's alleged involvement in offending behavior.

Sukhramani and Gupta, 2020

Aren't CoIP CNCP too?

The definition of **Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP)** [3] has continuously evolved since the initial Juvenile Justice Act of 1986. Section 2(14) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act of 2015 lists the various vulnerabilities due to which a child may be at risk, and can be declared to be a CNCP by the CWC. The JJ Act and corresponding Rules lay out the protections to be afforded to these CNCP by the child protection ecosystem, comprising CWCs, District Child Protection Units, NGOs, and shelter homes. These entities are to work collaboratively to ensure their rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration, as well as protecting their emotional wellbeing, education, health, etc.

CoIP have never been explicitly acknowledged by law as a subcategory under CNCP. They could be declared CNCP by the CWC if their parent "is found to be unfit or incapacitated, by the Committee or the Board, to care for and protect the safety and well-being of the child", or if they were found to be vulnerable or at risk under any of the other clauses. However, the incarceration of their parents is not listed as a reason for their recognition as CNCP in the JJ Act.

From a policy lens, CoIP were recognised as "children in difficult circumstances" till 2020. **The National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC), 2005** offered one of the most comprehensive recognitions of CoIP as a distinct vulnerable group. It placed them within the broader category of "children in difficult circumstances," alongside street children, orphans, and children of sex workers. The plan explicitly called for special interventions tailored to CoIP, emphasising their survival, development, protection, and participation rights. It also outlined strategic commitments to ensure access to protective services and mandated sensitisation and training of service providers who engage with these children. This early framework demonstrated a clear intent to mainstream CoIP within national child protection priorities.

Additionally, the **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)**, 2009-10 explicitly listed COIP among the categories of children eligible for preventive, statutory, and rehabilitative services. Importantly, the scheme encouraged state governments to initiate innovative, need-based interventions tailored to district-specific vulnerabilities. This included pilot programs for CoIP, recognising that their needs may not be fully addressed by existing schemes. The ICPS also provided a general grant-in-aid fund to support such initiatives, allowing for creative and context-sensitive responses.

NPAC 2016 continued to recognise CoIP among children requiring special protection due to their socio-economic and geopolitical vulnerabilities. It expanded the scope of state responsibility by mandating the tracking, rescue, rehabilitation, and educational inclusion of CoIP. The plan urged the state to secure their rights and entitlements, especially in contexts of displacement, civil unrest, and social exclusion. However, unlike the 2005 version, the 2016 framework introduced a degree of discretion. Implementation was contingent on the judgment of the CWCs and DCPUs.

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[3] Section 2(14) "child in need of care and protection" means a child —
(i) who is found without any home or settled place of abode and without any ostensible means of subsistence; or ...
(v) who has a parent or guardian and such parent or guardian is found to be unfit or incapacitated, by the Committee or the Board, to care for and protect the safety and well-being of the child; or
[(vi) who does not have parents and no one is willing to take care of and protect or who is abandoned or surrendered;]
(ix) who is found vulnerable and [has been or is being or is likely to be] inducted into drug abuse or trafficking; or ...

The ICPS, later called Child Protection Services (CPS), was subsumed under **Mission Vatsalya** which was introduced in 2021.

Mission Vatsalya marks a shift toward non-institutional care with limited mention of CoIP. The only direct recognition of CoIP in the scheme is in the proposal to establish Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) near or within jail premises to care for young children of incarcerated parents. CoIP may also be considered for sponsorship support under discretionary criteria, such as when parents are incapacitated, but this is not guaranteed.

Compared to earlier frameworks, Mission Vatsalya offers a more constrained and conditional approach, lacking the strategic emphasis and flexibility seen in ICPS or NPAC 2005.

Objectives

It is in this backdrop that the present study is undertaken, with the intent to:

- Explore national and state-specific safeguards available for CoIP living outside prisons.
- Examine the implementation of the directions of the RD Upadhyay judgement, specifically with respect to the availability of crèches inside prisons.
- Assess if CoIP are also recognised as CNCP under the JJ Act, 2015.

Methodology

The report relies on data obtained under Section 6 of the RTI Act. In addition to the RTI responses, we have drawn upon available academic literature, published government schemes, and the Prison Statistics of India. These schemes have been analysed in detail, to examine their design, implementation, and impact on CoIP living outside prison settings. Between December 2023 and March 2025, 32 RTI applications were filed across 10 states and one union territory. A summary of the RTI applications is enclosed as Annexures A to E.

The RTI applications were filed in 10 states and one union territory.

- The original intention was to file RTI applications in states which have a scheme dedicated to CoIPs, i.e., Delhi, Odisha, Kerala. Applications were also filed in states having sponsorship schemes for vulnerable children which also include CoIP, i.e. Rajasthan & Maharashtra.
- To make the data sample representative, i.e., one state each from Northern, Southern, Western and Eastern part of the country, including the national capital. Applications were therefore made in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (applications were made in both the states to prevent data inadequacy post division of the state) and West Bengal respectively.
- Two states with a higher population of women prisoners were also considered i.e., Bihar and Assam.
- Applications were filed before:
    - Prison Headquarters of the concerned states to enquire about the creche infrastructure and number of women and children living inside prisons, except for Uttar Pradesh, where applications were filed in Nari Bandi Niketan, Lucknow after efforts to procure data from the Prison Headquarters were unsuccessful;
    - Concerned departments of the state governments with a dedicated scheme (if applicable) for CoIPs, i.e., Department of Women and Child Development or Department of Social Justice/Empowerment, except for New Delhi, where applications were filed in each Child Welfare Committee (CWC) once efforts to procure data from the Department of Women and Child Development were unsuccessful and;
    - Relevant central institutions - National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and National Commission for Women (NCW).

Challenges in Obtaining Information

On analysing this data, we observed the following:

- Some responses provided complete information, others offered partial data limited to select prisons, some misinterpreted the questions and provided irrelevant data, some requested additional fees, and several declined to share information citing various grounds—such as non-availability of data with the concerned prison or exemptions under Section 8 of the RTI Act. Consequently, data from certain jurisdictions remains incomplete.
- In some states, the RTI applications were forwarded to multiple departments, underscoring the absence of a designated nodal authority for CoIP. For instance, although applications were made to the state headquarters of the concerned department, it was forwarded to each jail and district individually. Not all jails and districts sent a reply. As a result, the data received from states other than Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra is fragmented.
- The number of children of each prisoner was not maintained by prison authorities despite the provision in their concerned prison manual in some states and hence exact number of CoIP could not be gauged.
- Of the 11 states reviewed, five have dedicated schemes for CoIPs. Interestingly, these states also provided the most coherent and comprehensive data. However, data on the exact number of beneficiaries of these schemes was not maintained.

A few observations on contentious responses -

- Rajasthan had initially rejected our RTI stating that the data is not maintained by them in the format in which the request has been made. Fresh applications were then filed requesting them to provide the requested information in any format that may be available with them.
- Uttar Pradesh Prisons rejected our RTI application stating that data requested through the RTI is voluminous and would require additional resources and time, which was not possible for them. We were asked to send applications individually to each prison of the State, of which there are 71, to get the desired response. Consequently, an individual online RTI application was filed before the Nari Bandi Niketan, Lucknow to obtain information on women prisoners and their children in Uttar Pradesh.
- First appeals were filed before the Appellate Authority of 7 States (2 Prisons authorities and 6* WCD/SJE/CWC).

*In Telangana, the first appeal was filed before the prison and WCD)

- States like Odisha and Assam sent notices asking us to appear in-person for the hearing. These notices, sent through registered speed post, were received either on the same day or a day prior to such hearings. Consequently, it was not possible to appear for these hearings.
- The information received on the number of beneficiaries under the state schemes does not clarify how many children in each year were carried forward from previous years. This was evident in some districts, where children's names were erroneously provided, and were being counted as beneficiaries repeatedly for each year in which data was sought.

INFRASTRUCTURE INSIDE PRISONS

Availability of creche, anganwadi, nursery inside prisons

- This section highlights the existence of physical infrastructure available for CoIPs inside the prisons, specifically the availability of creches/nursery/Anganwadis.

- RTI data received from the concerned State Prison Headquarters has been utilised. The data sought pertained to the number of female prisoners in the prison, the number of children (if any) accompanying them, and the existence of creche/nursery/Anganwadi facilities.

DELHI

Delhi has two jails where women are lodged i.e., Tihar (Jail No. 6) and Mandoli (Jail No. 16). Creches were available in both these prisons as per the RTI responses. The trend of the population of women with children in these prisons is as follows:

Year	Women Prisoners	Children
2020	28	28
2021	39	45
2022	47	59
2023	36	42

ODISHA

Among the 20 prisons that responded to RTI applications, **only 2 reported having creches. In the remaining prisons where creches were not available, there were still at least 49 children living with their mothers**, highlighting the severe lack of childcare facilities in prisons.

Despite specific directions in R.D. Upadhyay vs State of A.P. (2006), children continue to live in sub-jails without adequate facilities. The trend of the population of women with children in these prisons is as follows:

Year	Women Prisoners	Children
2020	114	121
2021	83	89
2022	127	131
2023	76	90

MAHARASHTRA

It has a total of 64 prisons, comprising 9 central jails, 28 district jails, 4 sub-jails, 1 women's jail, 1 borstal school, 19 open jails, 1 special jail, and 1 other jail. Across Maharashtra's 64 prisons, there are 1,594 women prisoners in total, comprising both convicts and undertrials.

The trend of the population of women with children in these prisons is as follows:

Year	Women Prisoners	Children
2020	113	130
2021	133	147
2022	128	141
2023	173	202

The state's only women's jail has a sanctioned capacity of 262 prisoners but currently houses 343 women, resulting in an occupancy rate of 130.9%. Overcrowding severely affects children living in prisons by restricting space, nutrition, and healthcare, leading to poor physical and emotional development.

In their response, the Prison department stated that creches are available inside prisons but did not specify the name or number of such prisons. *As per the data and information published through research articles and papers, Anganwadis under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) have been established in 7 prisons of the state.*

TELANGANA

No data is available for Telengana. A response was only received after a first appeal was filed, that too only from Central Prison in Hyderabad. The response to each question was "NA".

RAJASTHAN

There are 156 prisons in Rajasthan including 7 Women Reformatories. Responses were received from Jaipur Prisons only, wherein data was provided by Central Jail, District Jail, Special and High Security Jail, Sub Jail and Women Reformatory in Jaipur.

Only Central Jail, Jaipur provided a consolidated figure: 38 children with women prisoners till March 2024. For other prisons, this data is marked as NA, reflecting either non-availability or lack of systematic tracking. Across all five prisons, the column for Creche, Nursery, Anganwadi is marked as NA.

Year	Women Prisoners	Children
2020	39	Consolidated response: 38 children with women prisoners till March 2024
2021	36	
2022	53	
2023	31	

ANDHRA PRADESH

Responses were received from 6 prisons out of which only 2 prisons provided a detailed response while the other 4 provided consolidated figures. Data received from the 2 prisons is presented in the table herewith:

Both these prisons - Central Jail and Special Prison for Women in Guntur, have creches.

Year	Women Prisoners	Children
2020	20	13
2021	12	18
2022	8	17
2023	16	11

KERALA

Responses were received from 64 prisons of the State. Female prisoners are lodged in only 15 prisons while the remaining house only male prisoners.

According to the Kerala Prison Rules, creche/Anganwadi is available only for children of convicted female prisoners. Such facility is available in 3 Woman Prison & Correctional Homes in Kannur, Thiruvananthapuram and Viyyur (Thrissur). Other prisons either reported "NA" or explicitly stated that these facilities were not present.

Year	Women Prisoners	Children
2020	273	11
2021	263	10
2022	276	24
2023	284	18

ASSAM

Responses were received from 22 out of the total 33 prisons of the State.

13 out of 22 jails have some form of creche or Anganwadi. District Jail, Karimganj reports **5 children (0–6 years) living with male inmates** which is an unusual and critical data point.

Year	Women Prisoners	Children
2020	29	49
2021	28	66
2022	53	84
2023	30	67

UTTAR PRADESH

Initially, the state had refused to give information, stating that the data is voluminous. A separate application was filed with Nari Bandi Niketan, Lucknow (the prison with the highest population of female prisoners) after which the following information was provided. A creche is also available in the said prison.
It was not logistically possible to file RTIs with each of the 70+ prisons in Uttar Pradesh.

Year	Number of Children
2020	9
2021	5
2022	2
2023	3

WEST BENGAL

No response was received from West Bengal despite filing a first appeal.

OTHER RESPONSES

In their responses **regarding number of male and female prisoners having children in the age groups of 0–6 years and 7–18 years,** prisons of all states provided inaccurate responses. Some provided the same numbers of children living with their mothers inside the prisons, while others either skipped that question or responded that such data is not maintained by the prison authorities.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR COIP

(Specific schemes for CoIP or broader schemes for vulnerable children)

This section highlights the social safety provisions available to CoIPs. In doing so the section encompasses the following:

- State-specific schemes applicable to CoIPs.
- RTI data from the relevant Department of the state government which is responsible for the scheme implementation (if mentioned), and/or the Department of the state government which is responsible for the welfare of children.
- It highlights the budgetary allocation, number of beneficiaries, etc.

Delhi

Scheme for Financial Sustenance, Education & Welfare of Children of Incarcerated Parents, 2014 (Issued by Government of NCT of Delhi | No. F. 61 (758)/DD (CPU)/DWCD/2014/6537-568)

In Birndavan Sharma vs State (NCT Of Delhi) (August 2007) [4], *the High Court of Delhi directed the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Women and Child Development to frame a scheme and ensure provision of appropriate funds for the education and welfare of children of incarcerated persons.*
The Scheme for Financial Sustenance, Education & Welfare of Children of Incarcerated Parents was formulated by the WCD in 2014.

Support Measures Offered

Children whose parent(s) are in jail are referred to as 'Children of Incarcerated Parents (COIP)" are entitled to:

- Monthly financial assistance:
  - 1 child → ₹3,500 per month
  - 2 children → ₹3,500 + ₹3,000 = ₹6,500 per month
  - 3 or more children → No additional financial support is provided. ₹6,500 per month is to be shared among all children.
- Educational support:
  - Admission to nearest Government/Aided school with full entitlements in addition to other schemes (for whichever schemes the child may be eligible);
  - If already enrolled in a private school, then full waiver of tuition fees or any other such charge by the school authorities;
  - Free books, uniform, copies, etc. in private schools under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category benefits.
- Protection & welfare:
  - Safe and comfortable living arrangements, with first priority given to the child's own home and family, then to relatives, and only as a last resort in an institution.
  - Counselling to the child's caretaker (family/relatives) to provide care and emotional support to the child so the child does not feel neglected or depressed due to a parent's imprisonment.
  - Regular medical care, nutrition, and psychological support.

Eligibility

- Child is below 18 years.
- Only surviving parent or both parents are in jail.
- Parent(s) ordinarily lived in Delhi for the last 5 years.
- Parent(s)' incarceration must be at least 30 days.
- Parent(s)' total annual income should not exceed ₹2,00,000.
- Child must not be in a fit institution.
- Children aged 5–18 years must be enrolled in school; if not, must be admitted within 6 months of receiving benefits.

[4] Birndavan Sharma vs State (NCT Of Delhi) (August 2007)

Procedure to Make an Application

Who can make an application?
The application can be filed by the child herself, the child's parent, the child's guardian, or a fit person appointed by the Child Welfare Committee.

Where can an application be made?
It can be made at the:

- Prison Welfare Services Office in jails, run by the Chief Probation Officer.
- Legal Services Clinics run by the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA) or Delhi Legal Services Authority (DLSAs), either in jails or other places in Delhi;
- The court where the parent's trial is ongoing.

Note: Applications received at places other than the Prison Welfare Services office will be promptly sent there to collect necessary information from the incarcerated parent.

Documents required:

- Copy of remand or conviction order of the parent;
- Proof of residence in Delhi for the last 5 years, such as: (any one document)
  - Voter ID
  - Ration Card
  - Electricity Bill
  - Water Bill
  - Aadhaar Card
  - Rent Agreement (if applicable);
- Bank account details in the child's name, operated by the guardian or a fit person.
- Undertaking stating that the financial assistance will be used solely for the child

Procedure to Dispose an Application & Revocation

- Prison Welfare Officer collects information from incarcerated parent and forwards to Child Welfare Committee (CWC) within 2 days.
- CWC calls for a Home Study Report within 3 working days; report must be submitted within 1 week.
- Application to be disposed of within 15 days.
- If financial help is required, CWC refers to Chief Probation Officer, who finalises assistance.
- Disbursement is done monthly through ECS directly into the child's account.

Revocation of Assistance if:

- Parent is released.
- Child turns 18 years.
- Financial aid is misused.
- Family changes residence/school without informing authorities.
- Child avails another similar monthly assistance scheme.
- Child engages in criminal activity.

Analysis of data received regarding this scheme

- Among the six CWCs that responded out of total ten, an average of less than 5 applications were received in every district.
- In 2023, a total of 30 applications were received across these six CWCs, of which 24 were disposed of, and 14 CoIPs were placed in institutional care. However, it remains unclear whether all 24 disposed cases correspond to children who received benefits under the scheme. In 2022, these six CWCs collectively reported receiving a total of 40 applications under the scheme. The number of applications has gone down from 2019.
- Over the past years an average of less than 30 applications were received yearly under the scheme.

Financial Year	Budget Allocation	Expenditure (in Rs.)	Beneficiaries
2019-20	3,000,000	18,35,500/-	56
2020-21	3,000,000	15,91,500/-	61
2021-22	3,000,000	16,86,000/-	54
2022-23	2,800,000	22,96,500/-	73
2023-24	3,200,000	27,06,000/-	93
2024-25	3,500,000	20,19,500/-	61

Data received through RTI. (See Annexure D)

The exclusionary criteria of the scheme is being projected through the number of beneficiaries which is too small a number for Delhi. The number of beneficiaries and the actual expenditure has significantly fluctuated after 2022.

Note: In iProbono India's interactions with organisations working with CoIP, it was found that neither the organisations nor their beneficiaries were aware of the existence of any such scheme. This indicates a significant information and outreach gap in the scheme's implementation.
For instance, an organisation which works extensively with CoIP in Delhi, reported that between 2024–25, they supported approximately 300 children across their programmes, none of whom have received any benefits under the scheme.
Most of them being ineligible, yet vulnerable.

ODISHA

Guidelines for Welfare of Children of Incarcerated Parent (Issued by Government of Odisha | WCD-CW-CASE-0003-2022/01/2022 dated 22.03.2022)

In Krishna Prasad Sahoo v. State of Odisha & Ors. (2014 Orissa High Court) [5] *, the High Court of Odisha directed the Home Secretary as well as the DG (Prisons) to prepare a scheme for children of prisoners in Odisha.*
The Guidelines for Welfare of Children of Incarcerated Parent was formulated by the WCD in 2022.

Support Measures Offered

Children whose parent(s) are in jail are referred to as 'Children of Incarcerated Parents (COIP)" are entitled to:

- For children residing inside jail (0–6 years):
  - Access to ICDS benefits: supplementary nutrition, immunisation, early childhood education.
  - Anganwadi Centres (AWCs): Nodal AWCs near prisons will serve these children; temporary AWCs may be set up if needed.
  - Counselling services : Facilitated by District Child Protection Units (DCPU).
  - On turning 6, children may be placed with a guardian or referred to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for rehabilitation.

- For children of incarcerated parents residing outside jail:
  - If declared Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) by CWC:
  - Linked to non-institutional care schemes : Sponsorship, Biju Sishu Surakhya Yojana (BSSY), foster care.
  - May be placed in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) if necessary.
  - Eligible for support from Juvenile Justice Fund in exceptional cases.
  - Continued education in government institutions is supported.
  - Monthly communication with incarcerated parent facilitated by jail administration.

Eligibility

- Children inside jail (0–6 years): Automatically eligible for ICDS benefits.
- Children outside jail:
- Parent(s) must be incarcerated for at least 60 days .
- Must be declared CNCP by CWC under Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
- Children aged 6–14 must attend school; caregivers must give an undertaking if not yet enrolled.
- Priority to Odisha residents.

[5] Krishna Prasad Sahoo v. State of Odisha & Ors. (2014 Orissa High Court)

Procedure to Make an Application

For children inside jail:

- Jail administration shares quarterly data with the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO).
- Coordinates with Chief District Medical Officer and DCPU for mental health services.

For children outside jail:

- Police/jail officials assess care arrangements and inform DCPU/CHILDLINE.
- The child is produced before CWC within 24 hours.
- CWC initiates Social Investigation Report (SIR) via DCPU.
- CWC disposes of the case within 15 days and issues rehabilitation orders.
- If eligible for financial aid, DCPO ensures disbursement within one month .
- DCPU conducts follow-ups and coordinates stakeholder meetings.

Documents Required

While the document doesn't list a fixed set of documents, the process implies the following:

- Proof of incarceration (minimum 60 days).
- Child's age and identity documents (for ICDS and school enrollment).
- CWC declaration of CNCP status.
- Undertaking from caregiver for school enrollment (if applicable).
- Bank details for financial support (handled by DCPO).
- Social Investigation Report initiated by DCPU.

Analysis of data received regarding this scheme

Out of the 31 Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) across the state, 19 responded to the information requests regarding applications under the scheme.

- In these 19 CWCs, the total number of applications showed significant fluctuation over the three years. In 2022, 486 applications were received, which rose sharply to 823 in 2023, representing a substantial increase. However, in 2024, the number of applications dropped by 84%, falling to just 131, signaling a sharp decline in the uptake or reporting of the scheme.
- CWC Nabarangpur has consistently contributed a disproportionate share of applications. In 2024, it accounted for 78% of the total applications, slightly lower than its 85% share in 2023 and 87% in 2022. This indicates that while overall applications have fluctuated, Nabarangpur remains the primary contributor to the scheme's application pool.
- Most other districts reported only sporadic or one-off applications, suggesting limited awareness, access, or utilisation of the scheme outside of Nabarangpur. This uneven distribution highlights potential gaps in outreach and implementation across districts.

Note: *Our research team received calls from some of the CWCs in Odisha, who were unfamiliar with the existence of such scheme and sought clarity from us regarding the scheme for which data is sought. Which shows, lack of information among the key stakeholders who are responsible for implementation of the scheme.*

RAJASTHAN

Palanhar Yojana
(Issued by Government of Rajasthan | Order No. F15(3)(1) / Social Justice and Empowerment / 2022 / 35992 dated 28.10.2022)

Support Measures Offered

Children whose both parents have been sentenced to death or life imprisonment, or one parent has died and the other has been sentenced to death or life imprisonment. The scheme promotes family-based care by providing assistance through a Palanhar (caregiver) with whom the child/ren is/are living. Under the scheme, the following monthly grant will be provided to the Palanhar (caregiver) for the care, upbringing, and education of the children:

- Monthly financial assistance (for children of prisoners): Children aged 0–6 years: ₹500 and for those aged 6–18 years: ₹1000.
- Educational support: Additional annual lump sum of ₹2000 → for books/stationery, clothing, sweaters, shoes, etc.1 child → ₹3,500 per month
- Responsibilities of the Palanhar
  - The Palanhar must provide a nurturing, family-like home with love, care, and basic facilities, treating the child as their own. They must ensure the child's safety, education, and holistic development, free from any unethical or inhumane practices.
  - Informing the District Officer/Block Social Security Officer, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment regarding change of residence.
  - Submit an annual certificate proving the child's enrollment in an Anganwadi center or school.

If the Palanhar fails to provide a family-like environment, does not treat the child with love and care, or is found to involve the child in inhumane or unethical activities, then based on an investigation by the District Officer/Social Security Officer, the Palanhar can be replaced.

Eligibility

- The child should be below 18 years; however, if the child completes 18 years before reaching or while studying in class 12 or below, they may continue to receive benefits until the age of 19.
- Palanhar must be a permanent resident of Rajasthan, or must be residing in the State for at least 3 years.
- The annual income of the Palanhar family should not exceed ₹1.20 lakh.
- Registration at an Anganwadi center or pre-primary school is mandatory for children aged 3–6 years.
- Admission in a school/college/vocational or technical institution is mandatory for children aged 6–18 years. Upon completion of six years of age, school enrollment is compulsory.

Procedure to Make an Application

- Applications must be submitted online through the Palanhar portal.
- If documents are already verified via Jan Aadhaar or related portals, separate submission isn't needed. Any missing documents must be uploaded during application through the e-Mitra kiosk
- Verification of educational status of children will be done by matching their Aadhaar numbers on the Shala Darpan portal. Where this is not possible, supporting documents must be submitted.

Documents Required

- A copy of the court's sentencing order;
- Proof of permanent residence in Rajasthan (for at least three years)
- Proof of date of birth uploaded on the appropriate portal.
- No mode of payment is specified in the scheme/ does not even say from where payment will be received.
- A certificate issued annually by a competent authority confirming the child's enrollment in an Anganwadi /educational/vocational/technical institution.

Procedure to Dispose an Application & Revocation

- Online applications must be approved within 30 days by the Approving Officer, failing which they are deemed approved; incorrect approvals are the officer's responsibility. Payment approval must be issued within 15 days, else a payment approval number is auto-generated.
- Bills must be generated within 15 days; delays despite budget availability trigger a Directorate alert and Show Cause notice, with regeneration allowed only upon permission.
- All approved bills must be processed and payments completed by the second week of each month.

Revocation of Assistance if:

- The child turns 19 years old or has passed class 12th, whichever occurs earlier.
- The Palanhar become ineligible due to entering government service; increase in annual income; death of the Palanhar or the child.
- If a child is residing in a government/recognized residential school or hostel, where they receive free accommodation, meals, clothing, and education/training.

Analysis of data received regarding this scheme

- Responses were received from the Department of Child Rights (DCR). 528 applications were received out of which 414 were disposed of, and all were provided the benefit of the scheme through placement in foster care, which is the primary requirement of the scheme.
- 6 applications were received by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dholpur in 2019 and 2020 and NIL applications were received from 2021-2023, while 12 applications were disposed of in these two years.
- Responses were also received from the DCR, Chittorgarh, District Child Protection Unit, Kota and CWC, Jaipur who did not receive or dispose of any applications during the period. However, 7, 5 and 23 CoIP were placed in institutional care by the respective agencies.
- NIL and NA responses were received from DCR at Sriganganagar,Tonk and Dausa, and DCPUs at Karoli, Churu, Hanumangarh and Jaisalmer.

MAHARASHTRA

Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Bal Sangopan Yojana
(Issued by Government of Maharashtra | BalSan-2021/Pr.Kr.76/Ka-8, dated 17/02/2023)

Support Measures Offered

Monthly Financial Support:

- Monthly nutrition grant: ₹2,250 per child - This funding must be used through families for food, clothing, shelter, education, medical facilities, and other necessities for the child.
- Assistance grant for voluntary organisations: ₹250 per child (for salaries, case management, home visits, administrative costs).

The monthly grant is intended to meet all the child's basic needs, including nutrition, education (school fees, books, uniforms), clothing, shelter, and medical care.

If the approval order for scheme benefits is issued on or before the 15th of the month, the beneficiary will receive benefits from the 1st of that month. If the approval order is issued after the 15th, benefits will be provided from the 1st of the following month.
Legal & Procedural Assistance: Guidance from Child Welfare Committees (CWC) for benefits, hearings, and dispute resolution.

Eligibility

At the time of application, the child must be at least six months below 18; otherwise, the application will not be accepted.Children whose parents are serving a life sentence in prison will receive benefits until 6 months after the parent is released, or until the child turns 18, whichever comes first. whichever comes first. The Child Welfare Committee should make a decision based on evidence by reviewing the social investigation reports.

Procedure to make an application

Application for availing the benefits under the scheme can be submitted to any of the following:

- Anganwadi workers
- District Women and Child Development Officer
- Child Development Project Officers (Urban, Rural, Tribal)
- District Program Officer of Zilla Parishad;
- Gram, Taluka, and Ward Child Protection Committees,
- Voluntary organisations and Child Protection Units check applications and send them to the District Women and Child Development Officer (DWCDO).

Steps After Application Submission

- DWCDO forwards application to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) within 8 days. CWC issues home visit order within 8 days.
- Home visit/social inquiry is done within 8 days by: Social workers from voluntary organisations/DCPU with help from Anganwadi workers, supervisors, One Stop Centre, Abhay Kendra, MSW students, probation officers, counsellors, and Childline workers.
- Report submitted to CWC. CWC reviews the complete proposal. Home visit and social investigation report of the beneficiaries. If the child needs care and protection, CWC recommends benefits and sends it to DWCDO.
- DWCDO issues approval order (4 copies: CWC, DWCDO, family, voluntary organisation).

Follow-up and Monitoring

- Every 3 months: Social workers must visit the home, check on child's physical, mental, educational progress, and submit a report to DWCDO.
- After 3 months of starting benefits: Another visit is done to guide the family about other government schemes (Mission Vatsalya) and help with economic support.
- Every June: CWC reviews and extends scheme benefits yearly, based on the child's education and bonafide certificates.

Documents required

- Residence certificate issued by Talathi / Gram Sevak / Municipal Councillor / Sarpanch
- Photocopy of Aadhar card of child and parent
- Annual income certificate issued by Talathi / Tahsildar confirming income below ₹2.5 lakh
- Death certificate of either or both parents
- Photograph of the child with parents outside the house
- Birth certificate or school leaving certificate; if delayed, previous class mark sheet or bonafide certificate
- Bank account number and photocopy of passbook (joint account of child and parent)
- Affidavit of guardianship if a guardian or relative applies instead of parent
- Education proof for children aged 3–18 (school mark sheet or bonafide certificate)
- Social assessment report proving guardian is not addicted to substances
- Documents related to parent's incarceration

Role of voluntary organisations

Voluntary organisations can also play a key role in supporting children and families under the scheme by identifying eligible children, facilitating care, and monitoring their well-being. These organisations receive financial assistance under the scheme, including ₹250 per child to cover salaries for two social workers and one data entry operator, administrative expenses, travel for home visits, and other costs related to supporting children and families. They are responsible for using these funds to ensure proper care, maintain records, and help families access other government benefits.

Under the scheme, they can:

- Identify eligible children through surveys and community outreach
- Prepare and submit complete beneficiary proposals to the District Women and Child Development (DWCD) Officer for approval
- Assist in finding and guiding foster families for children under care
- Conduct home visits for children and their families at least once every three months
- Prepare and submit social assessment reports on the child's familial, physical, mental, and educational progress to the DWCD Officer
- Maintain digitised records of all child-related proposals, assessments, and documentation, and make them available to DWCD officers or the government upon request
- Ensure the salaries of two social workers and one data entry operator are paid regularly, as per minimum wage laws
- Facilitate access to other government schemes and programs under Mission Vatsalya for economic empowerment of the child's family
- Monitor the overall well-being of children, including care, protection, education, and health, ensuring the objectives of the scheme are fully implemented

Analysis of data received regarding this scheme

- Out of 39 Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) in Maharashtra, we received responses from 16 CWCs. In these 16 CWCs a total of 258 applications were received in 2023.
- 189 applications were received in 2019; 235 in 2020; 244 in 2021; 238 in 2022; and 260 in 2023. Each of the 16 CWCs received an average of about 15 applications per year.

Note: During iProbono India's conversations with social workers assisting CoIP in accessing this scheme, it emerged that the documentation requirements are so burdensome that many families abandon the process before they can avail the scheme's benefits

KERALA

Educational Assistance To Children Of Prisoners
(Issued by Government of Kerala | G.O (Rt) No. 323/2017/SJD Dated: 30.05.2017)

Support Measures Offered

This is a scheme to provide educational financial assistance to the children of BPL prisoners. The amount will be allocated for the expenses of the children such as food, clothing, school fees etc.

Monthly financial assistance:

- Rs. 300/- for children studying in class 1 to class 5.
- Rs. 500/- for children in class 6 to class 10.
- Rs. 750/- for children studying in classes +1, +2.
- Rs. 1000/- for children studying degree and professional courses.

Eligibility

- Child is below 18 years.
- The applicant should be a native and resident of Kerala State.
- The applicants should be from Below Poverty Line (BPL) category.
- The applicants should be studying in Class- I to Degree/Professional Course.
- The applicants (Children of Prisoners) whose parents are in jail are eligible to apply under the scheme. [However, the prescribed format specifies "prisoner serving a sentence"]
- Financial aid can be provided to the children even though the relatives who are liable to protect them and falls under APL category, provided both the parents are in jail, For that an enquiry report of District Probation Officer is essential.

Procedure to make an application

Online: The applicant needs to register on the SUNEETHI- Online Service Application Portal and enter the required information.

Offline

- The application is to be made in the prescribed format. The forms are available for download on the Suneethi Portal: (i) Jail Superintendent's Certificate , (ii) Certificate from the head of the school/college/institution
- The application form should be submitted through the Jail Superintendent along with the recommendation.
- Financial aid is disbursed through Jail Superintendent which is approved by the Director of Social Justice. **The amount is directly transferred to the bank account of the beneficiaries.**

Who can make an application?

The application can be made by the child or any person on behalf of the child.

Where can an application be made?

Applications can be made online through the SUNEETHI- Online Service Application Portal OR; Applications can be made before the Jail Superintendent.

Documents required:

- Copy of Aadhaar card
- Mobile number
- Email ID
- Passport size photo
- Copy of Ration Card (Submit the page containing the name of the ration card holder and the page containing the family members together)
- Certificate from the school attended by the student (in the prescribed format)
- Affidavit of Jail Superintendent (in the prescribed format)
- Bank details: Copy of Passbook

Procedure to Dispose an Application & Revocation

The Jail Superintendent makes the recommendation to the Director of Social Justice.
The procedure of disposal of the online applications filed through the Suneethi portal has not been specified.

Revocation of Assistance if
Conditions in which benefits of the scheme may be revoked have not been specified in the scheme or the Suneethi portal.

Analysis of data received regarding this scheme

- Response was received from the Department of Social Justice, Thiruvanathapuram.
- In 2022, only 161 of 235 applications were disposed of, and in 2023, 178 of 210 were processed (as on 26.03.2024)
- For the years 2021 and 2020, 161 and 200 applications were disposed of respectively. However, information regarding the number of applications received during this period is not available at the concerned office.

Educational Assistance to Children of Prisoners | Kerala e-Services Dashboard

Counts shown here are cumulative from 01-04-2022.

District	Applications	Approved	Processing / Pending	Rejected / Returned	Disposal %
ALAPPUZHA	54	48	0	6	100%
ERNAKULAM	48	41	1	6	97.92%
IDUKKI	15	12	0	3	100%
KANNUR	46	37	0	9	100%
KASARGOD	46	40	3	3	93.48%
KOLLAM	44	37	0	2	88.64%
KOTTAYAM	29	21	0	8	100%
KOZHIKODE	51	33	8	10	84.31%
MALAPPURAM	55	48	1	6	98.18%
PALAKKAD	51	33	5	13	90.2%
PATHANAMTHITTA	6	6	0	0	100%
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM	98	72	4	22	95.92%
THRISSUR	69	55	4	10	94.2%
WAYANAD	18	15	0	3	100%

Source: Government of Kerala | e-services dashboard | Social Justice Department

RECOGNITION OF COIP AS CNCP

This section highlights the existing state-specific child protection practices.

- It tries to gauge if CoIPs are recognised as CNCPs by the child protection mechanism.
- The section utilises RTI data from the concerned Child Welfare Committees, and/or Department of the state government which is responsible for the welfare of children.
- It highlights the number of CoIPs produced before such authorities and, in turn, how many of them are recognised as CNCP.

Delhi

As per the RTI data received, 4 out of 10 CWCs responded.
Across these four CWCs:

- 104 children were produced before the CWC where either one or both parents were in prison at the time of production.
- All 104 children were declared CNCPs under the JJ Act.
- Additionally, two CWCs namely South West and North-East reported cases of children being produced directly from prison after attaining the age of six years, **indicating recognition of vulnerabilities of CoIP and their need for care & protection.**

Odisha

As per the RTI data received, 18 DCPUS; 28 Police Stations; 6 CWCs and 13 prisons responded.

- A total of 366 children were produced before CWCs between 2021 and 2025, whose one or both parents were incarcerated at the time.
- Of these, approximately 328 were declared CNCP.
- However, only around 27 children were confirmed to have been produced directly from prison after attaining the age of six, suggesting limited tracking or production from custodial settings. While districts like Koraput, Dhenkanal, and Jharsuguda provided relatively detailed data, many others offered partial or ambiguous responses, with several entries marked as "Nil" or "Not known."
- Jharsuguda prison reported 24 CoPs produced but none declared CNCP or produced from jail after age six.

Note: While the application was sent to DWCD Odisha, it was forwarded to every other authority working with prisons, prisoners and children. This shows absence of a nodal authority who is responsible for monitoring and tracking the numbers & welfare of CoIP.

Kerala

- 5 CWCs responded to the RTI questions. Across these CWCs:
- 27 children were produced before the CWC whose either one or both parents were in prison at the time of production.
- All 27 children were declared as CNCPs under the JJ Act.
- However none of these CWCs reported cases of children being produced directly from prison after attaining the age of six years. Two of them do not maintain such data.

Maharashtra

As per the RTI data received, 4 out of 39 CWCs responded.
Across these four CWCs:

- 71 children were produced before the CWC where either one or both parents were in prison at the time of production.
- All 71 children were declared CNCPs under the JJ Act.

However, none of these CWCs reported cases of children being produced directly from prison after attaining the age of six years.

Rajasthan

- As per the RTI data received from only 3 DCPUs at Bikaner, Bundi and Jhunjhunu.
- 8 children were produced before DCPU Bundi whose either one or both parents were in prison at the time of production. No such children were produced before the other two DCPUs.
- All 8 children were declared as CNCPs under the JJ Act. While NA response was provided by the other two.
- However none of these reported cases of children being produced directly from prison after attaining the age of six years.

Bihar

- 6 CWCs and 6 DCPUs responded to the RTI questions. Across these CWCs:
- 1 child was produced before one CWC in Nawada and 10 children were produced before the DCPUs whose either one or both parents were in prison at the time of production.
- 7 of these children were declared as CNCPs under the JJ Act.
- Erroneous data was received from CWC Muzzafarpur (1820 children produced and declared CNCP), DCPU Gopalganj (1228 children produced and declared CNCP) and DCPU Saharsa (645 children produced and declared CNCP).
- However none of these CWCs reported cases of children being produced directly from prison after attaining the age of six years. Two of them do not maintain such data.

Picture credits: Scroll.in/ Amnesty International

"An inmate talks to her son during 'mulaqat' or 'meeting time' at the Jail No. 6 of South Asia's largest prison- Tihar. The wait for visitation day is long and emotional."

Picture & caption: Cheena Kapoor (Independent Photo Journalist) on Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/myshotstories/)

Annexures

Annexure A: RTI Questions to State Prison Headquarters

(States covered: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh-Lucknow, West Bengal)

1. Please provide the following information regarding prisoners:
- Year-wise number of male and female prisoners lodged in different categories of prisons (Central, District, Special/Sub Jails, Women Prisons/Correctional Homes, Reformatories, etc.).
- Year-wise number of male and female prisoners who have children in the age groups of 0–6 years and 7–18 years.

2. Please provide the following information regarding female prisoners accompanied by their children in prison:
- Year-wise number of female prisoners accompanied by their children, disaggregated by type of prison.
- Details of whether facilities such as (1) creche, (2) nursery, or (3) Anganwadi are operational in prisons.
- If such facilities exist, specify whether they are maintained by NGOs.
- Year-wise number of children of prisoners enrolled in creche/nursery/Anganwadi facilities.
- Year-wise number of children who have left the creche/nursery/Anganwadi after attaining the age of 6 years.

Additional Questions asked in specific states

- Number of applications submitted by Jail Superintendents under the "Scheme of Educational Assistance to Children of Prisoners." (Kerala)
- Number of prisoners' children living in the community who have been provided support through Correctional Services. (West Bengal)

Annexure B: RTI Questions to Women & Child Development Departments / Child Welfare Committees / Social Justice Departments

(States covered: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, West Bengal)

1. Please provide the following information regarding Children of Incarcerated Parents (CoIPs):
- Year-wise number of CoIPs produced before CWCs.
- Year-wise number of CoIPs declared Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP). (Kerala)
- Year-wise number of CoIPs placed in institutional care / declared free for adoption / placed in foster care.

2. Please provide the following information regarding applications and disposals under state schemes:
- Delhi: Applications received under the Delhi Scheme for Financial Sustenance, Education & Welfare of Children of Incarcerated Parents, 2014.
- Maharashtra: Applications received under the Bal Sangopan Scheme.
- Odisha: Applications received under the Guidelines for Welfare of Children of Incarcerated Parents (Odisha).
- Rajasthan: Applications received under the Palanhar Yojana (children of prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment/death).

3. Please provide the following information regarding financial assistance to CoIPs:
- Kerala: Beneficiaries under the Scheme of Educational Assistance to Children of Prisoners.
- Maharashtra: Beneficiaries under the Bal Sangopan Scheme.
- Rajasthan: Beneficiaries under the Palanhar Yojana.

4. Please provide the following information regarding Social Investigation / Home Study Reports:
- Delhi: Reports received under the Delhi Scheme.
- Odisha: Reports received under the Odisha Guidelines.

5. Please provide the following information regarding the Scheme of Educational Assistance to Children of Prisoners (Kerala):
- Whether the scheme is operational as of 01.10.2025.
- If operational, provide a copy of the scheme.
- If discontinued, provide the date of discontinuation.
- Budgetary allocation and utilisation for FY 2024-25.
- Year-wise number of applications received and disposed under the scheme.
- Year-wise number of beneficiaries disaggregated by education level (Primary, Secondary, Higher Secondary, Degree/Professional).

Annexure C: RTI Questions to CWCs on Production and Declaration of CoIPs as CNCP

(States covered: Bihar, Delhi, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan)

1. Please provide the following information regarding Children of Incarcerated Parents (CoIPs):

- Number of children produced before CWCs whose one or both parents were in prison at the time of production (01.01.2021 – 28.03.2025).
- Out of these, number of children declared as Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) by CWCs.
- Out of these, number of children directly produced from prison/jail after attaining the age of 6 years.

Annexure D: RTI question regarding the Delhi scheme for financial assistance for CoIP (DWCD)

Please provide information regarding

- Total budget allocated for the scheme for the years 2019-2024
- Actual expenditure on the scheme for the years 2019-2024
- Number of beneficiaries under the scheme for the years 2019-2024

Annexure E: First Appeals Filed before authorities of different states

Andhra Pradesh WCD

- Filed to: PIO, Women Development & Child Welfare Department, Guntur.
- Information sought: Number of CoIPs produced before CWCs; number placed in institutional care / declared free for adoption / placed in foster care.
- Reason for Appeal: Delay in provision of information — no reply within 30 days.
- Prayer: Direct PIO to provide requested information free of charge (Sec. 7(6)).

Assam CWCs

- Filed to: SPIO, Directorate of Social Welfare, Assam.
- Information sought: Number of CoIPs produced before CWCs; number placed in institutional care / declared free for adoption / placed in foster care.
- Reason for Appeal: Delay in provision of information.
- Prayer: Direct PIO to furnish information free of charge due to delay.

Delhi CWCs

- Filed to: PIOs of CWCs in Delhi (multiple committees).
- Information sought:
  - Number of CoIPs produced before CWCs.
  - Number of home study / social investigation reports called.
  - Number of CoIPs placed in institutional care / declared free for adoption / placed in foster care.
- Reason for Appeal: Delay in provision of information.
- Prayer: Direct PIOs to provide requested information free of charge.

Maharashtra WCD

- Filed to: PIO, Child Development Commissionerate, Pune.
- Information sought:
- Applications received and disposed under the Bal Sangopan Scheme.
- Number of CoIPs receiving financial assistance under the scheme.
- Number of CoIPs placed in institutional care / declared free for adoption / placed in foster care.
- Reason for Appeal: Delay in provision of information.
- Prayer: Direct PIO to provide requested information free of charge.

Odisha CWCs

- Filed to: PIO, WCD & Mission Shakti Department, Odisha Secretariat.
- Information sought:
- Applications received and disposed under the Guidelines for Welfare of Children of Incarcerated Parents.
- Number of home study reports called by CWCs.
- Number of CoIPs produced before CWCs.
- Number of CoIPs placed in institutional care / declared free for adoption / placed in foster care.
- Reason for Appeal: Delay in provision of information.
- Prayer: Direct PIO to provide requested information free of charge.

Telangana CWCs

- Filed to: PIO, Women Development & Child Welfare Department, Hyderabad.
- Information sought:
- Number of CoIPs produced before CWCs.
- Number of CoIPs placed in institutional care / declared free for adoption / placed in foster care.
- Reason for Appeal: Delay in provision of information.
- Prayer: Direct PIO to provide requested information free of charge.

The children of prisoners are the invisible victims of crime and the penal system. They have done no wrong, yet they suffer the stigma of criminality. Their rights to nurture are affected both by the criminal action of their parent and by the state's response to it in the name of justice.

Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People (written submission)

Source:
Collateral Convicts: Children of incarcerated parents
Recommendations and good practice from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of General Discussion 2011

iProbono INDIA

iProbono India is a social justice organisation that combines the legal expertise of its carefully curated community of panel and network lawyers, ground-level insights of its grassroots partners, and the ethos of social action litigation to advance justice and equality in India. In the last ten years of iProbono India's functioning, we have primarily focused on child rights, housing rights, and strengthening civil society. Our modes of intervention comprise legal representation, advocacy, training and capacity-building efforts.

CHILD RIGHTS | DISABILITY JUSTICE | CRIMINAL JUSTICE | HOUSING JUSTICE

DELHI | KARNATAKA | MAHARASHTRA | UTTAR PRADESH

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