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*A Study on Children's Institutions
in the State of Assam*



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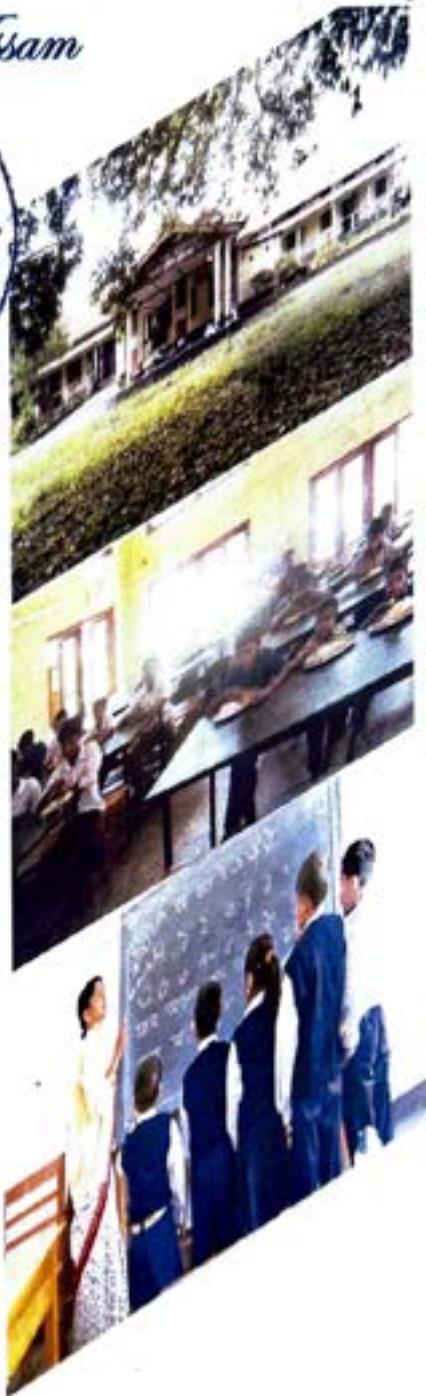
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**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
PUBLIC COOPERATION & CHILD DEVELOPMENT**
Regional Centre, Guwahati



Project Team

Project Incharge:
Dr. Bandana Bhuyan

Project Assistant:
Mrs. Jupitora Sarma

Project Investigator:
Miss Moushumi Barua.

Data Entry Operator:
Mr. Sanjay Chowdhury
Miss Kongkona Kumari Kakoty

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. A.K. Gopal, Former Director of NIPCCD for allowing RCG to do the study on Children's Institutions in the State of Assam.

I am grateful to Director, Department of Social Welfare, Govt. of Assam for his cooperation and help in conducting the study.

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Dinesh Paul, Director, NIPCCD for his support and encouragement in completing the study.

My thanks are also due to Dr. Ashok Kumar, Additional Director (Monitoring & Coordination) for his suggestions and advice at different points of time.

I am indebted to all the Superintendants/Principals, staff and children of all the Children's Institutions covered under this study for their responses and help extended to the research team while visiting their institutions for data collection.

At the last but not the least, I gratefully acknowledge the invaluable contribution of my research team particularly Mrs. Jupitara Sarma and Miss. Moushumi Barua. Without their help it would have been impossible for me to shoulder the responsibility of completing the study.



(Bandana Bhuyan)
Regional Director

March 16, 2012

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Family is the primary institution for bearing and rearing of children. Importance of home and family in the growth and development of children is universally accepted. It is an established fact that home is the place where children receive utmost care and attention and where their needs are fulfilled. However, there are situations when children are not fortunate enough to have a home or a family of their own. There are situations where home/family care is not possible either because children do not have parents or family members to look after them, or their families are not in a position to take care of their children. In such a case institution becomes a suitable alternative.

Since, development of a child depends both on physical, psychological and social components of environment, care of children in institutions is a matter of prime importance. The basic essentials or pre-requisites of a Children's Institution are to ensure loving and caring conditions, to understand children's psychological state of mind and to guide and support them to cope up and adjust and to provide facilities for their overall growth and development including their academics.

To understand the functioning of these institutions, to assess their contributions on the lives of the underprivileged children, several studies have been conducted in different parts of the country

Need for the study :

In Assam, so far, no study has been undertaken by any agency to understand the functioning of the Children's Institutions. Though Children's Institutions are running in Assam for many years, however, there has been no study so far to assess their functioning, suitability, management and other matters . The fact that these institutions

were established with specific objectives and goals in mind and Government is incurring a huge expenditure towards their management, it is more than a requirement that these institutions are studied to understand their functioning and to know what extent these are able to achieve the goal and serve the purpose for which these were set up. It may further be mentioned that in Assam there are ten Govt run Children's Institutions. Of these, four are Observation Homes (two each for boys and girls), three are Children's Home, and three for physically challenged (deaf and dumb ;and blind) children.

At this backdrop, it was thought necessary to conduct a study of Children's Institutions in Assam.

Type of Children's Institutions

Types of institutions covered under the present study are – 1) Children Home, 2) Observation Home, and 3) Institution for Disable Children

Scope of the Study:

The study was to cover all the ten children's institutions of Assam. However, for not having separate physical set up in two Observation Homes for girls , these two institutions had to be excluded from the purview of the study. The study was to gather useful information regarding manner of running these institutions , quality of infrastructural facilities such as housing , toilets, bedding ,etc; quality of nutrition, health care , educational facilities, recreation ; relationship between staff particularly caretaker and children, management of the institutions and so on.

Objectives

The main objective of the study was to ascertain the status of the children's institutions in Assam and also to check the infrastructural facilities, their functioning and management. The specific objectives are :

1. To understand the functioning and management of the children's institutions,

2. to study the basic infrastructural facilities made for children in the light of the JJ Rules 2007,
3. to assess the appropriateness and quality of different services rendered to children and
4. to offer suggestions to the State Government for improving the conditions of the institutions

Methodology

Sample

Though targeted to cover all the 10 institutions being run by the Social Welfare Department of Govt of Assam, the study could actually cover only eight institutions. These institutions serve two categories of children, i.e. socially deprived children termed as children in need of care and protection, and children in-conflict with law under JJ Act 2000 and children with disabilities under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The institutions under JJ Act included three Homes for children in need of care and protection and four for children in-conflict-with- law. Of the three institutions for disable, one each for blind, deaf and dumb and hearing impaired children. Of all the eight institutions studied, four are located in Kamrup district, three are in Jorhat and one is in Nagaon .

Tools

The tools designed and used for collection of data for the study were basically interview schedule , observation check-list and case studies. Interview schedules were used for eliciting desired information from Superintendents , Counsellors, Care takers. A few children from each Home selected randomly were also interviewed separately to understand their views about quality of services of the institutions , their opinion/ experience about the staff , stay , their feelings , future plan, etc. Besides, one observation -check list was also used. In addition, information were collected from records and registers of the institutions. A few case studies of some selected children was done in few of the institutions to understand the children's background , their

vulnerability, state of rehabilitation, etc which is presented in VI th chapter of the main report.

Findings

Accommodation

All the Children Homes and Observation Homes and the institutions for special children /physically challenged visited by the Research team for the study have dormitory type of accommodation. In most of the Homes the rooms were sufficiently big enough to accommodate the children. The kitchen, dining halls and the store rooms of the Homes were found appropriate. There is adequate indoor and outdoor space. Rooms/ dormitories are spacious, surroundings are clean. In quite a few cases the number of inmates was less or in other words not filled up to their capacity. However, the hostel for girls in the Jorhat blind school was small and the rooms were to some extent overcrowded. Hearing Impaired school did not have its hostel and many parents from outside Jorhat were forced to take house on rent in the interest of the children. This acted as a hindrance for many needy and poor parents to avail the service of the institution.

Children in the institutions

Enrolment of children

In all, 600 children were enrolled in five Homes for children being run by Govt. of Assam under JJ Act in 10 months starting from April, 2008 to January, 2009. Observation Home, Jorhat had the highest number (218) . Children's Home Nagaon reported the lowest enrollment with 42 children. On an average, 60 new children were admitted in every month in these five institutions. Average monthly figure was 12 for individual Home.

Enrolment of children in Special schools

In the special schools there were altogether 339 children, of whom 199 were boys and 140 were girls. All these three institutions are co-educational and are admitting both boys and girls. It is noteworthy that while all the children at Jorhat Blind institution

live in its hostel in the premises, the children at School for Hearing Impaired in Jorhat are day scholars. Since this school does not have hostel facilities, children come from their respective homes/ rented houses. It is obvious that being primarily educational institutions, their enrolment figures remain almost static throughout an academic year and release or discharge occurs only at the end of their studies.

Occupancy pattern

Though, the number children who were enrolled in five Children Homes between April, 2008 and January, 2009 was 600, however actual occupancy was much more than that. There were in all, 1983 number of children in 10 months in five Homes under JJ Rules. Highest account was in Children Home Nagaon (585) and lowest at Children Home Jalukbari (291). Since new arrival and discharge/restoration go on simultaneously and also because of children's running away from the Homes, the number of actual occupants vary frequently.

Age of Children

Only 27 per cent of the children were below 12 years of age and 69 per cent were between 12-18 years. A small percentage were found to be above 18 years also. For not having After Care Home, inmates above the age of 18 years are also kept in these Homes. Lesser number of children below 12 years speaks favourably about strong familial bond, a more protective environment and lesser vulnerability.

Grouping of children

Grouping of children was different in Observation Home and Children Home. Based on the age, the inmates were grouped and placed separately in Observation Homes and Children Homes. In Observation Homes children were divided into four groups, namely, 7-12 years, 12-16 years, 16-18 years and 18 years and above. Whereas, in the Children Homes, the segregation of groups were 5-10 years, 10-15 years, and 15-18 years.

Duration of Stay

For 42 per cent children duration of stay in the Homes was up to six months only. Many even stayed for less than a month. The Homes were found to take appropriate action for restoration and discharge of children. As longer stay in institutions are found to have detrimental effects on children's personality development and cognitive abilities the present findings of shorter stay speaks positively. Thirty-one percent children stayed for more than one year.

Disable children in the Homes

It is significant to note the presence of children with special needs in almost all the Homes under JJ Rules. Physically and mentally challenged children were found to be present in these Homes at the time of visits. There were all together 23 children with special needs. Fifteen of them were mentally retarded and eight had physical disabilities. At observation Home of Boko and Children Home of Jalukbari there were as many as eight mentally retarded children at the time of investigation. Three mentally retarded children were also found in Observation Home of Jorhat. It is also noteworthy that none of the Homes has specially trained teacher/staff to look after such children, nor there is any facility to cater to the special needs of these children. As a result, these children do not get proper care in these Homes. Presence of 14 mentally retarded children in these Homes is an alarming situation. Further, presence of such children in the Observation Home is still more alarming. Such children caught as offenders or in-conflict -with- law is also another issue which need serious attention

Children's opinion about the Institutions

Some selected children in every institution were asked if they liked their stay there, if they were happy with the staff, whether they were satisfied with the services like food, health care, etc. The question evoked mixed responses. It was interesting to find that some children desired a longer stay in the Homes. At the same time, there were some who did not want to stay further. There was also variation in nature of reply from Home to Home. Majority of the children who wanted to stay in the Homes for longer stated that they would like to stay there until they became self dependent.

Children Running Away from Homes

As many as 45 children ran away from the Homes in 10 months (between April, 2008 and January, 2009). Home-to-Home variation was apparent. Maximum incidences of running away was reported at Children Home, Ambari. Here, 32 children escaped without the knowledge of the care taking staff of the Home. Almost every month there was cases of running away from this Home. This talks about poor state of management, unhealthy atmosphere in the institution and also unruly/delinquent behaviour among children. A very low boundary wall in this Home often facilitates in children's sneaking/running away. Rude behaviour of the staff was also reported to be one of the reasons which make children flee. Running away cases was remarkably low (2) at the Observation Homes.

Socialisation of Children

Most of the children were socialized; they made friends with fellow inmates. They liked to play in groups. They play indoor games like luddo, carrom, chess and out door games like kabaddi, kho kho, badminton, cricket and football in the evening. They like the caretaking staff, warden or matron and stated them to be understanding, loving and caring. Some of the children wanted to stay in the Homes until they become self dependent.

Standard of care

Educational facility

Of the five institutions under JJ rules, only two children's Home at Nagaon and Ambari, Guwahati were found to be arranging educational facilities in a proper way. Most of the children in these institutions were found to attend schools. Of the remaining, Jalukbari Children Home was providing only alternative schooling (SSA) to some of the children. While Observation Home Jorhat was providing non-formal education and functional literacy classes, Observation Home, Boko was found to have no arrangement at all. Most of the children stated to have liked studies and only a few gave the feedback in negative; they did not like studies and found studying difficult.

Educational facilities in the Institutions for Disabled

Education in respect of type of schooling, enrolment of children in different classes in the institutions for special children was found to be appropriate. All the children in these institutions were attending different classes. They had required materials, instruments and aids and appliances to facilitate learning. Except the School for Hearing Impaired, in other two institutions teacher position was satisfactory and teacher pupil ratio was as per norms prescribed for special schools under PWD Act. 1995

Vocational training

Except Observation Home, Boko and Hearing Impaired School, Jorhat, all others impart vocational training to the inmates. However, there is great deal of variation in the manner this training is organised. Children are given vocational training on Bag Making, Embroidery, Knitting, Fruit Preservation (Jam and Jelly making), Cutting & Tailoring, Clay work and Toy making, etc. Of all the Child Care Institutions, Children Home, Jalukbari was found to organise it more systematically. At Observation Home, Jorhat there are two teachers for imparting vocational training to the boys. Usually, training is given on two trades i.e. cutting and tailoring and clay work. Children home ambari though give training on tailoring, however, it is not well received by the boys.

BDS Deaf and Dumb school provides proper vocational training on cloth craft for girls and on wood craft for boys. It also conducts classes on fine art and needle work and embroidery. At Blind school, children are given training on Machine knitting, on plastic chair seat making .

Standard of care

Health Checkup

Only half of the institutions namely, Children Homes at Nagaon and Jalukbari; Deaf and Dumb school, Blind Institution reported to have regular health checkup for children. Doctors and other paramedical staff visit them at a regular interval and check up children's health. The Department of Social Welfare has been able to tie up with the

PHC / Civil Hospitals (district level government hospital) in this regard. At Jorhat Observation Home, the Doctor had not visited for health check up for many months. At Ambari Children's Home, children are sent to the nearby health centre after their arrival. Therefore, it is usually not followed up. At Boko Observation Home and at Hearing Impaired School, Jorhat, no health check up was ever done.

Again, only the children's home of Jalukbari has a proper sick room with in-house nurse and stock of medicine.

Emergency Health Care

All the institutions take appropriate measures whenever there is any sudden illness in children or there is an emergent situation. Whenever a child falls sick, he is taken to the nearby hospital or call a doctor from outside. Since most of the institutions are located in district Head Quarters, so, making a suitable arrangement for ailing children is usually not a problem.

Medical Care Unit

Except for the Children Home of Jalukbari, none of the other institutions has a Medical Care Unit. Children Home of Jalukbari has a medical care unit with facility of one bed and an in-house-nurse to look into the health needs of the inmates. This facility was not available with others.

Stock of Medicine

In regard to stock of medicine, barring Boko Observation Home, Fatasil Ambari Children Home and Hearing Impaired school at Jorhat, remaining five institutions had the stock of medicine for treating common ailments. For procurement of medicines, all the institutions are to submit an indent at the Joint Director (Health)'s Office from where medicines are supplied as per the requirement.

Maintaining a medical record

By and large medical records/files were maintained well by all the visited Children's Institutions.

Availability of ambulance/ transport

None of the institutions had an ambulance. However, it was observed that non-availability of an ambulance/transport has not caused much hindrance in ensuring medical treatment to the children. In the first place, need of transportation of children to the hospital arises very rarely. Most of the common illnesses are taken care of by the Doctors who visit the institutions at least once in a week. Secondly, since private transport facilities such as rickshaw/auto/taxi are readily available and distance to the nearby hospitals is also not much, non availability of transport facility has not caused any grave difficulty.

First - Aid Kit

First aid kit is an indispensable item for any institution for children. First aid kit contains simple medicine, ointment, lotion, bandages for handling any casualty. It is important to replenish the medicines as soon as they are finished. In the present study all the institutions were found to have the First- aid kit; but Observation Home, Boko did not have any medicine in the kit.

Immunization

Only Children Home of Nagaon reported to have immunised their inmates. Children below the age of six years are immunised at the AWC.

Access to Hospitals

Hospitals are located within a range of .5 to 5 km distance from the institutions. All the institutions have access to hospitals, and hospital staff attend to the children

without any delay. Department of Social Welfare has made adequate arrangement with the Health Department to ensure health care needs of inmates of children's institutions.

Health problem of children

The diseases of children as reported by the staff of visited institutions are mostly due to various viral and bacterial infections. Children mostly suffer from measles, diarrhoea, mumps, cough and cold, gastritis, abdominal pain and fever. A few cases of T.B. was also reported by a few institutions.

Nutrition

Menu

Almost all the institutions follow more or less similar kind of menu and similar meal pattern. Barring the institution for Hearing Impaired which did not have residential facilities at the time of visit, others provided regular meals. Most of the institutions provided three meals – Lunch, Evening Snacks and Dinner. In the morning children are served with only a cup of tea with biscuits or rice flakes. Only the Observation Homes mentioned of giving proper breakfast.

Recreational facilities

Almost all the institutions provide some recreational facilities to children. Children are engaged in sports and cultural programs. Children also watch T.V. programme regularly. Sports activities consist of both outdoor and indoor games. Outdoor games include playing foot ball/volley ball/ cricket/ kabbadi ,etc. Indoor games include primarily luddo and carrom. However, it was reported by the staff that these items were not sufficient in number. Cricket ball/ bat etc do not last long. Once these items are lost or broken/damaged, it takes months time to replinsh. In most of the institutions, sports is a daily activity.

Provision of clothing, bedding and other miscellaneous items

Except Hearing Impaired school, all others provide these items. Blind school provide school uniform and shoes. Nagaon Children's Home provide Sanitary Napkins to the adolescent girls.

Maintenance of hygiene and sanitation

By and large, hygiene and sanitation was satisfactory. All the institutions were found to give a great deal of importance in keeping the premises clean, they take appropriate measures to keep both inside and outside of the premises free from garbage, dirt, etc. Jorhat Blind Institution reported of sprayed DDT in the campus every year.

Cases of restoration/discharge/transfer

Performance of the Homes in restoration and discharge of children was found to be satisfactory. On an average, every Home restored/discharged 10 children in a month. In all, 511 children were restored by five Homes between April 2008 and January 2009. Maximum number of these children (384) were from the Observation Homes. On an average, both the Observation Homes discharged 38 children every month. By and large, ability of the Homes to restore a fairly good number of children is a good sign.

Management

Staff

Staff position was different in different institutions. There was no uniformity or proper procedure for recruitment of staff in the Child Care Institutions under JJ Rules. Most of the Homes did not have their own staff. They were using the staff of other institutions located in the same premises and being run by the Social Welfare Department. All staff were not oriented or trained on the issues on child rights and protection or JJ Act. As a result, they were not much sensitised to the problems and rights/needs of the children of their Homes. Lack of professionalism was obvious. At two

of the institutions for disable children i.e. Deaf & Dumb School and Blind Institution ,the staff position was more or less satisfactory. However, at school for Hearing Impaired, the situation was pitiable. The school does not have staff. Posts which are sanctioned are also not filled up. Though it is an institution established by Government of Assam under PWD Act 1995, yet, the issue of staff recruitment, salary, etc are not addressed .

Management committees

The institutions (under JJ Rules) studied neither had management committees nor inspection committees. Committees were yet to be formed at the time of collection of data for the study. However, institutions for differently abled children particularly, Deaf and Dumb school, Guwahati and Institution for Blind at Jorhat had managing committees. These committees were stated to be quite active. Jorhat Blind school has as many as seven committees in various areas such as sports, yoga, diet, prayer, routine and book/library for the smooth running of the institution. All committees are headed by a teacher.

Daily Routine

All the institutions prepare and display daily routine for their children. The institutions have scheduled activities for the daily routine of children and all children are expected to follow it. Daily routine has scheduled time for prayer, schooling, sports, watching TV, home work, meal, sleep, etc. All the institutions were found to adhere to the schedule. This points out to the efficient planning and management of resources on the part of the institution. Similarly, during day time TV watching is not allowed in most of the places. It is seen that the institutions take adequate measures for proper utilisation of resources and proper utilisation of time.

Maintenance of Registers/ Records

In all the institutions covered by the present study registers are more or less maintained well. Registers such as Admission & Discharge, Individual case file register, Attendance Register, Visitors' Book, Stock Register are maintained by all regularly. However, in respect of few other registers and records, some amount of slackness was

observed. Registers such as Medical file/report, Nutrition/diet file were not properly maintained by all. Some Registers such as, Children's Suggestions Book, Register on Supervision, log book, etc. did not even exist.

Psychological Environment

Psychological environment was found to be agreeable. Children were seen to be freely talking, moving, and taking part in different activities of the Institutes. In few places they were involved in day-to-day managerial work also. Children found the warden, matron and other staff understanding, loving and caring.

Recommendations

1. A great deal of variations were observed in respect of staff position in the institutions. Quite a few institutions did not have adequate staff. Further, some staff did not have requisite qualification. In hearing impaired school most of the staff position were lying vacant. The matter needs to be addressed urgently. People with requisite qualification should only be appointed.
2. All the staff in the Children's Home should be trained and sensitized on issues relating to child rights and protection, provision under institutional care and also about their role and responsibilities. They should know the basics of JJ (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.
3. It should be mandatory to recruit only Diploma Holders (minimum 1 year course) in counseling from a recognized institution for the Counselor post.
4. Counselor post for Special Schools for Disable Children should be created.
5. Vocational training on subjects like repairing of mobile/ TV/AC/ Gas Burner; Electrical work, Cooking, Baking and Confectionary, Beautician and Hair dressing course may be introduced. Some of the present vocational trade are not found to be much gainful and interesting. For children of blind institutions appropriate trade may be selected after seeking advice from experts and also taking into consideration of children's interest and abilities.

6. Yoga, meditation, *Pranayam* should be compulsorily taught and practised in all the institutions for children.
7. Sports materials like cricket bat and ball, volley ball, hand ball, badminton should be made available in all the homes. These items should also be replenished as and when required. Similarly, indoor games such as ludo, carom, chess, should also be supplied in sufficient number to all the institutions.
8. Adequate measures should be undertaken for attitudinal change of the children in-conflict-with-law. Such children should be helped to realize the mistakes/misdeeds (if any) done by them and help them to reform themselves by proper counseling. At present, the Homes are not being able to change the mindset of the children. While interacting with some boys of Observation Home it was felt that they had no regrets for their misdeeds.
9. There is a need to enhance the budget for quality food. The present budget of Rs. 750/- per child per month is grossly inadequate. For insufficient fund in most of the institutions breakfast is not served.
10. For all the children studying in classes above Fifth, coaching should be arranged within the institution.
11. Immunization of children should be carried out as per the schedule of government. Children above six years should be vaccinated against Hepatitis A and B, Encephalitis, Chicken pox, Mumps.
12. Social Welfare Department, Assam should tie up with the Health Department for de-worming all the children and supplementation of iron to all the Adolescent Girls of all the 10 institutions.
13. Institutions should also take initiative to hold Dental Health Camp and Eye Camp at least once in six months.

14. Govt. of Assam should consider covering the girls of two Children Homes at Jalukbari and Nagaon under SABLA scheme for Adolescent Girls of MWCD, Govt. of India.
15. The construction of a hostel for Children of Hearing Impaired School needs to be taken up urgently. For not having a hostel many children are being deprived from receiving the services of the Institution.
16. A special institution for mentally retarded children is of utmost importance. At present mentally retarded children needing care and protection and also in-conflict-with-law are being kept in different Homes. These Homes are not having any specialized service for such children.
17. Govt. of Assam need to establish a minimum of two more Observation Homes for boys. The present arrangement of placing the boys in-conflict-with-law from far off districts at Boko and Jorhat is delaying in giving them justice
18. Voluntary organizations working near the Homes should be involved with some activities like coaching, recreational activities, vaccination, etc.
19. It was found that many of the cases of children in conflict with law are kept in the Observation Homes at Boko and Jorhat actually do not belong to these districts. Since they are from different districts the children are not being produced before the JJB of those districts for various reasons. For these, many children are languishing in the Homes without any justice. The JJBs of all districts should be activated and made functional.
20. All the Homes under JJ system should be regularly monitored by concerned authority. A monthly monitoring proforma should be developed and regularly filled up and submitted by the Homes.
21. CWC and JJB should compulsorily visit the Homes. At least one quarterly visit to be made to each Home. They should submit the visit reports to Social Welfare Department and also to NIPCCD.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Family is the primary institution for bearing and rearing of children. Importance of home and family in the growth and development of children is universally accepted. It is an established fact that home is the place where children receive utmost care and attention and where their needs are fulfilled. However, there are situations when, children are not fortunate enough to have a home or a family of their own. There are situations where home/family care is not possible either because children do not have parents or family members, or their families are not in a position to take care of them. In such cases, an institution is an alternative solution. Though an institution can not be a suitable substitute of a home, yet, it sometimes becomes indispensable. Besides abandoned /orphan children, children of terminally ill parents, children from broken families need an institution to live in. Additionally, there are other categories of children such as physically or mentally challenged, children suffering from HIV/AIDS who are in need of institutional services.

It has been found in the recent years that number of children needing institutional care is on the rise. In the last decade number of destitute, neglected, physically and mentally challenged children and children in-conflict-with-law have increased remarkably which could be attributed to changes in the social structure, value system, materialistic upbringing, urbanization, poverty, etc. According to some reports of UNICEF (2005), India has 84 million orphans and 11 million homeless children. There are 3,14,700¹ street children in seven metropolitan cities. These children are left to all sorts of evils, exploitation and abuse.

In 2006, a total of 18,967 crimes were committed against children in all states and UTs of India. Another concern is ever increasing number of juvenile delinquents. The number of offenses committed by children is also steadily increasing. Total

cognizable crimes committed by children under IPC has gone up to 18,939 in 2005 from 10,024 in 1996 (Crime Information Bureau of India). Similarly, cases of abused and neglected children is reported in large number in all societies across the country. A compilation of cases received by Guwahati CHILDLINE since its inception in 2001 till October 2009 reveals reporting of 627 cases of missing children, 390 children needing shelter, 311 children in need of health care and emotional support.

An Institution for children is a useful service for destitute, abandoned, orphan, physically and mentally challenged and emotionally disturbed children as also to the children of families in which due to desertion, death, long illnesses, imprisonment and unemployment, caring of children becomes extremely difficult. Considering the vulnerability of such children towards abuse, exploitation and negligence, the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 (Care and Protection of Children) has primarily recommended for four types of institutions for children, which are - Shelter Home, Children's Home, Observation Home, and Special Home. The state Governments are to establish and maintain these Homes for children either by themselves or in association with capable voluntary organizations. Depending on the needs, extent of vulnerability of children, the state Governments may decide the number and type of Children's Institutions for the states. Besides children who are in a vulnerable state because of circumstances, there are another group of children who are also in need of special institutional care because of their physical or mental condition. The National Charter for Children, 2003 also empowers a state to make special provision for children if there is a need in order to ensure adequate care, protection, rehabilitation of needy children. So, protection of children with disabilities to help them to lead a life with dignity and respect also becomes state's responsibility. Thus, the PWD Act (1995) also envisages institutional services for needy physically and mentally challenged children.

Since, development of a child depends on physical, psychological and social components of environment, care of children in Institutions is a matter of prime importance. The basic essentials or prerequisites of a Children's Institution are to ensure loving and caring conditions, to understand children's psychological state of mind and to guide and support them to cope up and adjust and to provide facilities for their overall growth and development including their academics. Consequently, basic requirements of a children's institution are - healthy surroundings, adequate housing, provision of

adequate nutrition, opportunities for play/recreation, educational facilities, medical care and most importantly, caring and loving staff. Any Institution without these facilities/provisions can not take proper care of children coming for shelter, care and protection.

The National Policy for Children accorded high priority to socially handicapped children and recommended that they should be provided with facilities for education, training and rehabilitation. These constitute delinquents, beggars, destitutes, orphans, children in distress, vagrants, victimized children, children living with criminals or prostitutes, illegitimate children, etc. Children who have no where to go or those who need protection are placed in an institution till they attain 18 years of age.

With the increase in number of children in difficult circumstances, the number of children's Institutions have multiplied significantly. According to the India Country Report on violence against children (June 2005), there are 44 million destitute and 12.44 million orphan children, and many of them are in institutional care. Again, as large as 40,000 children in conflict with law are in institutions. Many of these institutions are run by Government and many are managed by voluntary/non governmental organizations. Institutions run by different religious groups are also found in some places. There are also institutions which are run both by government and voluntary effort. Similarly, facilities also vary from institution to institution. Variation according to ownership is also evident. Like-wise, impact made by the institutions on the overall growth and development of the children also diverse. To understand the functioning of these institutions, to assess their contributions on the lives of the underprivileged children, several studies have been conducted in different parts of the country. The findings of few studies are given below.

Review of literature

A study by Reddy S. Narayana (1989)² in the children's Institutions in Allahabad found that there was no formal procedure for recruitment of staff members. There was no formal orientation for the staff. In terms of recreational, educational, vocational training facilities there was differences amongst the institutions. Caretaker-children ratio was also different in different institutions. The study however reported uniformities in

following a daily routine for children which included evening prayer, sleeping time, home-work, etc.

A study of 22 residential Child Care Institutions in Kerela (Kochuthresia, 1990)³ revealed that most care takers were young and had only school education with no professional knowledge or proper orientation for the job. Most of the institutions did not maintain the desirable ratio between the care giving staff and number of children. All the institutions were giving maximum attention to the educational achievement of children. Yet, children's academic performance was below average. Except for physical development, other aspects of development did not receive due consideration of the institutional authorities. Institutions were providing optimum facilities in the areas of food, clothing, accomodation and medical care.

Divya Nagar (1992)⁴ in her study of deprived children in the destitute homes of Rajasthan found shortcomings in respect of sufficient trained personnel, suitable buildings and paucity of funds. The study found personal concern for children on the part of the staff lacking. The researcher also observed a great deal of complexities in the procedures for release of funds. The study also observed certain abnormalities in the personality pattern of the children living in the Homes.

Salve and Sahastrabudhe (1992)⁵ studied 10 institutions in Pune, Maharastra. The study found that about 83 per cent of the children admitted in these institutions were in the age group of 6-12 years. About 43 per cent of the children had stayed in an institution for more than two years. Most of the children were from rural areas and were illiterates. A good number of children exhibited anti-social behaviour.

ICCW, Tamil Nadu (1996)⁶ undertook a study of 81 Institutions for children in Tamil Nadu. In addition to other aspects, it assessed the factors leading to institutionalization of children and services rendered to them. The study found that very insignificant number of institutions provided separate rooms and cots for children. But, a good number had separate facilities for prayer, dining, reading and sleeping. Most of the Institutions arranged medical services for children. They were concerned with the educational progress of the children. However, they were not very sensitive to the emotional and behavioral problem.

A study of three children's institutions in Coimbatore city of Tamil Nadu (Kavitha 1998)⁷ found duration of stay in institutions longer for girls than boys. Majority of the children of these institutions attended school and most of them expressed interest in studies.

Chandra Sekhara et.al (2001)⁸ in their study of Child Care Institutions run by different departments of Govt. and Private bodies in Karnataka found that infrastructure facilities, delivery of services like educational, vocational training, recreational and rehabilitation available in Child Care Institutions differed significantly from institution to institution .

In a study of social problems of inmates in the Government Observation Homes for boys in Nagpur, the researchers (Wankhede, Nilkantha, 2003)⁹ mentioned about overcrowdedness, lack of cleanliness and inadequate facilities for recreation and education in these Homes. Lack of health education and counseling was also reported in the study. The researchers also observed that maximum number of children were above 14 years of age and majority were from urban areas.

An enquiry initiated by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR)¹⁰ in September, 2008 in Government run Children Home for boys at Narela, Delhi where 110 children were living found irregular meals, dirty bed sheets, rotten mattresses, contaminated drinking water, dingy toilets and filthy leaking room.

A detailed study of children in Residential Institutions in Mizoram funded by Social Welfare Department of Mizoram and carried out by Human Rights and Law Network, Mizoram throws significant light on many important aspects. The study reports infrastructural amenities in the Homes satisfactory, but states the psychosocial and professional services for children were starkly absent. Lack of stipulated staff was reported by the study (Lalzarliana, 2008)¹¹.

Need for the study

It is evident from the above that the facilities available in the institutions for children in respect of infrastructure, educational and recreational materials, health care

facilities, availability of adequate trained staff are some of the important aspects which many research studies investigated in different parts of the country. Now, in that context, it is noteworthy that in Assam, so far, no such study has been undertaken by any agency to understand the functioning of the Children's Institutions. Though children's institutions are running in Assam for many years, however, there has been no study so far to assess their functioning, suitability, management and other matters. This is a serious gap in our knowledge about the functioning of the institutions, their abilities to cater to the needs of different categories of children and also on many other related issues. The fact that these institutions have been established with specific objectives and goals in mind and Government is incurring huge expenditure towards their management, it is more than a requirement that these institutions are studied to understand their functioning and to what extent they are able to achieve the goal and serve the purpose for which these were set up. It may further be mentioned that in Assam there are 10 Govt run Children's Institutions. Of these, four are Observation Home (two each for boys and girls), three are Children's Homes, and three for physically challenged (deaf and dumb and blind) children.

At this backdrop, it was thought necessary to conduct a study of Children's Institutions in Assam.

Objectives

The main objective of the study was to ascertain the status of the children's institutions in Assam and also to check the infrastructural facilities, their functioning and management. The specific objectives are :

1. To understand the functioning and management of the children's Institutions,
2. to study the basic infrastructural facilities made for children in the light of the JJ Rules 2007,
3. to assess the appropriateness and quality of different services rendered to children and
4. to offer suggestions to the State Government for improving the conditions of the institutions

Type of Children's Institutions

Three types of institutions covered under the present study are – 1) Children Home 2) Observation Home and 3) Institution for Disable Children

'**Children's Home**' means an institution established by a state Government or by a Voluntary Organization and certified by that Government Under Section 34 of the JJ (children in need of care and protection) Act, 2000. The State Government itself or in association with voluntary organizations, are to set-up separate Homes for children in need of care and protection.

'**Observation Home**' means an institution for the children who have made some offences and against whom some cases / judgments are pending. This is again for those children who have no place to go or in other words, where parents are untraceable or parents/guardians are not keen to take the child home. During the stay of a child in an Observation Home, he/she has to be provided with adequate care which includes nutrition, health care, recreational facilities, educational facilities, etc. In addition, the Home has to ensure a conducive environment for children for their rehabilitation and correction of deviant behaviour by bringing in a positive change in their attitude towards life.

Institution for disabled

The persons with disabilities (Equal Opportunities, protection of Rights and Full Participation) ACT, 1995 specifies that the appropriate Governments and the local authorities shall ensure that every child with a disability has access to free education in an appropriate environment till he attains the age of eighteen years and promote setting up of special schools in Government and Private sector for those in need of special education, in such a manner that children with disabilities living in any part of the country have access to comprehensive care including education in the institutions made for them.

Scope of the Study

The study was to cover all the ten Children's Institutions being run by the Government of Assam. It was to study all the aspects such as administration, staff – recruitment & training; budget, infrastructure - housing, water, sanitation; services - education, recreation, health; physical and psychological environment, children's physical and mental state and over and above their satisfaction and opinion. It aimed to primarily examine the facilities with the norms specified under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2007. The study was to gather useful information regarding manner of running these institutions, quality of infrastructural facilities such as housing, toilets, bedding, etc; quality of nutrition, health care, educational facilities, recreation; relationship between staff particularly caretaker and children, management of the institutions and so on.

The study also aimed to find out the kind of infrastructure, quality of services provided by the Institutions for Children of special category. The three institutions visited included two schools for the Hearing and speech impaired children and one institute for the Blind children.

Methodology

Sample

The study targeted to cover all the 10 institutions being run by the Social Welfare Department of Government of Assam for socially handicapped and physically disable children; of which, seven are under JJ Act and three are under PWD Act. It is noteworthy that these institutions serve two categories of children, i.e. socially deprived children termed as children in need of care and protection and children in-conflict with law under JJ Act 2000 and children with disabilities under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The institutions under JJ Act include three Homes for children in need of care and protection and four for children in-conflict-with- law. Of the three institutions for disable, one each for blind, deaf and dumb and hearing impaired children.

However, at the time of visit to the institutions in 2009, the Observation Homes for girls at Jalukbari and Nagaon were found to be attached with the Children's Home of Jalukbari and Nagaon respectively as they were in the same premises. There was no separate staff or building for Observation Homes in these places. At the time of visit to Jalukbari campus there was only one girl in-conflict-with- law and she was kept with the CNCP children of Children's Home. Therefore, for the purpose of the present study, Jalukbari and Nagaon Observation Homes were not considered. At Nagaon Observation Home at the time of visit there was no child at all. Since occupancy in this Home is almost nil most of the time , this Home was also excluded from the coverage of the present study. Thus, the present study covered eight institutions run directly by the Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Assam.

Of all the eight institutions studied, four are located in Kamrup district, three are in Jorhat and one is in Nagaon. Of the three institutions for disabled children, one is for blind, one for deaf and dumb and one is for hearing impaired children. The detail of the institutions covered by the present study is given in Table-1.1.

Table No. 1.1: Institutions covered by the study

Sl. No.	Name of the Institutions	District	Year of establishment	Category of children served	Boys/ Girls
1	Children's Home, Fatasil Ambari , Guwahati	Kamrup	2006	CNCP	Boys
2	Children's Home, Panigaon, Nagaon	Nagaon	1962	CNCP	Girls
3	Observation Home, Boko	Kamrup	2007	CCL	Boys
4	Children's Home, Jalukbari	Kamrup	1987	CNCP	Girls
5	Observation Home, Jorhat	Jorhat	2006	CCL	Boys
6	Jorhat Blind Institution	Jorhat	1981	Children with disabilities	Boys & Girls
7	BDS Deaf & Dumb school	Kamrup	1968	Children with disabilities	Boys & Girls
8	School for Hearing Impaired	Jorhat	1996	Children with disabilities	Boys & Girls

Tools

The tools designed and used for collection of data for the study were basically interview schedule, observation check-list and case studies. Interview schedules were used for eliciting desired information from Superintendents, Counsellors, Care takers. A few children from each Home selected randomly were also interviewed separately to understand their views about quality of services of the institutions, their opinion/experience about the staff, stay; their feelings, future plan, etc. Besides, one observation check list was also used. In addition, information were collected from records and registers of the institutions. A few case studies of some selected children was done in all the institutions to understand the children's background, their vulnerability, state of rehabilitation, etc. (Chapter VI).

CHAPTER II

PHYSICAL SETUP

Present study tried to look at the amenities in terms of infrastructural facilities in the institutions run by the Government of Assam for the disadvantaged children in need of care and protection, children with special needs and children in -conflict -with-law. The study primarily intended to understand the set up of these institutions which have been established to offer shelter and care to the needy children. It included physical facilities in terms of number of rooms available with the institutions, size of the rooms, conformity with the specifications laid down for this purpose, condition of the rooms, etc in different institutions. The following text describes the infrastructural condition in the institutions being run by the government both under Juvenile Justice(Care and Protection Children) Act,2000 and Person with Disability (PWD) Act, 1985. The description is divided into two parts. The first part covers the institutions under JJ Act and the second part is about the institutions under Disability Act.

Physical setup

Type of accommodation

The Table 2.1 gives a total picture in respect of few of the basic infrastructure such as dormitories, kitchen, dining hall, sickroom or first-aid rooms in all the four Homes under JJ Act. The table also describes the position in terms of availability and desirability of basic infrastructure. It is noteworthy that in regard to the institutions for special children, information was collected only about availability and number and not in respect of their sizes. The data presented in the table also speaks about the size of the rooms with a comparison of the specification given in the Act. It is seen that there has been enough space in all the Homes for children's accommodation. The dormitories are in sufficient number and quite spacious and even bigger than the provision under the Act. The dining halls though are there every where, however, at Children's Home, Jalukbari

Table No. 2.1: Availability of main rooms and their sizes in different Homes

Institution	Dormitories				Sickroom/First Aid Room				Dining Hall				Kitchen			
	No. available	Nos. as per JJ Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size as per JJ Rules (in ft.)	No. available	Nos. as per JJ Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size as per JJ Rules (in ft.)	No. available	Nos. as per JJ Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size as per JJ Rules (in ft.)	No. available	Nos. as per JJ Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size as per JJ Rules (in ft.)
CH, Ambari	3	2	3150	2000	0	1	NA	750	1	1	1200	800	1	1	360	250
C H, Nagaon	5	2	5376	2000	0	1	NA	750	1	1	660	800	1	1	336	250
O H, Boko	3	2	2520	2000	0	1	NA	750	1	1	800	800	1	1	250	250
O H, Jorhat	3	2	2268	2000	0	1	NA	750	1	1	1140	800	1	1	64	250
C H, Jalukbari	2	2	3360	2000	1	1	120	750	2	1	392	800	1	1	64	250

this is quite small, as a result, all girls can not eat together and they are required to carry their food to their respective rooms/dormitories to eat. In two Homes, kitchens were also smaller, however, in others these were sufficiently bigger. The data in regard to infrastructural facilities in the institutions for disabled children is reported separately in the institution-wise description in terms of physical set up.

Coming to the next list of building infrastructure, the data portrayed in Table-2.2 affirms the availability of provision of other infrastructural facilities related to children's education, recreation, counseling, etc. Class Room, Library, Recreation Room were available in most of the Homes. Guidance & Counseling Rooms were available in three Homes. Children Home, Nagaon and Observation Home, Jorhat did not have a Guidance & Counselling Room. However, its absence has not affected much in counselling of children. Since these institutions are quite spacious and are in possession of many spare rooms, counsellors can use any of these rooms for this purpose.

Table No. 2.2: Availability of utility rooms and their sizes in different Homes

Institutions	Class Room				Library				Counselling & Guidance Rooms				Recreation Room			
	Available Nos.	Nos. as per JJ Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size as per JJ Rules	Available Nos.	Nos. as per JJ Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size as per JJ Rules	Available Nos.	Nos. as per JJ Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size as per JJ Rules (in ft.)	Available Nos.	Nos. as per JJ Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size as per JJ Rules (in ft.)
Children's Home, Ambari	1	2	300	600	1	1	300	500	1	1	300	120	0	1	N.A.	300
Children's Home, Panigaon, Nagaon	1	2	500	600	1	1	384	500	0	1	N.A.	120	1	1	384	300
Observation Home, Boko	0	2	N.A.	600	1	1	480	500	1	1	480	120	1	1	792	300
Observation Home, Jorhat	1	2	1620	600	1	1	64	500	0	1	N.A.	120	1	1	840	300
Children's Home, Jalukbari	1	2	240	600	0	1	0	500	1	1	64	120	2	1	1800	300

Bath Rooms and Toilets

Table 2.3 presents the picture about the availability of bathrooms and latrines in all the Homes visited for the present study. It is obvious from the data that the Observation Home at Boko and Children Home Jalukbari have adequate number of toilets. Barring Children Home Nagaon where number of latrines and bathrooms were not sufficient, in all other Homes the number and size of bathrooms and latrines/toilets was adequate to meet the needs of the inmates. For not having sufficient bathing facilities in Nagaon, girls are required to take bath outside. It may be mentioned that they had only three bathrooms and five toilets for 57 girls. The girls had to take bath outside near the hand pump.

Table No. 2.3: Availability of bathrooms and toilets in different Homes

Institutions	Bath rooms				Toilets			
	Available Nos.	Nos. as per JJB Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size As per JJB Rules (in ft.)	Available Nos.	Nos. as per JJB Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size as per JJB Rules (in ft.)
CH, Ambari	6	5	175	125	6	8	175	200
C H, Nagaon	3	5	108	125	5	8	180	200
OH, Boko	8	5	384	125	12	8	576	200
OH, Jorhat	5	5	900	125	5	8	900	200
C H, Jalukbari	13	5	468	125	12	8	468	200

The data on infrastructural facilities in terms of office rooms, store, residence for superintendents presented at Table 2.4 reveal that all the Homes have separate office rooms in the premises. Residences for superintendents were available in all the Homes.

Table No. 2.4: Other office infrastructure

Name of Institution	Office Rooms				Residence for Superintendent				Rooms for CWC/JJB				Store			
	Available Nos.	Nos. as per JJ Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size as per JJ Rules (in ft.)	Available Nos.	Nos. as per JJ Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size as per JJ Rules (in ft.)	Available Nos.	Nos. as per JJ Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size as per JJ Rules (in ft.)	Available Nos.	Nos. as per JJ Rules	Available size (in ft.)	Size as per JJ Rules (in ft.)
CH Ambari	1	1	2100	300	1	1	1152	425	0	2	NA	600	1	1	480	250
C H Nagaon	2	1	384	300	1	1	1200	425	1	2	196	600	1	1	384	250
OH Boko	1	1	100	300	0	1	N.A.	425	1	2	252	600	2	1	344	250
OH Jorhat	5	1	320	300	0	1	N.A.	425	1	2	120	600	3	1	192	250
C H Jalukbari	5	1	1200	300	1	1	1200	425	1	2	120	600	5	1	944	250

However, at Boko, the residential quarter for Superintendent was not within the campus. Arrangement for accommodation was made near the Home. The distance was hardly 50

metres from the main building/ Home. It is noteworthy that Observation Home at Jorhat has a different staff pattern. It does not have a post of superintendent. In stead, it has two House Mothers who stay in the campus . Besides, there is also one Probation Officer who also stays within the campus. At Boko Observation Home ,though, the official residence for the superintendent is not there, some arrangement of accomodation is made available near the Home. Stores were found in all the Homes . The sizes were mostly larger than the size prescribed in JJ norms.

Following is a detailed separate institution-wise description of the institutions including the institutions for disabled in terms of physical setup .

Institution-wise description

Children Home, Jalukbari

Children Home, Jalukbari is housed in a spacious Assam type house with tinned roof, cemented floor and walls. There are two dormitories for girls, one class room, one sick room, two recreation rooms, five rooms for office use, five workshops and one counseling room. It does not have a library, however, there are some books which are kept with the superintendent and sometimes given to the inmates on their request. In addition, there is one kitchen, two dining rooms, five store rooms, 13 bathrooms and 12 toilets. There is sufficient area for playing. The home also has residential facility for Superintendent, Matron and Assistant Superintendent. However, it does no have a separate room for JJB. Superintendent's room is used for all meetings of JJB.

Children Home, Jalukbari

there are 2 dormitories for girls and their size is 3360 sq ft

There is only 1 classroom of 240 sq. ft

There is one sickroom of 120 sq. ft.

There are 2 recreation rooms of 1800 sq.ft

there are 5 office rooms of 1200 sq.ft.

there is 1 counseling room of 64 sq.ft.

there is 1 kitchen of 64 sq.ft

there are 2 dining rooms of 392 sq.ft.

there are 5 store rooms, 13 bathrooms and 12 toilets of 468 sq.ft

there are 5 workshops of 1200 sq.ft

Children Home, Fatasil, Ambari

The children home of Fatasil Ambari has a spacious premises with separate building for office, hostel, kitchen, dining hall. The newly constructed part of the set up is RCC and rest is Assam type. The building has three dormitories, one classroom, one office room. The office room is a big hall, which can also be used for different purposes such as recreation, yoga, meditation, etc by the children after the office hours. There is only one room for vocational training. The kitchen is of moderate size. The area of the dining hall is 1200 sq.ft. The Home has one store room, six bathrooms and six toilets. Sufficient space for games is available. Residential facility for the warden and Matron exist within the premises. Though there is accommodation for superintendent but she doesnot stay in the campus. There is no sick room, recreation room for children. The construction of Library room was in progress at the time of data collection.

Children Home of Fatasil Ambari

The children home of Fatasil Ambari has 3 dormitories of 3150 sq.ft.

There is only 1 classroom of 300 sq.ft

There is only 1 room for office 2100 sq.ft.

there is only 1 room for vocational training and is of only 300 sq.ft. area.

there is 1 kitchen and is of 360 sq.ft.

the area of the dining hall is 1200 sq.ft.

there is 1 store room of 480 sq.ft.

there are 6 bathrooms and 6 toilets

There is residential facility for the warden and matron.

Children Home, Panigaon, Nagaon

Children's Home Panigaon at Nagaon has altogether 14 rooms. It has two office rooms, one recreation room, one library, one workshop, one room for JJB/CWC, one kitchen, one dining room, one store room. The number of bathrooms and toilets are only three and five respectively. The Home does not have a sick room or a counseling room. Residential facility is available for Matron and Superintendent. But there is no room for Chowkidar. The Home has an educational institution and an AWC within the campus.

Children Home, Panigaon, Nagaon

there are 14 rooms of 5376sq.ft area
there is 1 recreation room of 384 sq.ft area
there are two office rooms 768sq.ft area
there is 1 library of 384sq.ft area
there is 1 workshop of 384 sq.ft area
there is 1 room for JJB of 196sq.ft area
the kitchen is of 336 sqft rea
there is 1 dining room of 660 sq.ft.
there is 1 store room of 384 sq.ft.
there are 3 bathrooms and 5 toilets
they have residential facility for Matron and Superintendent.
They have an educational institution of 500 sq. ft.

Observation Home, Boko

The Observation Home at Boko has three Dormitories. There is one recreation room, one office room, one library, one counseling room, one room for JJB. However, it is noteworthy that JJB Kamrup has never sat in this place. Since CJM court of Kamrup district is in Guwahati, and distance from Guwahati to Boko is more than 100 kms, holding of JJB meetings in this Home is not taking place. There is one dining hall and one kitchen. Even though there was a kitchen but cooking is done outside. It was informed by the staff of the Home that firewood is readily available in abundance all around free of cost; hence, they prefer to use it as fuel rather than using LPG. Since firewood would remit smoke and will make the kitchen room very stuffy, therefore, food is cooked outside. It is notable that very well structured mud hearths were made for this purpose. There are two store rooms, eight bathrooms and 12 toilets. There is sufficient space to play games within the campus. There is no residential facility for superintendent and other staff within the campus but some arrangements are made for their stay near the campus. There is no educational institution within the campus. There is no sick room, whereas as per JJ Rules there should be one sick room in every Home. No workshop exists in the Home.

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Observation Home ,Boko

3 Dormitories of 2520 sq.ft. area
there is 1 recreation room of 792 sq.ft. srea
there is 1 office room
there is 1 library of 480sq.ft area
there is 1 counselling room of 480 sq.ft.
there is only 1 room for JJB of 252 sq.ft.
there is 1 dining hall of 800 sqft area
there is 1 kitchen
there are 2 store rooms of 344 sq.ft.
there are 8 bathrooms and 12 toilets.

Observation Home, Jorhat

The Home has nine dormitories, one classroom, one recreation room , one kitchen, one dining hall, three store rooms, five bathrooms and five toilets. It also has five office rooms, one library, one room for JJB. The Home does not have sick room, work shop and counselor room. They have residential facility for Superintendent, House mother and Security Guard. However, there is no post of superintendent. In stead,they have one Principal and one post of probation officer. The principal was not staying in the campus. The Probation Officer stays inside the campus.

Observation Home , Jorhat

There are 9 dormitories of 2268 sq.ft
There is 1 classroom of 1620 sq.ft
There is 1 recreation room of 840 sq.ft
There are 5 office rooms of 320sq.ft
There is 1 library of 64 sq.ft
There is 1 room for JJB of 120sq.ft
There is 1 kitchen is of 64 sq.ft
There is 1 dining hall of 1140 sq.ft area
There are 3 store rooms of 192 sq.ft.
There are 5 bathrooms and 5 toilets of 1800sq.ft

Institutions for special children

Present study also examined the position in the institutions run by Govt. of Assam for special children. For this, all the three institutions under the Social Welfare Department of Assam namely, Bhauri Devi Sarawgi (BDS) Deaf and Dumb school, Kahilipara, Guwahati; Jorhat Blind Institution and School for Hearing Impaired Children, Na-ali, Jorhat were visited and data were collected on different areas including infrastructure. Following is a brief description of the physical setup in these institutions.

BDS Deaf & Dumb School

General information

The Government BDS Deaf & Dumb school is situated on the northern side of the Dispur, – Kahilipara PWD Road at a distance of about 150 meters from the different directorates of the Education department and about 1.5 KM from the state capital, Dispur. The school was established in the year 1968 in the name of Mrs Bhauri Devi Sarawgi, wife of the founder Late Chandmal Sarawgi. Mr. Exme Alam was the Principal of the school at the time of visit.

The BDS Deaf & Dumb school is a residential institution and boarders are from different places of Assam. Most of the children stay in the hostel of the school. However, there are some children who do not stay in the hostel. Most of these children are local. Thus, students comprise of both day scholars as well as hostellers. The total strength of the school at the time of data collection was 234; of which, 185 hostellers and 49 were day scholars. Further, of the total children, 149 are boys and 85 are girls.

Physical infrastructure

The school has separate hostels for boys and girls, the boys' hostel is in the main campus along with the school and the girls' hostel is in the adjacent campus. The kitchens and dining halls are also separate for boys and girls. There are four dormitories for boys and three for Girls. In each dormitory there are five bathrooms and three toilets. The school offers residential facilities to the Superintendents of the hostels, Matrons,

Chowkidars, and the Home Guards. The school has separate first aid/sick rooms for boys and girls.

The school has 15 classrooms each having capacity for 20 students. It also has four workshops. There are two recreation rooms, one office room and one library. The library possessed 1265 books at the time of visit.

BDS Deaf & Dumb school

There are 4 dormitories for Boys and 3 for Girls.

There are 2 kitchens and 2 dining halls

There are 35 bathrooms and 21 toilets

There are 2 recreation rooms

There is 1 office room

There is 1 library

There are 15 classrooms

There are 2 First aid/sick rooms

Jorhat Blind Institution

General information

Jorhat Blind institution is situated at Na-Aali near the Lion's club Jorhat, Assam. It is commonly known as blind school. The institution is run entirely by the government. It is completely a residential institution for blind children. The school is meant both for boys and girls. Ms Urmila Das was the principal of the institution at the time of visit to the institution. The strength of the institution at the time of visit was 72; of which, 35 were girls and 37 were boys.

Physical infrastructure

The school has separate hostel facilities for boys and girls. It has got two spacious dormitories for the boys. For girls, there are seven rooms. In one room 3-4 girls are accommodated. The rooms were found to be congested. It was informed by the Principal that the present arrangement of stay for girls is a temporary one and a new

building for girls hostel would be constructed soon. The number of bathrooms and toilets was three and 14 respectively. There is facility for stay for Attendant in each hostel. But, the posts of Attendant for the boys was lying vacant at the time of data collection.

There are nine classrooms and five office rooms in the school. The school also has one library with an emboss printer where they can print their books. Besides, it has one sick room and one store room. There is also a big open space to be used for various purposes . Though food for boys and girls is cooked in the same kitchen, dining halls are separate for them. The school is also equipped with the residences for the Principal , the Matron and the Chowkidar. They all were found to stay in the campus. At the time of visit there were 72 children (37 boys and 35 girls).

Jorhat Blind institution

There are 2 dormitories for boys and 7 rooms for girls

There are 3 bathrooms and 14 toilets

There are 9 classrooms

There are 5 office rooms

There is 1 library

There is 1 sick room

There is 1 store room

There is 1 kitchen

There are 2 dining halls

There are residences for the Principal , the Matron and the Chowkidar

School for Hearing Impaired

General information

Hearing Impaired School, Jorhat, Assam is located near Lion's club's Eye Hospital. This is an institution run completely by the state government for the children with hearing impairment. This institution is adjacent to the Jorhat Blind school. Ms Bonti Saikia was the in-charge principal of the institution at the time of visit. Though

the institution should have residential facilities for the students and the teachers, but, it lacks the same. The institution was formerly attached with Jorhat Observation Home, Jorhat and was shifted to the present building in 2004. The strength of students at the time of visits was only 33, with 13 boys and 20 girls.

Physical Infrastructure

The school has five rooms, of which, three are used as classrooms. The institution does not have facilities for vocational training. It also does not have a proper playground. One of the rooms is utilized for group learning. This room is equipped with group hearing machine-2 set, Audio Meter- 1 set, and 1 set of individual speech trainer. At a time 20 students can learn with these equipments. One of the group hearing machine was donated by Sarba Shiksha Abhiyan, Assam. The school does not have residential accommodation for children.

Hearing Impaired School

There are 3 classrooms

There is 1 office room

There is 1 activity room

construction of Hostel building under process

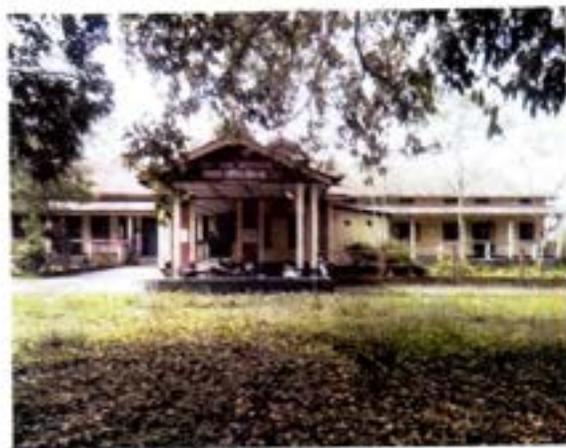
Conclusion

In most of the Homes under JJ Act ,the rooms were sufficiently big enough to accommodate the children. In comparison to various studies conducted in different institutions for children across the country (Salve and Sahastrabudhe, Goel) which report of inadequate number of rooms, overcrowding , insufficient number of toilets , the situation in Assam is quite different. The space was big enough in most of the institutions. All the Children Homes under JJ Act and the institutions for special children/ under PWD Act visited by the research team have dormitory type of accommodation. In most of the Homes, the rooms were sufficiently big enough to accommodate the children. In most cases, size of the rooms was as per the prescribed parameter that is,

1000 sq. ft for 25 juveniles. In few institutions the size was even bigger than the suggested norm. Children's Home at Panigaon, Nagaon owned the biggest accommodation. In Jorhat Blind school also the dormitory for boys was too big in comparison to the number of inmates. However, the hostel for girls in the Jorhat Blind School was small and the rooms were to some extent overcrowded.

The dining halls and the store rooms of the Homes were found appropriate. Regarding kitchens, both the Children's Homes of Fatasil Ambari and Nagaon had spacious kitchens. However, in Observation Home, Jorhat and Children's Home, Jalukbari the size of the kitchens was somewhat smaller. In Observation Home of Boko, cooking was found to be done outside adjacent to the main building under a shade. This is done to be able to use firewood as fuel for cooking. Since firewood are available in plenty in that area, they prefer to cook in hearth by using firewood rather than cooking inside in the kitchen in gas. Jorhat Blind school though had a kitchen of moderate size, but it lacked a dining hall.

Photographs of few Child Care Institutions



Blind Institution, Jorhat



Children Home Jalukbari



Boys' Hostel, Blind Institution



Hearing Impaired School, Jorhat

Dining hall in the Children's Institutions



Residential Facilities



CHAPTER III

CHILDREN IN THE INSTITUTIONS

Children in the Child Care Institutions come from varied backgrounds. They are the children from vulnerable situation. Many of them are marginalized, neglected, abused and discriminated against. Most of the children brought to the Children's Homes are either rescued from trafficking, from families at risk, or from families suffered from disaster situation or conflict. They are street children, beggars, child labourers, trafficked and abandoned. Some are also in-conflict-with-law. They are brought by the police, NGO or Guwahati Childline based on the decision of the CWC and JJB. Most of the children are from poor and broken families. Large number of them are either illiterates or school dropouts. Following text gives an account on children's enrolment, occupancy pattern, age, period of stay, children's opinion about the institutions, socialization, behavioural problem and so on.

Enrolment of children

In all, 600 children were enrolled in five Homes for children being run by Govt. of Assam under JJ Act in 10 months starting from April, 2008 to January, 2009. Observation Home, Jorhat had the highest number (218). Table -3.1 furnishes month-wise data of enrolment for each of the visited Homes.

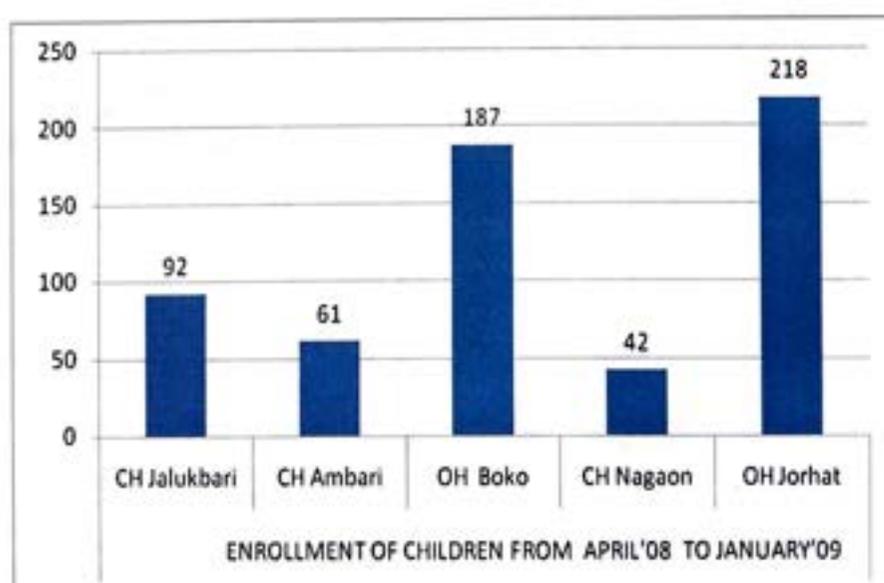
Children's Home Nagaon reported the lowest enrolment with 42 children. Institution-wise as well as month-wise variation in enrolment is apparent from the data. While it ranged between 1-11 and 3-13 in Children Homes at Nagaon and Fatasil Ambari respectively, it was 2-19 in Children Home, Jalukbari. In regard to the Observation Homes, the range was 7-32 in Jorhat and 8-41 in Boko. On an average, in

Table No. 3.1: Enrolment of Children from April 2008 to January 2009

SL. No.	Month	CH Jalukbari	CH Ambari	OH Boko	CH Nagaon	OH Jorhat	TOTAL	Average Monthly enrolment
1	April'08	8	4	18	4	19	53	10.6
2	May'08	8	4	19	3	27	61	12.2
3	June'08	19	13	20	11	32	95	19
4	July'08	6	8	17	5	22	58	11.6
5	August'08	2	7	41	5	27	82	16.4
6	September'08	5	3	27	2	29	66	13.2
7	October'08	4	8	9	4	7	32	6.4
8	November'08	13	6	8	3	24	54	10.8
9	December'08	12	5	18	4	16	55	11
10	January'09	15	3	10	1	15	44	8.8
TOTAL		92	61	187	42	218	600	

a month 60 new children were admitted in all the five institutions. Average monthly figure is 12 for an individual Home. Surprisingly, in the month of June, 2009 barring Observation Home Boko in all the institutions enrolment was very high in comparison to the other months. Lowest reporting month was October, 2009 (32). Institution-wise average enrolment is illustrated by Figure 3.1.

Figure 3.1: Average Monthly Enrolment in Homes



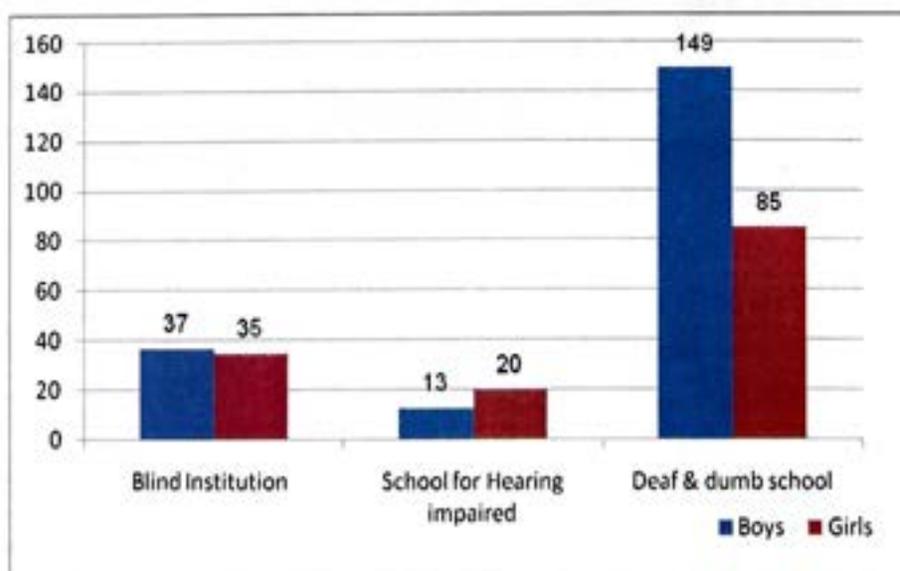
Enrolment of children in Special schools

In respect of number of children in three special institutions for disabled children run by the Social Welfare Department of Government of Assam, the data in the following table shows 339 children, of whom 199 are boys and 140 are girls. All these three institutions are co-educational and are admitting both boys and girls. The enrolment figure in the institutions for children with disability at the time of visits is given in Table 3.2. It is noteworthy that all these institutions are established to facilitate education of disable children. Thus, it is obvious that being primarily educational institutions, their enrolment figures remain almost same throughout an academic year and release or discharge occurs only at the end of their studies.

Table No.3.2: Enrolment figure in the Institutions for Children with Disability

	Boys	Girls	Total
Blind Institution Jorhat	37	35	72
School for Hearing impaired, Jorhat	13	20	33
Deaf & dumb school, Guwahati	149	85	234
Total	199	140	339

Figure No. 3.2: Enrolment figure in the Institutions for Children with Disability



It is noteworthy that while all the children at Jorhat Blind institution live in its hostel in the premises, the children at School for Hearing Impaired in Jorhat are day scholars. Since this school does not have hostel facilities, children come from their respective homes/rented houses. It was informed by the staff that for not having a hostel, many parents from outside Jorhat are forced to take houses on rent near the institution. Though there is a plan to construct a hostel, it was not yet done. Out of total 234 children in the Deaf & Dumb school of Gauhati, 185 are hostellers and 49 are day scholars.

Occupancy pattern :

Though, the number of children who were enrolled in five Children Homes between April, 2008 and January, 2009 was 600, however actual occupancy was much more than that. There were in all 1983 number of children in 10 months in five Homes. Highest account was in Children Home Nagaon (585) and lowest at Children Home Jalukbari (291). Since new arrival and discharge/restoration go on simultaneously and also because of children's running away from the Homes, the number of actual occupants vary frequently. As a result, like enrolment, in respect of occupancy also there was variation from Home to Home and also from month to month within the same Home. Table 3.3 and Figure 3.3 show number of occupants in different Homes in different months (April, 2008 to January, 2009). For this, the number of children on the last day of the month was taken as the occupancy figure for that particular month. Children Home of Jalukbari had least number of children i.e., 23, against Children Home of Nagaon with highest number (62). However, it is noteworthy that the capacity of Children Home of Nagaon is also more i.e. 100 where as, other Homes as per norm can accommodate a maximum of 50 children at a time. It is obvious from the table that the number of children at Children Home Fatasil Ambari and Nagaon is almost static all through out. In the first, it ranged between 29 - 35 while in the second it was between 55 and 62. Average occupancy of three Children Homes was 33 and in Observation Homes it was 37. However, barring Children's Home Nagaon in rest of the four Homes the occupancy pattern was more or less similar. It was found that average number of children in the five Homes under JJ Act from April, 2008 to January, 2009

Table No. 3.3: Occupancy pattern in Homes from April'08 to January'09

Months	CH Jalukbari	CH, Ambari	OH Boko	CH Nagaon	OH Jorhat	Total
April'08	26	29	27	55	26	163
May'08	25	31	29	56	30	171
June'08	35	35	34	62	42	208
July'08	28	35	42	60	37	202
August'08	23	33	52	60	39	207
September'08	26	34	43	58	44	205
October'08	26	32	40	59	41	198
November'08	30	33	29	59	47	198
December'08	37	33	31	59	54	214
January'09	35	35	35	57	55	217
Total	291	330	362	585	415	1983

ranged between 29 and 58 (Table 3.4). Children Home, Jalukbari and Ambari had average 29 and 33 children respectively. Children Home, Nagaon had as high as 58

Figure 3.3: Occupancy pattern in different Child Care Institutions

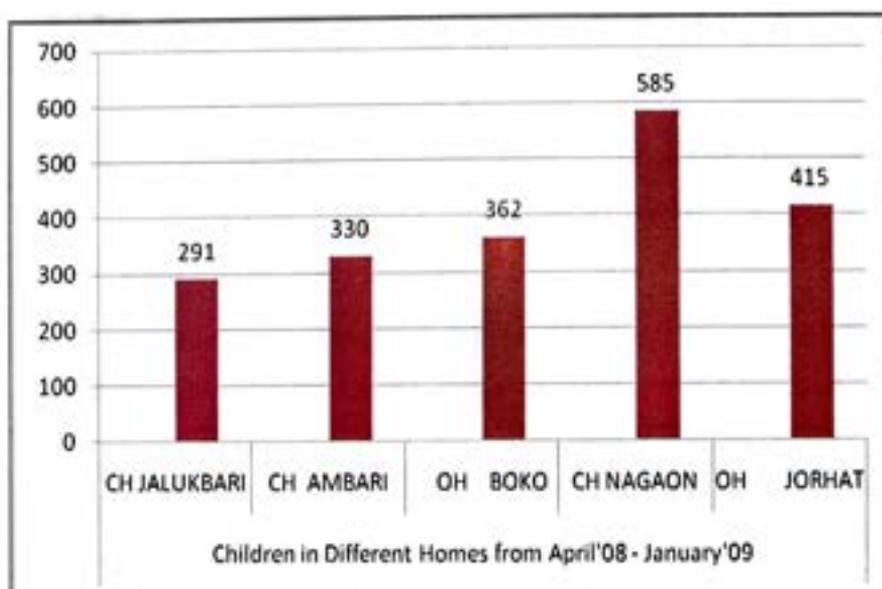
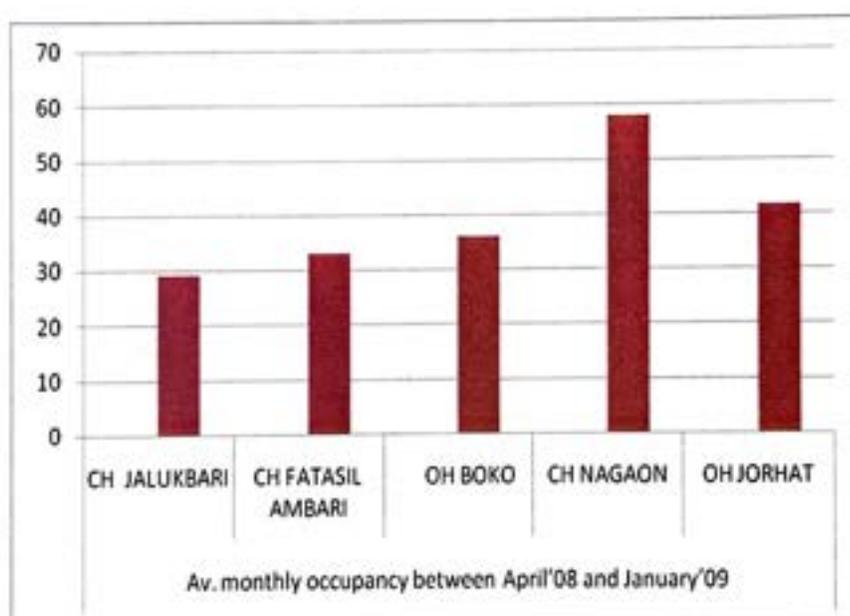


Table No. 3.4: Average monthly occupancy in Homes between April'08 and January'09

CH JALUKBARI	CH FATASIL AMBARI	OH BOKO	CH NAGAON	OH JORHAT
29	33	36	58	41.5

children. At Observation Homes Jorhat and Boko monthly average of inmates was 36 and 41 respectively. Thus, it is clear that except the Home at Nagaon, other Homes had almost similar kind of occupancy pattern.

Figure 3.4: Average Monthly Occupancy in the Institutions



Age of Children

It is evident from Table 3.5 that maximum number of children (44%) in the five institutions under JJ rules belong to the age group of 12-16 years. The next highest group (25%) is in the 16-18 years age group. Twenty-one per cent are in 7-12 years of age, six per cent are below 7 years, and only four per cent were above 18 years of age. For not having After Care Home, inmates above the age of 18 years are also kept in these Homes. In contrast to the findings of a study in 10 Children's Institutions in Pune,

Maharashtra (Salve and Sahastrabudhe) that reported majority of the children (82.65%) in the age group of 6-12 years, the present study finds maximum number of children (73%) in above the age of 12 years and only 27 per cent below 12 years of age. This difference in age structure could be because of socio-cultural as well as ecological factors prevailing in these two places. Since Assam has more rural characteristics than Maharashtra and a large majority of the people live in rural areas, the situations of forcing small children to the

Table No. 3.5: Age-wise distribution of children in Homes

AGE GROUP	ENROLMENT
0-7 YRS.	6%
7-12 YRS	21 %
12-16 YRS	44%
16-18 YRS	25%
18YRS +	4%

street is rare. Again, joint family system which is largely practised in rural areas also prevents children from being in the institutions. The fact that 69 per cent of the children in the Homes covered under the present study are between 12-18 years of age probably points out to the reality that till 10 – 12 years of age, that is, when they are in their childhood or in early adolescence, children are attached to their families and do not dare to leave home or come to the street or to the town or the city. Tendency to commit any offense is also usually low during this period. As a result, number of children in the Homes below 12 years of age is less. In view of the danger associated with placing younger children in the institutions, as revealed by many researchers, present finding of lesser number of younger children in the child care institutions is highly remarkable.

Grouping of Children

Grouping of children was different in Observation Home and Children Home. Based on the age, the inmates were grouped and placed separately in Observation Homes and Children Homes. In Observation Homes children were divided into four groups, namely, 7-12 years, 12-16 years, 16-18 years and 18 years and above.

Whereas, in the Children Homes, the segregation of groups were 5-10 years ,10-15 years, and 15-18 years. Sometimes the Homes also kept children of similar body stature (appearing to be of more less same age) in the same dormitory.

Duration of Stay

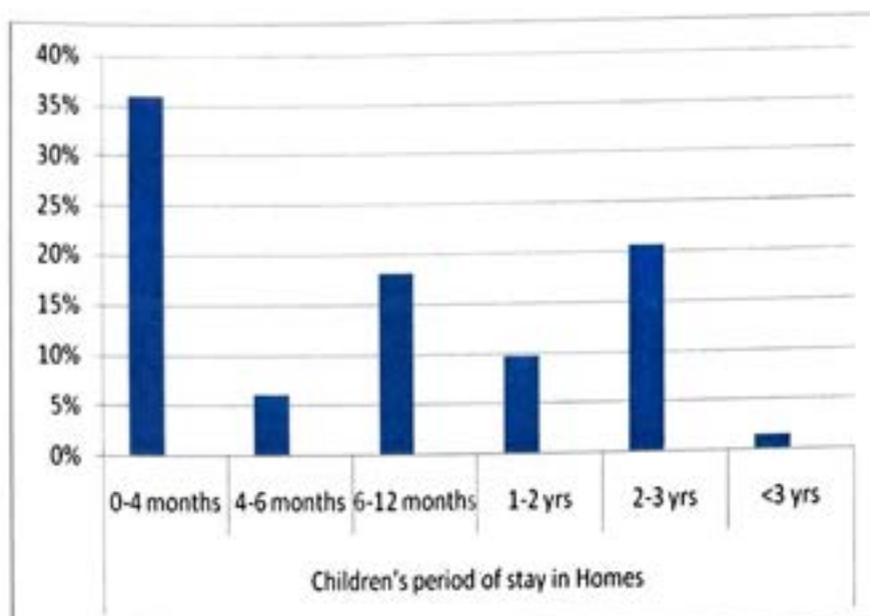
It is seen from the Table 3.6 and Figure 3.5 that, for maximum number of children (36%) duration of stay in the Homes was for a relatively short period i.e., up to four months only. It was learnt from the staff of the Homes visited for the study that many children

Table No. 3.6: Children's period of stay in Homes

0-4 months	36%
4-6 months	6%
6-12 months	18%
1-2 yrs	9.7%
2-3 yrs	20.5%
<3 yrs	1.4%

actually stayed even for less than 24 hrs. They were mostly missing children or children who were rescued by Guwahati Child Line or others and sent to the Homes as an interim arrangement. For six per cent children, period of stay was for 4-6 months. It is obvious from the data presented in above Table 3.6 and Figure 3.5 that 42 per cent of the children stayed in the institutions up to six months only. For nearly 10 per cent children duration of stay was for 1-2 years. For 20.5 per cent, stay was for 2-3 years. Combined together, nearly 30 per cent children stayed for 1-3 years. One per cent had stayed for more than 3 years. Salve and Sahastrabudhe (ibid) reported of longer stay of children in the institutions in their study. They found 43 per cent children to have stayed for more than two years. This figure is more than double than the present findings which report that for 22 per cent children, duration of stay was more than two years. There has been

Figure 3.5: Children's duration of stay



numerous studies which have established that longer stay in the institutions has detrimental effects on children. Longer stay is likely to cause emotional and behavioural disturbance and cognitive impairment in children. Thus, the present trend of relatively shorter stay in the Homes is a positive finding. This talks about the Homes' ability in tracking home addresses, contacting parents/guardians for restoration, discharge and transfer of cases as per the requirement. This is also indicative of better coordination and working relationship among different agencies like CWC, JJB, Childline and other NGOs.

It may be mentioned here that institutions (special schools) under PWD Act follow a totally different system. In these institutions children's duration of stay is usually from the time of their enrolment till the completion of their studies. Therefore, these institutions were excluded from answering to the question on duration of stay.

Children's opinion about the Institutions

Some selected children in every institution were asked if they liked their stay there, if they were happy with the staff, whether they were satisfied with the services like

food, health care, etc. Regarding children's liking their stay in the Homes there was mixed responses. It was interesting to find that some children desired a longer stay in the Homes. However, there were some who did not want to stay further. There was also variation in nature of reply from Home to Home. While, in the Children Home ,Nagaon most of the children enjoyed their stay, it was not so in case of Children Home, Ambari. Though, children's duration of stay depends on the nature of the case, yet, children's desire to stay or in other words their liking the Home is also sometimes a deciding factor for duration of their stay. Majority of the children who wanted to stay in the Homes for longer stated that they would like to stay there until they became self dependent.

Children's return to Homes

It was learnt during the visit to different Homes that some children through discharged were again sent to them. Some were again run away cases. These children ran away from their own homes after restoration by the Children Home or by Guwahati Childline. Some were found in vulnerable situation like begging, loitering, roaming around alone at night so on and so forth. Some children at Observation Home were caught again for similar offense like petty theft, pick pocketing, bullying, etc. which they committed earlier. This is the reflection of the fact that very little has actually being done to instill a sense of value in the minds of these boys and there has been no adequate correctional measure to reform these children , which is a cause of concern. Deplorable home condition, lack of familial tie, lack of love and affection, poverty are some of the factors which make children flee from home again even after restoration.

Presence of disable children

It is significant to note the presence of children with special needs in almost all the Homes under JJ Rules. Physically and mentally challenged children were found to be present in these Homes at the time of visits. There were all together 23 children with special needs. It is seen from Table 3.7 that there on an average nearly five children with special needs .Observation Home Boko and Children Home Jalukbari were found to have maximum number of disable children .There were two mentally retarded children and one deaf & dumb child in Children Home, Nagaon. Again, two children with mental retardation and orthopedic handicap were found in Children Home of Fatasil Ambari. At

observation Home of Boko there were as many as seven disable children; of which, four were mentally retarded and three were deaf & dumb. Three mentally retarded children were also found in Observation Home of Jorhat. Altogether, there were seven mentally retarded children in the Observation Homes. It is evident from Table 3.7 that, number of mentally challenged children was nearly double than the physically challenged in the Homes. It is important to mention that differently abled children did not receive any

Table No. 3.7: Presence of Children with Special Needs

Homes	Physically challenged	Mentally challenged	Total
Children's Home Nagaon	1	2	3
Children Home of Fatasil, Ambari	1	2	3
Observation Homes at Jorhat	-	3	3
Observation Homes at Boko	3	4	7
Children Home Jalukbari	3	4	7
Total	8	15	23

special care in the Homes under JJ Act. It is also noteworthy that none of the above Homes has specially trained teacher/staff to look after such children, nor there is any facility to cater to the special needs of these children. These Homes do not have any plan to cater to the educational, vocational or health needs of these children. As a result, these children do not get proper care in these Homes and their future is very uncertain. During the visit to the Homes under JJ Act by the Research team it was observed that these children are treated as less human being. It was reported that the three mentally retarded children of Observation Home of Jorhat were taken to the Mental Hospital at Tezpur, but acceptance was denied to them. This speaks about the fact that personnel working in this Home or their immediate superiors /seniors have no knowledge about the difference between mental illness and mental retardation. Mental asylum in Tezpur is meant for people with mental illnesses and is not a place for mentally retarded. It is obvious from the above table that there are more number of mentally retarded children than physically challenged. Presence of 14 mentally retarded children in these Homes is a significant finding. Further, presence of such children in the Observation Home is still more alarming. Such children labeled as offenders or in-conflict-with-law is also another

issue which need serious attention. It is needless to mention that for not having an institution for mentally retarded children in Assam ,such children from marginalized families who are found on the street or Railway Platforms or Bus Stand are dumped in these Homes.

Children Running Away from Homes

It is evident from the Table 3.8 that, as many as 45 children ran away from the Homes in 10 months between April, 2008 and January, 2009. Maximum incidences of running away was reported at Children Home, Ambari. Here, 32 children escaped without the knowledge of the care taking staff of the Home. This talks about poor state of management, unhealthy atmosphere in the institutions and also unruly/delinquent behaviour among children. A very low boundary wall in this Home often facilitates in children's sneaking/ running away. Rude behaviour of the staff was also reported to be one of the reasons which make children flee. It was found that several children who were rescued by Guwahati Childline and Were sent to this Home often found missing next morning. It is needless to state that many of such incidences take place at night. The fact that a monthly average of 3 children fleeing from the Home is a startling finding. Of the 10 months, for which the data on runaway children were gathered, except May and October, 2008, children fled from Ambari Home every month. Unlike Children Home, Ambari, other two Children Homes had relatively smaller number of run away cases. In the Observation Homes, cases of running away were low because of tight security. Low incidence of running away cases speaks about a better environment, more vigilance on the part of these Homes. Nevertheless, running away of children from Home is a very dangerous signal and can put a child in a very tricky condition. It is, therefore, the utmost duty of the institutions to see to it that no child can run away. The institutions should improve the environment, improve the vigil and counsel the children. While talking to some boys (between 9 -12 yrs) who were at Guwahati Childline during the transit from police station to CWC, or CWC to Children Home, it was realized that they ran away from their family / home in search of love ,affection, sympathy.

Table No. 3.8: Cases of Runaway between April'08 and January'09

Children Home, Jalukbari	3
Children Home, Ambari	32
Observation Home, Boko	0
Children Home Nagaon	8
Observation Home Jorhat	2
Total	45

Their home environment was harsh, abusive, devoid of love, understanding. They were scolded, beaten up, not given food or ill treated by parents/step parents for which, they took a drastic decision of leaving home with the hope of finding a better place to live in. When these children were found loitering in the streets or in the Railway station and bus stand they are caught by police. Police eventually inform Childline functionaries who immediately visit the police station and take over the children. Some of these children also run away from home without any definite reason. They come to Guwahati with an illusion that it will give them a better life and will fulfill their dreams. When these children are put up in the Children Home after the production at CWC, their dreams sometimes get shattered. They find that the condition of the institution is even worse than their own homes. Small boys on realizing the blunder of their leaving home become desperate to leave the institution at the slightest opportunity they get. Many even get frightened and become panic when they come to know about the process of sending them back to their own homes.

In the present study, the Research team had selected few children from each Homes randomly and interviewed them individually. They inquired from children about their opinion about the staff, food, studies, their future aim, etc. One-to-one interaction with children helped children to open up and express their views freely. The responses of children show great resembles in certain aspects and great deal of differences in some others. Differences were found according to the type of institutions as well as intra institution wise.

There are significant differences in terms of aim in life of the children from Children Homes and Observation Homes. Inmates from Children Homes aspired to become teachers, Yoga Instructors, Army Officers, Call Centre Executives, Entrepreneurs and to help people in distress, whereas, most of the children from Observation Homes had no idea of their aim in life. A few of them wanted to become rickshaw puller, few wanted to do good for society. Children from institutions for disable would like to become Teachers, Musicians, Artists and Officers.

Socialisation of Children

Most of the children were socialized; they made friends with fellow inmates. They liked to play in groups. They play indoor games like ludo, carrom, chess and out door games like kabaddi, kho kho, badminton, cricket and football in the evening. They like the caretaking staff, warden or matron and stated them to be understanding, loving and caring. However, few children said that the matron or warden did not help them in their studies. Majority of the children wanted to stay in the Homes until they become self dependent. Most of the children were satisfied with food served to them. They were happy with the quantity and quality of food.

Behavioural Problems in children

Depression was the most commonly reported problem amongst the children in the institutions. Except Deaf & Dumb school of Guwahati and Blind school of Jorhat, all the institutions mentioned depression as one of the common problems of the inmates. Similarly, all these institutions mentioned of anxiety and worries that many children found to be suffering from. According to them, children were anxious and worried about their own future, well being of family members, possibility of getting back to the families, apprehension about their acceptance by family members, etc. They were apprehensive about their parents coming to take them home. It may be mentioned here that parents or guardians of some of the inmates of these Homes did not turn up or did not show willingness to take them back home when they were called to take charge of their children. Thus, many of the inmates are spending their time in Observation Home months after months. This speaks about lack of seriousness on the part of the concerned authorities / bodies responsible for looking into the cases of children. Four

institutions namely Children Homes at Fatasil Ambari and Nagaon; Observation Home, Jorhat and School for Hearing Impaired at Jorhat stated of having children with tendency of displaying delinquent behavior. Children not liking to mix with other children was also reported by four institutions. These children avoided mixing with other children and preferred to stay alone. They did not like the company of other children and did not participate in any group activities. As regards social behaviour of blind children, it was reported that they preferred to remain aloof and did not like to mix up with others. Deaf and Dumb children exhibit aggressive behaviour and temper tantrum more often. They are counseled by the teachers. Sometimes the teachers also try to instill a sense of fear in them when children break rules. Teachers also give extra work to children in the form of punishment. Regarding the other segment of data from Observation Home Boko and Children Home Nagaon and Ambari, the reasons such as fear of strangers, fear of apprehension and high level of anxiety and worries acted as barriers in making friendship with others.

In addition to the common problems of depression, dislike and difficulty in mixing with other children and anxiety and worries, children are often found to manifest behavioural problems like, nail biting, thumb sucking and delinquent behaviour like bullying, fighting, stealing, etc. Problem of homosexuality among the girls was reported in Children Home, Jalukbari.

Despite presence of some psycho-social and behavioural problems among some of the inmates in the visited children's institutions in Assam, it may be stated that the problems are not as acute as these could have been in such a situation of abandonment, destitution, orphaned, missing children and also with children in-conflict-with-law and also with disability. None of the institutions mentioned the behavioral/psycho-social problem of children as very serious or grave.

CHAPTER IV

STANDARD OF CARE

Children are the most precious human resource of a country. India's National Plan of Action for Children, 2005 commits itself to ensure all rights to children up to the age of 18 years. The Plan has accorded high priority to socially and physically handicapped children and recommended that they should be provided with facilities for education, training and rehabilitation. The Government envisages to ensure all measures and an enabling environment for survival, growth, development and protection of all such children, so that, each child realizes his/her inherent potential and grow up to be a healthy and productive citizen. With respect to orphans, destitute and vulnerable children, the State Governments are to establish children's homes in different districts for care, treatment, education, training, development and rehabilitation of such children under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. These Homes are to ensure adequate health and nutritional care and provide educational, vocational and recreational services to the children for their fullest development and rehabilitation. Following is a description of standard of care and facilities in the studied Children's Institutions in Assam.

Under the present study on the status of Children's Institutions in the state of Assam, the research team had gathered detailed data on kind of educational facilities, vocational training, health care facilities, recreational facilities, clothing, bedding nutrition & diet ,etc from all the eight institutions for children including those for special children in order to understand the amenities as per the provision. Institution-wise data are presented below.

Educational Facility

Most of the institutions have facilities for education and children were found to attend classes, whether it is formal or non-formal. Most of the children stated to have

liked studies and only a few gave the feedback in negative; they did not like studies and found studies difficult. Following text describes the educational facilities provided to the inmates by different institutions:

Children Home Nagaon

Children Home Nagaon provides school facilities to all the inmates. Children can get education right from pre-primary (AWC) up to Higher Secondary and beyond. There is a Non-formal school under Sarba Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Assam inside the campus. The school has classes from preparatory to class IV. When the children pass class IV, they are admitted to higher class in other schools outside the Home where they can study up to class XII. SSA provides free books to the children, while other items such as copies, pen, pencil, etc are provided from the Home. It has already been mentioned that the State Home for Women, Children Home and Observation Home are in the same campus in Nagaon. Children of inmates of State Home also stay in the Children Home. At the time of visit, two such children (boys) were also studying in preparatory and class IV respectively along with the girls. There is also an Anganwadi Centre within the campus. So, small children below five years of age attend AWC. In 2009, one girl from Nagaon Children Home had passed class XII in Arts stream. The Home planned to get her admitted in Bachelors of Arts course from Open University and in a computer course simultaneously. It may be mentioned that UNICEF, Assam arranges tuition classes for students of class IX and X. In the Observation Home there is hardly any girl and even if there is, they do not stay for more than a day, so, educational facilities are not required to be provided.

Children Home Fatasil Ambari

Educational facilities are also offered by Children's Home of Fatasil Ambari. The Home utilizes one of its rooms for this purpose. The school is being run by SSA, Assam. There is only one teacher in the school. She teaches children from class I to class IV following the syllabi of SCERT. Once the children pass class IV successfully, they are admitted in higher class in Santipur high school which is close by. In 2009, two children appeared in HSLC examination but could not succeed. The superintendent

complained that there is no facility for coaching classes. There are no funds for the library.

Children Home Jalukbari

Children Home of Jalukbari does not have formal education facility. At the time of visit there was only an alternative school under SSA, Assam. In this school they have classes from I to III. At the time of visit to the Home all the girls (14) were placed in class I. It was astonishing to find that all girls irrespective of their age and past educational experience were placed in class I. The Home did not provide any facility to pursue education after class III.

Observation Home Jorhat

In the Observation Home of Jorhat, only non-formal education is imparted to the children within the campus. As children keep coming and going frequently, the boys are only taught to read and write their names and other basic things. For children who had never attended school before or unable to read and write, functional literacy classes are arranged. This is also given in a non-formal manner.

Observation Home Boko

Observation Home, Boko did not have any facility for education at the time of visit.

The Table 4.1 gives the data on educational facilities and also on children's educational status at the time of visit to the Homes under JJ system. It has been observed that education facilities for children in the Homes is not uniform everywhere. While Children Homes of Nagaon and Fatasil Ambari offer proper educational facility,

Table No. 4.1: Types of Educational Opportunities provided by the Homes

	CH, Jalukbari	CH, Ambari	CH, Nagaon	OH, Jorhat	OH, Boko
Total children	33	33	59	47	No educational facility
Receiving education	14*	33	59	44**	-
Formal	√ (alternative school)	√	√	-	Nil
Non-formal	-	-	-	√	Nil
Pre-primary	NA	NA	6	NA	NA
Class-i	14	5	10	-	-
Class-ii	Nil	2	10	-	-
Class-iii	Nil	Nil	5	-	-
Class-iv	-	Nil	6	-	-
Class-v	-	4	3	-	-
Class-vi	-	3	3	-	-
Class-vii	-	4	3	-	-
Class-viii	-	1	4	-	-
Class-ix	-	4	4	-	-
Class-x	-	10	4	-	-
Class-xi	-	-	Nil	-	-
Class-xii	-	-	1	-	-
Total	14	33	59	44	-

- * the girls at Children's Home Jalukbari used to attend only an Alternative School of SSA within the campus.
- ** the boys of Observation Home, Jorhat attended non-formal education imparted by the staff of the Home

Children Home of Jalukbari has not paid desired attention to this. Further, while Observation Home of Jorhat has arranged non-formal education for the inmates, Observation Home, Boko has done nothing in this regard.

Educational facilities in the Institutions for Disabled

Education is preparation of a child for life. Thus, the importance and utility of proper education for disabled cannot be overemphasized. Education and training enable the disabled children not only to overcome their handicaps but also help to make them self sufficient and useful citizens.

Laws on Education of the Disabled

The Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) ACT, 1995 states that the appropriate Governments and the local authorities shall ensure that every child with a disability has access to free education in an appropriate environment till he attains the age of eighteen years. The National Policy on Education, 1986, advocates Integrated Education in general schools for the loco-motor impaired and mildly disabled children, and special education for the severely handicapped children. The Act envisages a comprehensive scheme with transport facilities, free books, uniforms and other materials; schools without architectural barriers that provide a restructured curriculum; a modified examination system as well as scholarships for the benefit of these children. In pursuance of this, Government of India has framed laws and schemes to promote the education of disabled children at various levels (Central, State and local bodies). Under these schemes, free education is being provided to all the disabled children under the age of 18.

Following text description of the status of education in respect of type of schooling, enrolment of children in different classes and other provision as per the PWD Act in the institutions for special children.

Deaf and Dumb School, Guwahati

The Deaf and Dumb School in Guwahati is primarily a residential educational institution. The school's main aim is to help deaf and dumb children in their educational achievement. All the children are enrolled in different classes of the school. Though the school is basically a residential one, there are also some children who are not residing in the hostel but are attending the school regularly. The school has classes from preprimary to class-X. It follows state curriculum and state academic calendar. Table 4.2 presents the enrollment figure in different classes in 2009 .

Table No. 4 .2: Enrolment figure in Deaf and Dumb school in 2009

Sl. No.	Class	Total	Boys	Girls
1.	Pre - I (A+B)	12	7	5
2.	Pre - II (A+B)	21	15	6
3.	I (A+B)	30	20	10
4.	II (A+B)	31	22	9
5.	III	20	12	8
6.	IV	20	8	12
7.	V	16	8	8
8.	VI	18	13	5
9.	VII	19	12	7
10.	VIII	11	6	5
11.	IX	24	14	10
12.	X	12	8	4
Total		234	145	89

The school follows syllabi of SCERT from pre-primary to class VII and from class VIII onwards SEBA (State Board of Education) syllabi is followed. The students appear in the Board examination competing with the normal children. The following table (Table 4.3) shows the HSLC examination results in the last six years starting from 2002-03. The results show a very steady and significant progress from 2005 onwards. There is also significant improvement in the pass percentage after 2004-05. All the children who do not stay in the hostel get a monthly scholarship of Rs. 200 from Govt. of Assam. These children also receive Mid Day Meal provided by SSA .

Table No. 4.3: Results of HSLC examination in the Deaf & Dumb school

Sl. No.	Year	Number of examinees appeared and passed				Pass percentage
		Regular		Private		
		Appeared	Passed	Appeared	Passed	
1.	2002-03	16	Nil	8	3	12.5
2.	2003-04	14	2	10	3	20.8
3.	2004-05	15	Nil	17	4	12.5
4.	2005-06	21	5	15	11	45
5.	2006-07	14	12	19	13	75.7
6.	2007-08	20	17	4	2	79.2
7.	2008-09	17	17	8	5	88
		117	53	81	41	

The Institution for Blind

The institution for Blind at Jorhat has educational facility from preprimary to class X. The Age group of the child during admission is 5-9 years. The school possesses two specially designed computers for blind children. These computers are with Braille instruction. The school also owns one embossed printer with the help of which it can print its own books. Though the school has all sets of books prescribed by SEBA, but with frequent change of syllabi it becomes very difficult for the teachers to get embossed books for the blind students every time. The medium of instruction is Assamese. Table 4.4 gives the enrolment figure of children in different classes.

Table No. 4.4: Enrolment figure in the Institution for Blind in 2009

Sl. No.	Classes	Total	Boys	Girls
1.	Preprimary	25	18	7
2.	Class I	11	5	6
3.	Class II	5	3	2
4.	Class III	5	2	3
5.	Class IV	2	0	2
6.	Class v	6	1	5
7.	Class VI	5	3	2
8.	Class VII	3	2	1
9.	Class VIII	3	3	0
10.	Class IX	5	0	5
11.	Class X	2	2	0
	Total	72	39	33

Hearing Impaired School, Jorhat

The Hearing impaired school of Jorhat has classes from preparatory to VIII only. After class VIII, children are transferred to Deaf and dumb school of Guwahati. The school has facilities of computers and other Hearing Aids given by Sarba Shiksha Abhiyan, Assam (Table 4.5).

Table No. 4.5: Enrolment figure in Hearing Impaired school in 2009

Sl. No.	Class	No. of children	Boys	Girls
1.	Preparatory I	3	2	1
2.	Preparatory II	2	Nil	2
3.	Class I	3	1	2
4.	Class II	2	1	1
5.	Class III	3	2	1
6.	Class IV	5	4	1
7.	Class V	4	2	2
8.	Class VI	4	1	3
9.	Class VII	3	2	1
10.	Class VIII	4	4	nil
	Total	33	19	14

Vocational training

Except Observation Home, Boko and Hearing Impaired School, Jorhat, all others impart vocational training to the inmates. However, there is a great deal of variation in the manner this training is organised. Children are given vocational training on Bag Making, Embroidery, Knitting, Fruit Preservation (Jam and Jelly making), Cutting & Tailoring, Clay work and Toy making, etc. Observation Home at Boko and School for Hearing Impaired at Jorhat are not engaged in imparting vocational training for want of equipments, materials, instructor and fund. Of all the Child Care Institutions, Children Home, Jalukbari was found to organise vocational training more systemetically. This Home utilises the three Instructors from TCPC (Training cum Production Centre) of the State Home for Women (both are in the same campus). These instructors provide training on Bag Making, Embroidery, Knitting, Cutting & Tailoring and Toy Making to the inmates of Children Home and State Home together. The girls give their choice of area in which they would like to be trained. Every day from morning 10 to afternoon 4.30 girls are to attend their vocational training classes compulsorily. At the end of each training period they conduct examination and give certificates to those who clear the exam.

Children's Home of Fatasil Ambari gives training only on tailoring. However, it was informed by the officials that the boys showed least interest in learning this and hardly came to class. There was one Instructor to teach the boys tailoring. According to the Superintendent, boys studying in schools do not have much time to learn and practice tailoring. Boys back from school after 2 pm. After return from school they freshen up and take lunch. They also like to relax and watch T V. Learning tailoring does not seem

to have much attraction for them. At this point one realised the need to make vocational training more contextual and need based. It is felt that in place of tailoring, some other trade such as mobile/ TV repairing, electrical wiring, hair dressing, etc. would have been more interesting, economically gainful to the boys.

At Observation Home, Jorhat there are two teachers for imparting vocational training to the boys. Usually, training is given on two trades i.e. cutting and tailoring and clay work. For this, the boys are divided into two groups. When one group learns cutting and tailoring, the other group does clay work. In the second half of the day, the activities are interchanged. The daily schedule of activities are-

8.00 a.m - 9.00 a.m	: Gardening
10.00 a.m - 12.00 noon	: Cutting and tailoring
12.00 noon - 1.00 p.m	: Lunch break
1.00 p.m – 3.30 p.m	: Clay work

It was learnt that the Home does not have separate fund for preparation of different items by children. However, some institutions sometimes supply materials for getting items made by children. For example, one institution in Jorhat in 2008 got New Year Greeting Cards made by the boys of this Home. Besides specific vocational activities, children also make mala, decorative pieces, mask, collage, etc. According to the staff of Observation Home, Jorhat, art and craft work are very much liked by children. They do these with lot of interest and enthusiasm. It was also informed by the staff that the items made by the children were of high quality. In certain occasions children's craft work were also displayed in some exhibitions in Jorhat and received appreciation from all.

Children's Home of Nagaon also has a vocational training centre where girls are given training on bag making, embroidery, toy making, knitting & tailoring, preservation and preparation of food like jam and jelly. It also arranges training on mobile cover making.

Data presented in Table 4.6 gives a consolidated picture on vocational training in different Children's Homes. It is seen from the data that both the Children's Homes at Jalukbari and Nagaon have attached importance to the subject of vocational training and are taking the matter seriously and with good amount of interest. Nevertheless, there is a need to review the list of activities prescribed by the department. With the change of time

and change of interest, the spectrum of vocational training also need change. It should be more need based and market oriented to make the training useful in true sense. Despite the fact that most of the subjects covered by these two Homes are traditionally girls' favourite activities, however, keeping the present trend and demand, inclusion of some more subjects such as course of beautician, hair dressing, cookery, paramedical training, computer, painting, house keeping, etc. will add value to it.

As already discussed and also observed from the table, the situation in respect of vocational training in the Observation Homes is not encouraging. Though, Observation Home, Jorhat is trying to manage it well within its limited resources, they have facilities to train only on two activities. Again, of the two subjects, one i.e. clay modeling does not have much income generation scope. Despite the fact that children showed interest in the activity, its practical value in the present day context is questionable. It was disheartening to find that Boko Observation Home had no facility for vocational training. Though most of the Homes are doing well in this aspect, however, as the purpose of the training is to help the children in earning a livelihood in future, so, its usability, marketability are also to be taken into consideration.

Table No. 4.6: Vocational training in different Children's Homes

Vocational Training	C.H Jalukbari		C.H. Ambari		O.H Boko		C.H Nagaon		O.H Jorhat	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Bag making	√			√		√	√			√
Embroidery	√			√		√	√			√
Fruit preservation		√		√		√	√ (Jam/jelly)			√
Clay modelling		√		√		√		√	√	
carpentry		√		√		√		√		
Knitting	√			√		√	√			√
Tailoring	√		√			√	√		√	
Toymaking	√			√		√	√			√

Vocational training in special Schools

It is evident from Table 4.7 that, of the three institutions, only Deaf and Dumb school provides proper vocational training to the children. They give training on cloth craft for girls and on wood craft for boys. It also conducts classes on fine art and needle

work and embroidery. Students can take these as a subject in class X Board exam (HSLC). In 2008, one girl from this school had secured highest marks (96%) in needle work in Board exam. Computer training is given to all students from class VI to Class X. In case of Blind Institution, children are taught machine knitting, hand embroidery and chair seat making with plastic ropes. They are also given lessons on music – vocal and tabla . The Institute has tied up with few colleges and universities outside the state for children's examination and award of certificates in music. Hearing impaired school does not have any facility in this regard, and, as a result, does not organise any vocational training to the children.

It is felt that the issue of imparting vocational training to the disable children should receive due attention from the Govt. of Assam. As per the provision under the PWD Act, adequate facilities with teacher, materials, equipments should be arranged in the institutions keeping the children's abilities in mind. The present list of activities should also be reexamined and some more interesting and job oriented subjects should be included.

Table No. 4.7: Vocational training in the institutions for special children

Schools-	Deaf and Dumb school, Guwahati	Hearing impaired school, Jorhat	Blind Institution, Jorhat
Total no. of crafts taught	4	Nil	3
Knitting and embroidery	Yes	NA	Yes
Tailoring	Yes	NA	No
Carpentry	Yes	NA	No
Fine arts	Yes	NA	No
Plastic rope weaving	No	NA	Yes
No. of craft instructor	6	0	2

Health care

Health of children is of paramount importance. Being vulnerable to infection and disease causing agents, it is vital that children receive adequate health care in their early years. This is all the more important when it comes to institutionalized children and that too when children come from vulnerable background such as street, deprived/ disadvantaged condition, diseased, abused and so on. In the institutions where a group of children stay together there are more chances of spread of infection from one child to another.

Health Checkup

Only half of the institutions namely, Children Homes at Nagaon and Jalukbari; Deaf and Dumb school, Blind Institution reported to have regular health checkup for children. Doctors and other paramedical staff visit them at a regular interval and check up children's health. The Department of Social Welfare has been able to tie up with the PHC/Civil Hospitals (district level govt. Hospital) in this regard. The children who are found to be ailing are treated for their ailments. Though, health check up was carried out by all these institutions, the Doctor's visit was not uniform everywhere. Frequency of visit was different in different places. Table 4.8 gives a comprehensive picture in respect of health care facilities in these institutions.

In Nagaon, Doctors, Nurses and Health Educators visit the Children Home regularly twice in a week. Similarly, in Children Home, Jalukbari part time Doctor makes visits once in a week. Here, Doctors from Govt. Ayurvedic College also come on call. Children Home at Fatasil Ambari send the children to the Dhirenpara PHC on schedule days. They try to send all the boys within 24-48 hours of their admission in the Home to the PHC for examination. There after, regular health checkup is not done. So, normally, a child's health is examined only once during his stay in the Home. However, as and when some health problem arises, children are immediately sent to the PHC. In case medicines are not supplied from the PHC, those are purchased from outside by the Home.

Contrary to three Children's Homes, in both the Observation Homes of Jorhat and Boko Health Checkup was reported to be very irregular. Doctors seldom visited Observation Home, Boko. It was learnt at the time of visit to the Observation Home of Jorhat in June, 2009 that the last health check up was done in November 2008, i.e. seven months ago. At Observation Home, Jorhat in the year 1986 soon after its establishment, a directive was issued from the Directorate of Social Welfare, Govt, of Assam for engaging the Doctor of Mahendra Nagar open Jail of Jorhat to look after health care needs of the children of Observation Home. It was perhaps the closeness of the Home from the jail (about 2 km) which prompted the Govt. to make such a decision. Though, this arrangement was not very effective, it continued until recent time. At the time of visit to the Home in June, 2009 it was learnt that, of late, one Doctor from

Baghchung PHC (7/8 km from the OH) is asked to visit the Home two days in a week by the Social Welfare Department.

In regard to the visit of Health Staff to the institutions for disabled, a part time Doctor visits the Deaf and Dumb school three days in a week for an -hour- and -a -half i.e. from 3.30 to 5.00 pm. They have separate rooms for examination of boys and girls. It was complained by the staff of the institution that though the children receive proper health care and nutrition in the hostel, when they return from their respective homes after spending their summer vacation, they often carry germs and fall sick soon after their return.

Table No. 4.8: Medical facilities available in the Institutions

Medical facilities	C H Jalukbari	C H Ambari	OH Boko	CH Nagaon	OH Jorhat	Deaf & Dumb School	Blind Institution	Impaired school
Medical Care Unit/sick room	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes (2)	Yes	No
First Aid Kit	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
In house nurse	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
In house ambulance	No	No	No	No	No			
Stock of medicine	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Regular health checkup	Yes	No*	No	Yes	Occasionally (last Nov'08)	Yes	Yes	No
Residential doctor	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Doctor's visit	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly	Bi weekly	No fixed schedule	Yes	Yes	
Salary	850/-	880/-	NA	Salary from Health Deptt.	440/- (No salary for 2 yrs)	800/-	Salary from Health Deptt.	N/A
Nearby hospital	Ayurvedic College	Dhirenpara Hospital	Bhulkbari PHC	Civil Hospital	Civil Hospital	Gauhati Medical College	Civil Hospital	Civil Hospital
Distance to the hospital	1/2 km	3 kms	1/2 km	2 kms	5 kms	4 km	2 km	2 km
Timely immunisation/ vaccination	No	No	No	Complete immunisation upto 16 yrs.	Japanese ancephalitis Immunisation '07	No	Yes, but not regular	No

*Only routine check up initially soon after admission

* There was no medicine in the first aid kit

At the institution for Blind at Jorhat, there is a part time Doctor, but, he does not have a fixed schedule for visits. Additionally, Lion's club's ophthalmologists visits the institution from time to time to examine the children's eyes. At Hearing Impaired school of Jorhat no health check up was ever carried out.

Remuneration to the visiting Health staff

Regarding remuneration to the visiting Doctor, the institutions pay between Rs. 440.00 and Rs. 880.00 in a month. For the doctor at Children's Home, Nagaon no remuneration is paid from the Home and he draws his remuneration from the Health Deptt. It is to be noted that at Observation Home, Jorhat though Rs. 440.00 was fixed for the doctor's monthly remuneration, however, there has been no payment since 2007. It could also be the main reason for the Doctor's not visiting the Home regularly. At Jorhat Blind Institution, doctors give free service, whereas at Deaf and Dumb School, payment is made by the Health Department.

Emergency Health Care

All the institutions take appropriate measures whenever there is any sudden illness in children or there is an emergent situation. Whenever a child falls sick, he is taken to the nearby hospital or call a doctor form outside. Since most of the institutions are located in district Head Quarters, so, making a suitable arrangement for ailing children is usually not a problem.

At Children Home Nagaon , children are taken to Nagaon Civil Hospital which is only two kms from the Home. Children Home Fatasil Ambari and Deaf & Dumb school, Guwahati take their children to Dhirenpara State Dispensary and Gauhati Medical College Hospital respectively whenever children have some serious health problems. Children Home, Jalukbari send their children to the nearby Ayurvedic College Hospital in case of illnesses.

Children of Observation Home at Jorhat are taken to Jorhat Civil Hospital for treatment if there is any health problem. The staff of Observation Home of Jorhat stated that they face lot of problems when it comes to taking children to hospital in case of

serious illnesses. In the absence of an office vehicle they are required to take children to hospital by autorickshaw. Due to the delinquent nature of many of these children, staff need to be extremely careful while taking them to hospital. They cited incidences of children's running away on the way to the hospital. They also mentioned of other difficulty in case of hospitalization of children which included guarding the children all the time while they are in the hospitals. It was learnt that as long as a child is in the hospital one staff member has to be constantly placed with him. This poses difficulty in running of the Home which is already understaffed. Cost of travel is also another problem which is often to be paid by the accompanying staff. This gets reimbursed only at the end of the year.

At Observation Home Boko, boys are taken to the Bhulukbari PHC when they fall ill .

Jorhat Blind Institution calls a Doctor from outside or take the child to the nearby private practitioners (they treat free of cost) or to the Jorhat Civil Hospital or Lion's Club Eye Hospital. Though there is no full time doctor, however, doctor comes as and when required. According to the superintendent, there has never been any cases of negligence or inattention. In case of prolong illnesses children are sent home.

Hearing impaired school at Jorhat does not make any arrangement for taking children to hospital or health centre. Since children go there only for limited hours everyday, such facilities are not considered essential by the authorities.

Medical Care Unit

Except for the Children Home of Jalukbari , none of the Homes have Medical Care Unit. Children Home of Jalukbari has a medical care unit with facility of one bed and an in-house-nurse to look into the health needs of the inmates. This facility was not available with others.

Stock of Medicine

In regard to stock of medicine, barring Boko Observation Home, Fatasil Ambari Children Home and Hearing impaired school at Jorhat, remaining five institutions had the

stock of medicine for treating common ailments. For procurement of medicines, all the institutions are to submit an indent at the Joint Director (Health)'s Office from where medicines are supplied as per the requirement. According to the Superintendent of Fatasil Ambari Children Home, the staff do not feel safe to give medicine to children without Doctor's advice. Since the Home does not have a visiting Doctor, the Home does not see any reason to stock the medicine.

Maintaining a medical record

By and large medical records/ files were maintained well by all the visited Children's Institutions. Except Children Home of Fatasil Ambari, in others, medical records were found to be well maintained. At Fatasil Ambari the medical files/ report registers were not regularly maintained, particularly, after October 31, 2008 there was no maintenance of registers and individual files. Similarly, at Children Home, Jalukbari two cases were kept together in one single file due to shortage of file.

Availability of ambulance/ transport

None of the institutions had an ambulance. Here it may be opined that non-availability of an ambulance/transport has not caused much hindrance in ensuring medical treatment to the children. In the first place, need of transportation of children to the hospital arises very rarely. Most of the common illnesses are taken care of by the Doctors who visit the institutions at least once in a week. Secondly, since private transport facilities such as rickshaw/auto/taxi are readily available and distance to the nearby hospitals is also not much, non availability of transport facility has not caused any grave difficulty. Institutions are managing this aspect even without an ambulance. It is also felt that maintaining an ambulance would have incurred a heavy expenditure from their budget. At the same time, Observation Home Jorhat's very strong view for the need of a vehicle can also not be undermined. According to the staff of the Home, it is very risky to take the children in-conflict-with-law to the hospital by an auto rickshaw or rickshaw. The Home has to send minimum two staff when it comes to taking a child to the hospital. As the children often tend to run away on their way to the Hospital, the staff feel very unsafe to take them there.

First - Aid Kit

First aid kit is an indispensable item for any institution for children. First aid kit contains simple medicine, ointment, lotion, bandages for handling any casualty. It is important to replenish the medicines as soon as they are finished. In the present study all the institutions were found to have the First- aid kit; but Observation Home, Boko did not have any medicine in the kit.

Immunization

Children Home of Nagaon and Jalukbari reported to have immunised their inmates. While Nagaon Children Home methodically immunize all the children with age appropriate vaccines, particularly, against the six killer diseases, such as, polio, tuberculosis, dyptheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles and typhoid; Children Home, Jalukbari immunise only the new borns and infants. Existence of an AWC in the campus of the Nagaon Children Home facilitates in immunisation of the children. It may be mentioned here that Jalukbari Children Home sometimes receive teenage pregnant girls who in due course of time deliver babies in the Home. These babies are immunised without fail. Vaccination of older girls were not done. In most cases vaccination is done by the Ayurvedic college staff. Observation Home, Jorhat only once immunized their inmates against Japanese Encephalitis. Jorhat Blind Institution though immunise their children but, it is not done in a routine way.

Access to Hospitals

Hospitals are located within a range of 0.5 to 5 km distance from the Homes/institutions. All the institutions have access to hospitals ,and Hospital staff attend to the children without any delay. Department of Social Welfare has made adequate tie up with the Health Department to ensure health care needs of inmates of children's institutions.

Health problem of children

The diseases of children as reported by the staff of visited institutions are mostly various viral & bacterial infections. Children mostly suffer from measles, diarrhoea, mumps, cough & cold, gastritis, abdominal pain and fever. A few cases of T.B. was also reported by a few institutions.

It is seen from the preceding discussion by and large, in majority of the institutions health care facilities exist and quality of health care is also more or less satisfactory. Children's health problem receive timely attention. Doctor is called whenever a child has health problem. In case of emergency, children are also taken to nearby hospitals. Adequate coordination with the Health Department was experienced at all levels. Institutions have been successful to tie up with the District Hospitals and also with PHC for ensuring both preventive and curative health care to the inmates. However, immunization was not carried out in most of the institutions. Except Children Home, Nagaon none of the institutions have taken up this as a regular activity. Children Home Jalukbari does it only for the new born babies and infants.

Nutrition

Adequate nutrition is one of the most basic needs of children. Good nutrition not only helps children in physical and mental growth, but it also protects children from different ailments. Since childhood is an important phase of life, adequate nutrition during this period assumes all the more importance. Though good nutrition is vital for all children, it becomes all the more important when it comes to institutionalised children. Government of India has laid down the guide lines for the children in Govt. institutions particularly under JJ Act, 2001 and PWD Act 1995 in respect of provision, cost, etc.

Menu

Almost all the institutions follow more or less similar kind of menu and similar meal pattern. Barring the institution for Hearing Impaired which did not have residential facilities at the time of visit, others provided regular meals. Most of the institutions provided three meals – Lunch, Evening Snacks and Dinner. In the morning children are

served with only a cup of tea with biscuits or rice flakes. However, Observation Home Boko serve proper breakfast with Roti-sabji/suji/chana. Observation Home, Jorhat provide tea and roti in breakfast. Children's Home Nagaon gives bread/pressed rice/ biscuit on alternate days with tea in breakfast. At Children Home, Fatasil Ambari school going children are served with rice and dal in breakfast. Lunch consists of rice, dal and seasonal vegetables everywhere. Children Home, Jalukbari sometimes add green leafy vegetable from their kitchen garden. In the evening all the institutions serve children with light snacks. Deaf and Dumb school give milk with biscuits/puffed rice to the children in the evening. The items for dinner are - rice, dal and vegetables. While non- vegetarian items are included in three meals (lunch/dinner) in a week by most of the institutions, Deaf and Dumb school provide non-vegetarian item i.e. fish/ meat/egg in dinner in six days a week. These items are changed every alternate day. Most of the children expressed their satisfaction with the food. Both the Institutions for Blind and Deaf and Dumb stated to have prepared their menu in consultation with Nutrition experts. Children expressed their satisfaction with the food.

Children's Home, Jalukbari has a garden where they grow different fruit plants such as mango, amla, berries, guava, etc. So, seasonal fruits grown in the garden of the Home are given to children. But in other institutions fruits are seldom included. This suggests similar venture in other institutions as well. It has already been stated in the second chapter of this report that most of the institutions have relatively large area which can be developed as horticultural and vegetable garden with some investment initially. Sweets and fruits are usually distributed during festivals and also some times on some important days. It is noteworthy that sometimes public also distribute fruits and sweets to children. Special diet is given to sick children in all the institutions.

Treated Drinking Water

Maximum numbers of institutions did not have treated drinking water facility. Only the Children Home of Jalukbari had water filters and Children Home of Fatasil Ambari had one E-Boiling (Aqua-guard) facility. Observation Home of Jorhat though had an Aqua-guard, but it was too small to meet the needs of all inmates. Again, at Observation Home of Boko, though water filters are available those are not used for the reason that, earlier, the filters were broken by the inmates. Some children-in-conflict-with-law were

stated to have urinated in the filters. Children Home Nagaon also does not have a water filter. They depend either on urban water supply or hand pumps. The Blind Institution has got urban water supply and a tube well. It may be mentioned here that most of the institutions had clean and safe water, therefore, not having a water filtration unit has not posed much problem.

Recreational facilities

Almost all the institutions arrange recreational facilities for children. Children are engaged in sports, yoga, and cultural programs. Children also watch T.V. programme regularly. Sports activities consist of both outdoor and indoor games. Outdoor games include playing foot ball/volley ball/ cricket/ kabbadi ,etc. Indoor games include primarily luddo and carrom. However, it was reported by the staff that these items were not in sufficient number. Cricket ball/ bat etc do not last long. Once these items are lost or broken/damaged, it takes months time to replinsh. In most of the institutions, sports is a daily activity. Yoga was reported to be a daily activity by three institutions i.e. both the Observation Homes at Boko and Jorhat and Children's Home Nagaon. From Nagaon Children's Home two girls had participated in the National yoga Competition in Chandigarh. Deaf And Dumb School also gives weightage to yoga classes. In few other institutions yoga camps are held only once in a year, and after that, not much importance is given on daily practicing. Regarding cultural activities, while it was reported to be an annual event by few, for few others it was organized monthly. Watching T.V. was a daily activity in all the institutions under JJ Act. Deaf And Dumb School has a separate recreation Room for children . The institution for Blind teach music to all children. Children their also play outdoor. Hearing impaired school stated to have organised inhouse dance programme. There is a music teacher for this.Two Homes reported of taking children for picnic/outings once in a year. Besides these, all the institutions celebrate days of National importance such as Independence Day, Republic Day, Children's Day and Teacher's Day. They also celebrate Durga Puja, Idd, Bihu, Holi, Diwali, and *Tithis* (Birth and Death Anniversery) of Srimanta Sankar Deva, etc. Despite institutions' statement on provision of recreational facilities, it was felt that there could have been some more interesting events for entertainment of the inmates. There is scope to make the recreational programme more entertaining and creative by inclusion of some popular games like musical chair, rumal shuri, tag of war and many

more. Besides, some drawing, painting, sing, dancing competition would not only give amusement to children but these would also enhance their confidence level, give a chance to express their creativity and will help them to get rid of their anxiety, depression and other destructive/ unproductive thoughts.

Thus, it may be stated that in all the institutions Children get fair amount of recreational facilities to entertain themselves and to keep themselves in a good state of mind by keeping away negative thoughts and action. Such recreational facilities are expected to help children in building a healthy relationship with fellow children/inmates and staff and also to develop their creativity. Innovative activities particularly yoga which was reported by few of the institutions, is a very noble initiative in respect of helping children both physically and mentally and should be taken up with more seriousness considering the wonderful benefits derived from yoga. It should be a part of daily activities in all the institutions including those for visually impaired and hearing impaired. There should be a fixed hour preferably in the morning for practicing yoga under the supervision of a trained instructor/staff. Most importantly, it should be a compulsory activity for all children to practice yoga. Lion's club Jorhat provided slide and swing.

Provision of clothing, bedding and other miscellaneous items Clothing

For girls, skirts and blouses, and salwar/ sarees are given depending on to which age group they fall. They are given 3-4 pairs of skirt-blouses and 4-5 pair of salwar suits/ sarees yearly. Besides, they are given undergarments and woolens. While under garments are given 3- 4 times in a year, woolen sweaters are given only once.

Boys are provided with two pairs of shirts and pants in a year. For younger boys it is half pants and for older boys long pants are given. In addition, they are also given with vests and underwears. It is important to note that pattern of supply of clothes to the inmates are different in different Homes.

Number of slippers is usually one pair in a year. Only at Children's Home, Fatasil Ambari it was stated to be two pairs.

School uniform was supplied only by Children's Home, Nagaon and Institution for Blind at Jorhat . Children's Home at Fatashil, Ambari and Jalukbari were not providing school uniforms. Jorhat Blind school reported of providing uniforms with blazers to all children, however, in 2009 school shoes could be given only to 15 numbers of children due to insufficient fund.

Bedding

All the institutions visited under this study provide bedding items like bedsheets, pillow with cover, mattresses, mosquito nets and blankets to all children. One set of bed sheet, pillow with cover, woolen blankets, mattresses are provided on yearly basis. Condition of the bed linens was found to be good. In comparison to the findings of an inquiry initiated by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR, 2008) of Delhi Government-run Children Home for boys at Narela, which reported of irregular meals, dirty bedsheets, contaminated drinking water, dingy toilets, present findings are very much gratifying.

Toiletries

Towels were reported to be supplied to the children in all the Homes under JJ system. It is given once in a year. Toiletries such as hair oil, toilet soap, tooth paste, tooth brush and comb are supplied by all the institutions as per the requirement. One piece of each item is given at a time. At Children's Home, Nagaon, adolescent girls are also supplied with sanitary napkins every month. This was not found to be practised at Children's Home for girls at Jalukbari.

Deaf & Dumb school also provides one steel trunk to all children to keep their belongings.

Maintenance of hygiene and sanitation

By and large hygiene and sanitation was satisfactory . All the institutions were found to give a great deal of importance in keeping the premises clean , they took

appropriate measures to keep both inside and outside of the institutions free from garbage, dirt, etc.

All the institutions were found to maintain Hygiene and sanitation quite satisfactorily. Rooms/ dormitories, kitchen, dining hall, bathrooms and toilets were found cleaned. Beddings are given for sunning once in a month by most of the institutions. Most of the institutions clean their kitchen, toilets and bathrooms daily.

Maintenance of Hygiene and Sanitation

Proper Drainage Arrangement:

Drainage system existed everywhere All the institutions were found to pay due attention on maintaining a proper drainage system. However, Deaf & Dumb School at Kahilipara, Guwahati had reported to have some problem of drainage in the rainy season.

Water for Bath and Washing

All the institutions have sufficient water for bath and washing. They also have sufficient space for washing clothes.

Garbage Disposale arrangements

All the studied institutions have proper garbage disposal arrangement. In Observation Home Boko garbage was found to be buried in a pit inside the campus.

Protection from mosquitoes

All the institutions have proper arrangements for protection from mosquitoes. Mosquito nets were supplied to all children. At the institution for Blind D.D.T. is sprinkled every year.

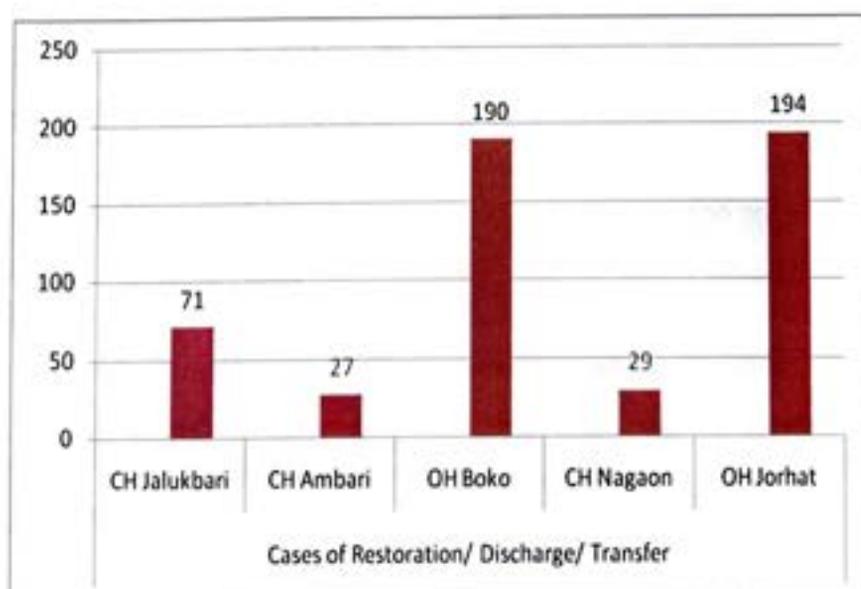
Cases of restoration/discharge/transferred

In all, 511 children were restored by five Homes between April, 2008 and January 2009. The Home-wise data in this regard is presented in Table - 4.9. The number of children who were restored/discharge/transferred by different Homes during the period are as follows:

Table No. 4.9: Cases of restoration/discharge/transferred

Name of the Homes	Restoration/discharge/transferred
Children Home, Jalukbari	71
Children Home, Ambari	27
Observation Home, Boko	190
Children Home, Nagaon	29
Observation Home, Jorhat	194
Total	511

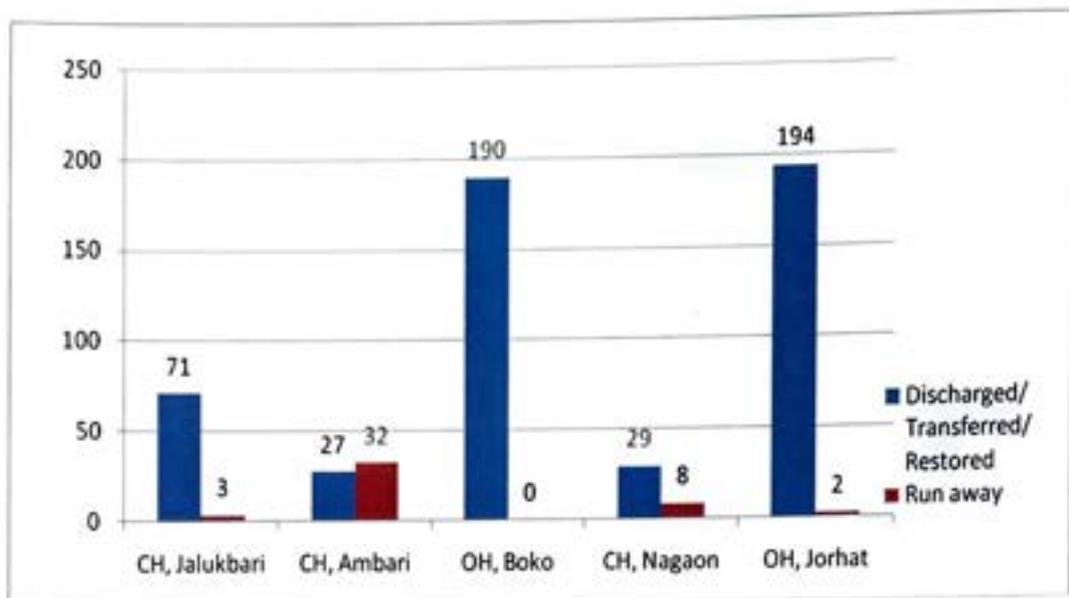
Figure 4.1: Restoration/discharge/transfer between April'08 and January' 09



The figures given in the above Table - 4.9 and Figure - 4.1 show that a good number of children (511) were either restored, discharged or transferred from these institutions in 10 months i.e. from April, 2008 to January, 2009. Maximum number of these children (384) were from the Observation Homes. On an average, both the Observation Homes discharged 38 children every month. By and large, ability of the Homes to restore a fairly good number of children is a good sign. From the point of view of children's best interest, the child should be restored with the parents or family members as early as possible. So, it seems that the Homes took adequate steps and necessary action in restoring those children by gathering information about their home addresses or contact number of parents/guardians. A proper net working with police, Childline, NGOs of the area where the child comes from is evolved which ultimately makes the restoration possible. All the institutions take adequate care while sending children back to their homes. They make it a point to send at least one staff member with the child for restoration. At times, the functionaries of Guwahati Childline also accompanied the children of Ambari Children Home to their original homes for restoration. A few case studies of restored children are given in the chapter-VI of this report. Of the three Children Homes, Jalukbari restored maximum number of Children in comparison to Ambari and Nagaon. In respect of Children in- conflict- with- law, both the Homes of Boko and Jorhat mentioned almost similar figure. They discharged almost equal number of boys as per the instruction of JJBs. On an average, 19 boys from each Home were discharged in a month. However, a minute look of the record available with the Homes shows that at Jorhat, discharging is more uniform than Boko. It is also necessary to mention that a few children who were discharged in a particular month are stated to have come back again after some time with some new accusation of offense. For some children it was their 3rd and 4th entry to the institution. This again speaks about failure of the system in correction of children's deviant behaviour and bringing them back to the main stream. It is thus necessary to put more attention on attitudinal change and instilling right values of the children of Observation Homes. It is also necessary to educate the parents/guardians about the need to protect their children from evil forces which may again influence children in committing unlawful activities.

Number of children who were restored/discharged/transferred and who ran away is shown in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.2: Cases of discharge/transfer/ restoration and ran away



At the end it can be stated that barring Observation Home, Boko and School for Hearing Impaired at Jorhat, remaining six institutions were found to provide more or less adequate standard of care. They made sincere effort to provide education, recreation, vocational training, health care and nutrition. Quality of clothing, bedding was good. Toiletries are stated to have been given to the children regularly. Though, these services/care were provided by all, however, variation was noticed in the approach, in the mode of delivery and other aspects. Observation Home, Boko was not offering education, vocational training and health care to the children at the time of visit. They were also not holding regular health check up. At School for Hearing Impaired also except education, none of the other services were available.

Education being imparted in Special Schools



Vocational Training



Children Participating in Different Activities



CHAPTER V

MANAGEMENT OF THE INSTITUTIONS

The study tried to understand the management of the institutions by looking at the quality of services, delivery of services, staff position, training status of staff, status of restoration and discharge of children; ability to manage children, developing their self help skill, constitution and management of committees; maintenance of records and registers, developing and following daily routine, so on and so forth. Though some of the parameters are already discussed in the preceding chapters, for examining the matter in the light of managerial aspect, some are being repeated.

Children in most of the institutions are grouped in a dormitory or room according to their age, sex (boys & girls) and sometimes according to their look; young looking children are placed together.

Institutions prepare their weekly menu of balance diet. Three meals are provided to children every day. Proper breakfast is not given by all. Children are given only tea with pressed rice or biscuits for breakfast. Seasonal fruits are included by most of the institutions.

While children are provided with stationeries on monthly basis, clothing & bedding is provided annually. Nagaon Children Home gives sanitary napkins to all the adolescent girls. New clothes are also given on festivals. Sometimes new clothes are also given by individuals and by voluntary organizations.

Most of the institutions have residential facility for the Superintendent & the care-taking staff (Matron) within the campus or near the campus (Boko Observation Home). In case, the superintendent does not stay in the institution for some reason, the officer in-charge (warden) has to stay within the campus of the institution in the quarter provided. Though the ratio between the staff and the children in the children's institutions should be 1-20 and 1-10 for school going, not school going children respectively, but the

institutions visited for the present study were not adhering to this norm. In most of the institutions there was only one matron, who had to take care of all the children in the institution. Also, in most cases the matrons are not educated enough to help the children in their studies. In three places i.e. Nagaon, Jalukbari and Boko the staff of one institution are by 2-3 institutions; the staff of Boko P.L. Home are used by Boko Observation Home and staff of Jalukbari State Women's Home are shared by Children's Home and Observation Home which are also located in the same premises. Similarly, staff of Nagaon State Women's Home are also utilised for Children Home and Observation Home. Thus, it is apparent that the staff which are very essential to run the child care institutions were not recruited by the Government even after so many years of their establishment. The situation at Hearing Impaired School was all the more pathetic. Most of the posts in this institution were lying vacant. In absence of a principal, the District Social welfare Officer of Jorhat was given the additional charge of the school.

Provision of services

Educational facilities

Except Boko Observation Home, all others were found to have made provision of educational facilities as per norms and also as per feasibility. While in some places it is formal, in others it is non-formal. Of all the child care Institutions under JJ system, Nagaon Children Home has been giving maximum attention to children's education. The institutions under PWD Act lay first and foremost priority to education of disable children. They have been able to render quality school education to all their children. In regard to institutions under JJ Act, educational facilities for children is not uniform everywhere. Children Home in Nagaon and Guwahati(Ambari) are providing better educational care than the Children Home at Jalukbari.

Vocational Training

Most of the institutions arrange vocational training which include tailoring, embroidery, knitting, clay modeling, bag making, toy making, carpentry, fruit preservation i.e. Jam/jelly/pickle preparation, computer, etc quite satisfactorily. However, Observation Home, Boko and School for Hearing Impaired in Jorhat are not providing vocational training due to lack of equipments, instructors and fund. Children Home of

Jalukbari has been imparting vocational training more methodically and professionally. Here, the instructors from TCPC (Training cum Production Centre) provide training to the girls on bag making, embroidery, knitting tailoring & toy making. At the end of each training period they conduct examination and give certificates to those who clear the examination.

Recreational facilities

In every institution, ^{children} play indoor and outdoor sports in their leisure time. They are allowed to watch television in the evening. They sometimes watch films in the video. In few institutions yoga is taken up regularly. Two girls from Nagaon Children Home had participated in the National Yoga Competition at Chandigarh in 2008.

Developing self help skill

All the institutions aim to bring self sufficiency in children. Children are asked to do their day-to-day activities which include cleaning their rooms, making their beds, washing clothes, cleaning the utensils by themselves. Children are also engaged in gardening. Again, it was noticed that in some places children were asked to do other work like serving tea (Observation Home, Boko), to help in kitchen (Children Home, Fatasil Ambari). Though, apparently helping in household activities can not be labelled as child labour or below dignified, however, there is a danger of violation of rights of children particularly protection from exploitation, abuse. Giving too much of time on such activities will debar them from studies, recreation and personal care. Though, in a way such activities are helpful in developing children's skill of managing themselves, however, there is a word of caution. While asking children to do small tasks of day-to-day routine, they should be made to appreciate the need to be self reliant, need to keep the environment clean and tidy. It was felt that without being appreciative for these, children may do it under compulsion and will discontinue if it is not demanded. To make it a regular routine habit the Homes have to make it compulsory for all to follow and thus develop the habit of doing it.

Health care facilities

Children are taken to the nearby hospital when they are sick. Though except one, others do not have a medical unit within the premises of the institution, yet, all the

institutions take adequate measure in the event of a child falling ill. Half of the institutions have regular visits by doctors.

Sanitation and hygiene

Cleanliness inside and outside

All the institutions were found cleaned. They had proper drainage, adequate garbage disposal arrangements. Bathrooms and toilets were neat. They also had sufficient water for bath and washing.

Protection from mosquitoes

All the Homes have proper arrangements for protection from mosquitoes. Mosquito nets were supplied.

Management of behavioural problem of children

All the institutions try to modify the unacceptable behaviour of children by counseling them. Few institutions have the post of counsellors. However, they all did not possess requisite qualification needed for the post. As a result, their ability to counsel the children, particularly, those with serious psycho-social problem and behaviour disorder is questionable. The institutions for special children did not have the post of counselor. It is already mentioned in chapter III that children with disabilities were reported to have displayed aggressive behaviour, temper tantrum, delinquent behavior, dislike mixing with other children and so on. Under such circumstances it denotes the difficulties in managing these children.

Management committees

According to the standards of care for institutions set by the Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Rules, 2007, every institution should have a committee for the management of the institution and monitoring the progress of every child. It should also review the facilities & care provided by the institution. But, the institutions (under JJ Rules) studied neither had management committees nor inspection committees. Committees were yet to be formed at the time of collection of data for the

study. However, institutions for differently abled children particularly, Deaf & Dumb school, Guwahati and Institution for Blind at Jorhat had managing committees. These committees were stated to be quite active. Jorhat Blind school has as many as seven committees in various areas such as sports, yoga, diet, prayer, routine and book/library for the smooth running of the institution. All committees are headed by a teacher.

Daily Routine

All the institutions prepare and display daily routine for their children. The institutions have scheduled activities for the daily routine of children and all children are expected to follow it. Daily routine has scheduled time for prayer, schooling, sports, watching TV, home work, meal, sleep, etc. All the institutions were found to adhere to the schedule. At Observation Home, Jorhat it was found that due to limited resources children are divided into two groups for vocational training. While in the morning hours one group is engaged for carpentry work, the other group does clay work. In the second half of the day, usually after lunch, activities are reversed. This points out to the efficient planning and management of resources on the part of the institution. Similarly, during day time TV watching is not allowed in most of the places. It is seen that the institutions take adequate measures for proper utilisation of resources and proper utilisation of time.

Maintenance of Registers/ Records

Registers and records are two very important management tools for any institution. Proper maintenance of records is fundamental for running any institution smoothly. This is all the more important when it comes to management of institutions for children. JJ Rules 2007 has prescribed certain registers and records which are to be compulsorily maintained by all registered child care institutions.

In all the institutions covered by the present study registers are more or less maintained well. Registers such as Admission and Discharge, Individual Case File Register, Attendance Register, Visitors' Book, Stock Register are maintained by all regularly. However, in respect of few other registers and records, some amount of slackness was observed. Registers such as Medical file / report, Nutrition/ diet file were

Table No. 5.1: Institution-wise data on maintenance of registers

Registers	CH Jalukbari				CH Ambari				OH Boko				CH Nagaon				OH Jorhat			
	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Admission & discharge	√		√		√		√		√		√		√				√		√	
Supervision	√		√		√		√		√				√				√		√	
Medical file/report	√		√		Till 31/10/2008				√		√		√				√		√	
Nutrition diet file	√		√		√		√		√				√		√		√		√	
Stock register	√		√		√			√	√		√		√		√		√		√	
Logbook	√		√			√			√		√			√			√		√	
Order book	√		√		√		√		√		√		√			√	√		√	
Meeting book	√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√	
Cash book	√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√	
Budget statement file	√		√		√		√		√		√		√				√		√	
Enquiry report file	√		√		√			√	√		√		√			√	√		√	
Individual case file	√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√	
Children's suggestion book		√				√				√				√			√		√	
Visitors book	√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√	
Staff Movement Register	√		√			√				√			√		√			√		
Personal Belonging Register	√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√	
Register of Management committee		√				√				√				√				√		
Attendance register for staff	√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√	
Attendance register for children	√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√		√	

A- Available, B- Not available, C- Properly maintained, D- Not properly maintained

not properly maintained by all. For instance, the medical file/ report register was not updated after 31/10/08 at Children Home of Fatasil Ambari till the visit by the Research team in May, 2009. Similarly, at Children Home, Jalukbari two cases were found to be kept together in one single file due to shortage of files. Some registers such as, Children's Suggestions Book, Register on Supervision, log book, etc. did not even exist. Table 5.1 gives institution-wise data on maintenance of registers. On query, it was revealed that many pending cases of Observation Homes of Jorhat and Boko are actually under JJB of districts other than their own. The sitting of many JJBs in these districts was not regular and transportation and production of the children before JJBs in these districts was also a problem. It was also quite astonishing to note that case files of some of the inmates were misplaced while transferring from the Observation Home to the JJB of other Districts. Thus, it is seen that though most of the registers are being maintained well, few important registers are not regularly maintained and updated.

Finance

The major source of finance of all the institutions was found to be from government Grants. The same mode of securing funds from Government is followed by all the institutions. Based on the requirement, budget is prepared which differs from institution to institution. While preparing the budget the current rate of the goods in the market are taken into consideration. Funds are released by the government on yearly basis as per the budget prepared and submitted by the institutions. The budget in 2009-10 for Children Home of Nagaon was Rs. 6 lakh, Children's Home of Jalukbari's budget was for Rs. 5 lakh, for Children's Home, Fatasil Ambari it was Rs. 8.5 lakhs. Observation Homes of Jorhat and Boko had annual budget for Rs. 11.85 lakhs and Rs. 4.74 lakhs respectively. By and large all the Homes stated the budget to be adequate. However, the Matron of Observation Home, Boko said that due to lack of budget vocational training could not be given to the inmates. The Observation Home of Jorhat also mentioned about inadequate budget for vocational training.

In regard to the institutions for special children for Deaf and Dumb School, Guwahati the major source of finance is Govt. grant. Hearing Aids are provided by Assam State Branch of ICCW. According to the principal, the fund for running the school is not sufficient as there is still scope for modernization, to make an audio logical

laboratory. whereas, the principal of Blind Institute finds the funds adequate. But in Hearing impaired school, not only the funds are inadequate but the staff has not received salary since May 2009. The institute received hearing Aids from Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Assam and also from ICCW, Assam State Branch.

In Blind school of Jorhat, apart from the Govt. grant, subscriptions are received from NGOs. Instruments are donated by Rotary club, Lions Club of Jorhat. They have provided the play equipments like slides and swings. Welber Mediatronics Ltd. has given the special computers for blind. Few other institutions also mentioned of receiving clothes, books, sweets for children from individuals and also from voluntary organisations. Institutions were found to establish a rapport with the NGOs.

Children's Home, Jalukbari and Fatasil Ambari said that sometimes they receive subscriptions in the form of clothing or water filtration (aquaguard) or other miscellaneous items from NGOs and individuals.

Restoration/discharge of Cases

In all, 511 number of children were discharged from five Child Care Institutions under JJ System within a span of 10 months starting from April 2008 to January 2009. Average number in a month was 51. As desired, both the Observation Homes discharged more number of children (384). The pattern was almost same for both the Homes. On an average, they discharged 38 children every month. Amongst the three other Homes, Children Home, Jalukbari could discharge more inmates than the other two Homes (Table -5.2). It is observed from the table that the Homes were able to restore a good

Table No. 5.2 Discharge/ restoration of children from April 2008- Jan 2009

Children Home, Jalukbari	Children Home, Ambari	Observation Home, Boko	Children Home, Nagaon	Observation Home, Jorhat	TOTAL
71	27	190	29	194	511

number of children to their family or guardians. This is a very encouraging finding. From the point of view of children's best interest, the child should be restored with the parents or family members as early as possible. Thus, it appears that the Homes took appropriate action in restoring the children. The data on period of stay by children in different Homes as presented in chapter III, which reveals that for 36 per cent of the children the period of stay was less than four months, also reinforce this finding of prompt restoration. A proper net working with police, Childline, CWCs, JJBs, NGOs of the areas where the children come from is evolved by the Homes which ultimately makes the restoration possible. Early restoration speaks a volume about promptness and networking abilities of the Child Care Institutions.

Run away children

While early restoration is a very positive aspect of the management of the Homes, the incidence of run away children is a reflection of some amount of weakness on the part of the institutions. A total of 32 children ran away from the Homes in a period of 10 months. Maximum reporting (23) of running away was from the Children Home, Ambari. It was learnt that the guards in the gate of the Home were not vigilant and were reported to be drunk. So, children took the advantage of this situation. Besides, the boundary wall was very low which facilitated children's escape from the Home. Further, a few staff of the Home are stated to be very rude to the children. Compounded by all these factors ,children tend to run away in the first opportunity they get. This talks about lack of alertness from the managerial staff, unhealthy atmosphere in this institution and also unruly/delinquent behaviour among children. The institution-wise run way cases is given at Table 5.3. Failure to counsel children is also another factor responsible for this.

Table No. 5.3: Cases of runaway between April 2008 and January 2009

Children Home, Jalukbari	Children Home, Ambari	Observation Home, Boko	Children Home, Nagaon	Observation Home, Jorhat	TOTAL
3	32	0	8	2	45

However, in other institutions this problem was not very acute; the situation is particularly notable in respect of Observation Homes. Against an enrolment of 405 in-conflict-with-law children in two Observation Homes in 10 months, two cases (0.4%) of running away could be stated as negligible. This is suggestive of proper guarding, adequate vigilance and care in these Homes.

Behaviour Modification

There is a counselor in all the Homes. Counsellor is stated to be counseling the children in group and individually regularly. The post of Counselor is sponsored by unicef, Assam. Through counseling it is aimed to help the child to accept the new environment, help it in coping up and bring a positive change in the attitude and behaviour of a delinquent child so that, he realizes and accepts his mistakes/misconduct and tries to reform himself. However, all the counsellors did not have requisite qualifications of counselling. While a few had attended ½ month certificate course on counselling, others have not done any course.

Besides organized counseling, several other activities are undertaken by the Homes alone and also in alliance with other institutions and organizations. For example, two nuns from Don Bosco used to visit Observation Home, Jorhat every Monday to spend time with the boys and impart moral education. Members from Sai Samiti of Jorhat also used to visit the Home and spend time with children by giving them value based education. At special schools, there was no post of Counsellor. In these schools teachers only try to counsel the children where some abnormal behaviour was noticed.

Relationship between staff and inmates

Most of the children who were interviewed by the Reserch team to understand their views about different aspects of institutionalisation said favourably about the care taking staff. Children found the warden or matron understanding, loving and caring. At the same time a few said that the matron or warden did not help them in their studies. However, the behaviour of the staff was observed as indifferent and devoid of personal touch.

Staff

Present study noticed institution-to-institution variation in terms of recruitment of staff. Number of staff differed from one Children's Home to another and from one Observation Home to another. The care taking staff including the guards, educators and instructors are more in Nagaon Children Home (21 numbers) whereas, Children's Home, Fatasil Ambari has only eight staff. In Observation Home, Boko also only nine staff were available. Children's Home of Jalukbari and Observation Home, Jorhat reported of 13 and 14 staff respectively. It is most striking to note that in Observation Home of Boko, Children's Homes of Jalukbari and Nagaon no staff has been recruited. At Boko, staff of Permanent Liability (PL) Home; at Jalukbari and Nagaon, staff of State/Destitute Women's Home were found to be utilised for the Child Care Institutions. Though the system of staff sharing arrangement denotes proper management, cost reduction, proper utilisation of the existing staff and successful convergence among different

Staff	Availability
Superintendent	7
Assistant Superintendants	2
Counselor	4
Warden	3
Matron	5
UDA/Accountant	6
LDA	8
Vocational Instructor	2
Art & Craft Teacher	1
Music Teacher	1

programmes, however, the matter which needs mention is that many of these staff are not qualified enough and not sensitised about the rights of the marginalised deprived children. They hardly have any knowledge about psychology of children, children's needs and emotions, etc.

At Jorhat Observation Home there is no post of Superintendent. There, they have a principal and also one Probation Officer. They also have two House Mothers. So, barring the Principal, all others stay in the campus. At Blind Institution, both the Principal and two Wardens used to live in the campus at the time of data collection for the present

study. At Deaf and Dumb school also Principal was not staying in the campus though he was given official residence within the campus. Here too Warden and two Metrons were living in the official quarter in the campus. In this school the wardenship is given to one senior teacher on rotation for a period of three years. Thus, it is evident that all the institutions had provided the accommodation facilities to the care taking and other staff like superintendent, warden, matron, etc.

At the time of visit to the Observation Home of Boko it was found that the Matron was overburdened because of frequent absence of the Superintendent. It was learnt that Superintendent remains absent on most of the days. He rarely visits the Home. In his absence the Matron had to take care of everything. The Matron expressed his difficulty in managing all the boys of the Home to the Research team. The Matron also does not have required qualification and experience required for this post. He was earlier a Carpentry Instructor at the adjacent Permanent Liability (PL) Home of the Social Welfare Department of Assam. Now, he has been made the Matron of the Observation Home. As a Carpentry Instructor he had undergone some training in crafts, but, has not attended any training on Juvenile Justice Act or on child rights and protection issues. As he is not much educated (H.S.L.C pass only), he does not feel very comfortable to do the official correspondence, drafting, noting, etc. Above all, he had not received his salary for last seven months.

It was learnt that children are not counseled adequately. The first counseling which has to take place immediately after the child's arrival in the Home is often delayed. Again individual counseling is also not carried out methodically. Institutions for special needs children do not have the post of counselors.

In children Home, Nagaon posts of Cook, Helper, and Sweeper (one each) are lying vacant.

Staff in Institutions for Disable Children

The staffing pattern in the institutions for special children is totally different from the Homes under JJ Act. Further, the pattern of recruitment varied from institution to institution according to the nature of disability, enrolment, etc. If we include the Educator,

Instructor, and the Guards with other care taking staff like the Matron, Warden and Superintendent, the ratio between the staff and children lies between 1:3 to 1:4 which is quite satisfactory as per the provision under Disability Act.

The principal of Jorhat Blind institution said that they are in need of four fourth grade staff comprising one sweeper, one attendant and two Chowkidars. She also complained that once she had requested the Social Welfare Department to give her one girl from State Destitute Home of Jalukbari, Guwahati for keeping her in one of the posts of 4th grade; so that, the institute would get one staff and the destitute girl of the State Home would have also got some engagement. But her request was not accepted.

The staff position of the Hearing Impaired school was found to be very much pitiable. The school does not have a principal. The District Social Welfare Officer of Jorhat is in-charge of the principal. The school has got only five teachers, out of which, two are from BDS Deaf and Dumb school of Guwahati. Two teachers are appointed by the guardian's committee and their salary @ Rs. 900/ per month is also borne by the guardians. The teachers are trained at Montford centre, Tura, Meghalaya. Most of the administrative posts were lying vacant at the time of visit. There are only two sectioned posts of LDA and Peon against disability quota. The post of principal, teacher, peon, chowkidar, sweeper, U.D.A were not filled till the time of visit to the institution by the Research team. A chowkidar is appointed who do not get any salary but sometime a little remuneration is given by the staff members.

The staff position at BDS Deaf and Dumb school was good.

Training

Many of the staff of child care institutions were not trained. However, the training status was different for different institutions. At Observation Home of Jorhat all staff members were sensitized to the issues on Child Right and Protection and JJ system. They had received capacity building training three times in 2008 organised by 'unicef' and 'Snehalaya', an NGO.

In Children's Home, Nagaon, the superintendent has undergone training on Juvenile Justice Act at NIPCCD; other staff members have also received training under unicef and 'Snehalaya',

Residential facility within the premises of the institutions is given to the Superintendents, Matrons, Wardens and also to chawikidars in most of the institutions. However, Superintendents were not staying in the campus everywhere. In such cases some arrangement was made to ensure that Superintendent's absence after the office hours no way affects in management.

At the end, it can be concluded that despite inadequate staffing pattern, by and large the institutions are being managed well. They have tied up with the PHCs/Civil Hospitals/Medical College for health facilities. For educational facilities they have been able to made liaison with the SSA. Deaf and Dumb School, Hearing Impaired School and Blind Institution have been able to obtain support from SSA, ICCW and concerned manufacturers for Aids and Appliances, computer, printing machine, etc. Similarly, institutions for disabled also receiving assistance from Rotary International and Lions Club. The Homes under JJ system also have been able to manage donation (in kind) and support from NGOs, individuals and public. These all indicate the institutions' ability to mobilise and manage resources and to use these for the benefit of the children.

CHAPTER VI

CASE STUDIES

Case Study 1

Children's Home Ambari, Guwahati

Name	: Shri Raju Tanti
Age	: 14 yrs
Religion	: Christian
Education	: Class IV
Mother tongue	: Adivasi
Father's Name	: Shri Doma Tanti
Father's occupation	: Roadside selle
Siblings	: Three brothers and one sister
Languages Known	: Hindi, Assamese, Adivasi

Time of Arrival: Arrived Children's Home, Ambari on 19/10/08 for his restoration.

Family Background

The client is the eldest son of Shri Doma Tanti who is a worker in Khumtai tea estate of Golaghat district in upper Assam. He is the eldest in the family and has three brothers and one sister. One day, while he was playing with his friends, his father got angry and came after him to beat. Being afraid, he ran away from home, boarded a train and reached Guwahati. From Guwahati he boarded another train and reached Mumbai. In Mumbai, the Police found him and kept him in Children's Home where he stayed for 3-4 years. After that he ran away from the Children's Home and started staying in the roadside. Here, he started doing petty offences, like begging, stealing etc. There after the Mumbai Police again caught him and kept him in the Children's Home. He was produced before CWC Mumbai who gave orders to send him to his home town in Assam since he belongs to that place. With the help of Japu escorts, Mumbai he was sent to

Children's Home Ambari on 19/10/08 for his restoration. It has been 6-7 years since he had left his home.

Behavioural Observation

It was found that the child is very good in nature. He is very respectful and listens and responds quickly. He does not have a quarrelsome nature and can make friends easily. He is good in art/painting.

Restoration

When the child wished to return back home, the superintendent of the home contacted the Golaghat police station over telephone and verified the child's address with the police. The superintendent then took the permission of CWC, Guwahati and arranged for shifting him to his home with an escort. On 21st January, 2009 he was taken to his grand father's house who was very happy to see him after so many years. The village people were also very delighted to see him. The child was also very happy to rejoin his family.

Status : Restored

Case Study 2

Children's Home Ambari, Guwahat

Name	: Joram U Hussain
Age	: 13 years
Sex	: Male
Religion	: Muslim
Education	: Upto class II
Mother tongue	: Hindi
Father's Name	: Md. Alauddin Hussain
Father's occupation	: Roadside seller
Mother's name	: Mrs. Rukhiya Begum
Siblings	: Three brothers (the client is the second child)
Languages Known	: Besides Hindi, can speak and write Malayam as well.

The child is from Nagaon. His father sells plastic materials. His father married two women. His own mother stayed in Assam and other woman in Kolkata. He went to

Kolkata but had come back as his step mother did not treat him properly. His father used to scold him for not helping him in his business. Being angry, the child ran away from home and boarded a train for Guwahati. From Guwahati he boarded another train and reached Aluna in Kerala. A concerned person found him and kept him in the Janaseva Shisu Bhawan (Juvenile Home). There he stayed for two years and studied upto class II. When he desired to return home, the CWC, Trichur Kerala arranged to get him shifted to Children's Home Ambari, Guwahati, for restoration.

Restoration

Home visit was made by the Programme Coordinator ICCW. Then, after taking permission from CWC, Guwahati, Kamrup he was restored to his home on 30th August 2008 by the Programme Coordinator of ICCW.

Status : Restored

Case Study 3

Children's Home Ambari

Name	: Shri Bablu Bora
Sex	: Male
Age	: 14 years
Education	: Upto class VII
Mother Tongue	: Assamese
Father's Name	: Shri Nagen Bora
Father's Occupation	: Owns a cycle repair shop
Mother's Name	: Smt. Biju Bora
Mother's occupation	: House wife
Siblings	: One younger brother and one sister (is the eldest)

The child was found by a concerned citizen in a helpless condition near Dighalipukhri, Guwahati and was handed over to the Latasil Police Station. The child had come to Guwahati from Biswanath Chariali which is at about a distance of 200 km from Guwahati in search of a job. Latasil Police station handed over the child to Guwahati Childline. He was later shifted to Children's Home Ambari. The client

established good rapport with the staff of Home. During counselling it was found that his parents were separated. He was staying with his mother. He left school one year before coming to Guwahati and started working in a PCO in Biswanath Chariali. One day there was a clash with the owner of the PCO for which he left the job. He then came to Guwahati and was found loitering in Dighalipukuri and found by a concerned citizen.

Behavioural Observation

The client had changed after counselling. He stopped taking tobacco, could express his inner views by writing poems and other ways. He had been cooperative, helpful and tidy.

Status: Restored on 21st July, 2009

Case Study 4

Children's Home Ambari

Name	: Shri Abwash Bikash Doloi,
Sex	: Male
Age	: 17 years
Educational Qualification	: Studied upto Class IV
Mother Tongue	: Mishing
Religion	: Christian
Father's Name	: Shri Krishna Doloi
Occupation	: Farmer
Mother's Name	: Smt. Baijanti Doloi
Occupation	: House wife
Siblings	: Six brothers and sisters (He is the 4 th child)

The child's father is a cultivator. He stated that his father was an alcoholic and often harassed him physically. He did not allow him to study and made him work, which he disliked. So, one day he ran away from home. He boarded a train from Dhemaji and came to Guwahati. He then again boarded another train and reached Bangalore. After reaching there, he worked in a hotel for a month. He was then found by a concerned citizen and put in a Children's Home in Bangalore. He stayed there for five months.

Thereafter he was sent to Assam by CWC Bangalore with an escort against his will, as he did not want to return home.

Behavioural Observation

The staff of Children's home formed a good rapport with him. The child was very much eager to express his feelings.

Restoration: After his stay in Bangalore Home

Case Study 5

Jalukbari Children Home

Name	: Saraju Nath
Age	: 17 Years
Qualification	: Degree 1 st yr (Arts Stream)
Mother Tongue	: Assamese
Religion	: Hindu
Residing place	: Patasarkuchi, P.O. Jolaghat, Vill- Jalah, Dist. Barpeta
Father's Name	: Ranjan Kanta Nath
Father's occupation	: Teacher of a High school
Mother's Name	: Amima Nath
Mother's occupation	: Teacher of L.P. School
Siblings	: One younger brother
Source of referral	: CJM

Saraju Nath is a girl of 17 years. She was in degree 1st year when she fell in love with a boy of 25 years through telephonic conversation. They both planned to elope. The boy worked in a pvt. company in Bangalore. So, one day she eloped with the boy. The parents lodged a complain against the boy for trafficking. Based on the complaint, the police brought the girl to the CJM court and asked her whether she wanted to go back home. Since she did not want to go home, she was sent to Children's Home Jalukbari

Case Study 6

Children's Home, Jalukbari

Name	: Maharani Das (Moromi)
Age	: 12 Years
Religion	: Hindu
Mother tongue	: Assamese
Father's Name	: late Kumar Das
Mother's Name	: Mrs Sonali das
Occupation of the Mother	: House maid
Sibling	: Only child

When Maharani's father expired, her mother had taken up a job of a maid servant. Maharani was taken to Delhi by her Aunt (mother's sister), where she was married to one non-Asamese man named Raju. Later, Maharani came to know that the person was already married and had a wife. Maharani stayed with the man for three days and later, fled from his house. She was found by Delhi Police, loitering around the streets of New Delhi. The Delhi police sent her to one of the Children's Home in Delhi where she stayed for three months. The Delhi CWC later brought her to Children's Home, Jalukbari for her restoration on 13/11/2007.

Case study 7

Name	: Miss Pooja/ Reshna Khan
Sex	: Female
Age	: 15 years
Mother tongue	: Hindi
Religion	: Muslim
Father's Name	: Md Azad Khan
Occupation of the Father	: Truck Driver
Mother's Name	: Lt. Tahira Khan
Name of step Mother	: Roma
Siblings	: Two step sisters
Date of admission	: 25.09.2007
Present Address	: State Home, Jalukbari

Reshma Khan is from Sibsagar. She informed that a Sadhu had come to her when she was alone in the house. He offered her Prasad which she ate and fainted. The

sadhu then took her to Delhi and sold in a Kotha where she was forced to work. After staying for a month in the kotha she ran away. She was found by the Delhi Police and brought to 'Nirmal Chaya' (Delhi). Later, CWC Delhi sent her to Children Home, Jalukbari

Case Study 8

Children Home, Jalukbari

Name : Miss Manisha Langthasa
Sex : Female
Age : 17 years
Mother Tongue : Dimasa
Religion : Hindu
Residential Address : Dr. Jakir Hussain Road, Dispur, Guwahati

Manisha was adopted by Shri Dipendu Langthasa's first wife. After her death, Dipendu Langthasa married another woman who did not like her and tortured Monisha quite often. She was also molested by her foster father Dipendu. She could not bear all these sufferings and one day ran away from her home. She was rescued by GOLD an NGO of Guwahati and produced before the CWC and was then admitted at Children's Home, Jalukbari.

Case Study 9

Observation Home Jorhat

Name : Md. Dilwar Hussain
Age : 15 years
Father's Occupation : chicken vendor
Mother : House wife
Siblings : 6 brothers and 4 sisters
Address : Lahorijan, Khatkhathi, Dist Golaghat, Assam

Md. Dilwar Hussain studied in a Madrassa for 2/ 3 years. He was initially addicted to dendrite which he used to inhale using a handkerchief. Later, he got addicted

to brown sugar. As brown sugar was very expensive , he decided to deal in this drug business. He used to purchase brown sugar at a cheap rate and sell at a higher price at places near the Nagaland border. One day he was found by an NGO and taken to a rehabilitation centre at New Delhi. There he met a Naga boy and they became good friends. The Naga boy showed him places where good quality brown sugar could be acquired. He was later taken to a place inhabited by Nagas where he stayed for a week. As consumption of drugs was not possible there, he returned to Lahorijan and started his business once again. One day he again met his Naga friend near the Nagaland border. The Naga friend insisted that they go back to New Delhi to purchase drugs. They returned to New Delhi and also set up a drug business there. He used to purchase drugs from New Delhi and sell those at Dimapur to his known clients. One day while he was carrying a considerable amount of drugs bought from New Delhi he was caught by the Railway Police at Tinsukia in Assam. He was later sent to Jorhat Observation Home. His case is now being looked after by the Tinsukia JJB.

Status: To be discharged

Case Study 10

Observation Home Jorhat

Name	: Shri Suresh Orang
Sex	: Male
Age	: 14 Years
Occupation of the father	: Farmer
Occupation of the Mother	: House wife
Address	: Lekhapani , District – Tinsukia, Assam

History

Suresh's family did not have the electricity supply connection in their house. So, they used to steal electricity from the roadside pole with the help of a bamboo. His immediate neighbour too did not have electricity connection but he had a switch board. One day, Suresh brought a compact disc player to watch a movie. While he was watching the movie his neighbor switched off the electricity connection. At this Suresh got very angry and attacked his neighbor with a *dao* (a large knife) and hit him on his

head. His neighbour bled profusely and succumbed to his injury while in the hospital. Suresh later surrendered to the police. His case is now being looked after by the Tinsukia JJB.

Status: To be discharged

Case Study- 11

Observation Home Jorhat

Name	: Shri Kiki Timun
Sex	: Male
Age	: 15 years
Class	: Studied upto class I
Mother	: House wife
Father	: Farmer
Address	: Bornoiya, District-Karbi Anglong , Assam

History

Kiki used to work as a servant in a house in Karbi Anglong. One day his master had asked him to get ganja from his friend's house. Kiki was coming back from his master's friend's house with the ganja. On his way to his master's house he was arrested by the police for drug peddling. He was then brought to the Observation Home, Jorhat.

Status: To be discharged

Case Study 12

Observation Home Jorhat

Name : Shri Atul Bawri
Sex : Male
Age : 18 years
Educational Qualification : Studied upto class VII
Father's Occupation : Chowkidar in Laujan Tea Estate
Mother : Expired
Siblings : 3 brothers and 1 sister
Residential Address : Dimu, Laujan Tea Estate, Assam

Atul left his studies after his mother expired. He was working in Amguri as a daily wage labourer for PWD works under a person Mr. Bhagya Kalita (PWD contractor). One day his friends had stolen three chairs from Mr. Putul Gogoi, a contractor. When Putul Gogoi came to know about the theft, he beat up Atul Bawri and his friends badly and later handed them over to the police. He was then sent to Observation Home, Jorhat.

Status: To be discharged

Case Study 13

Observation Home Jorhat

Name : Shri Govinda Gorai
Sex : Male
Age :
Educational Qualification : Studied upto class III
Father : Expired
Mother's Name : Smt. Belmani Gorai
Mother's Occupation : Tea garden labourer
Siblings : 2 brothers
Residential Address : Lakuwa, Rajabari Tea Estate, District. Sibsagar, Assam

History

Govinda Gorai left his studies after his father's demise. He then started to work in Lakuwa, Rajabari Tea Estate as a daily wage labourer. He raped a girl who was his next door neighbour when she was out alone in the forest to collect firewood. The girl

immediately informed her parents who in turn lodged an FIR under IPC 376 in the police station. After following the necessary formalities he was then brought to Observation Home, Jorhat. His case file was sent to Sibsagar JJB but the file was misplaced. Later, a photocopies of the relevent papers were again sent to Sibsagar JJB.

Status: The case is now being heard by Sibsagar JJB.

Case Study 14

Institution for Blind, Jorhat

Name : Miss Swapna Das
Sex : Female
Age : 12 years
Educational Qualification : Studying in class V
Father : Business
Mother : House wife
Siblings : 2 sisters
Residential Address : Malou Ali, Jorhat, Assam

History

Swapna was a healthy child when she was born. She was intelligent, fun loving and very well natured. She was a healthy child with normal eye sight. She had chicken pox when she was seven years of age. Though after few months she was completely cured, but, the disease took away her eyesight by making her completely blind. Swapna enjoys her studies and aspires to be a teacher in future.

CHAPTER VII

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A great deal of variations were observed in respect of staff position in the institutions. Quite a few institutions did not have adequate staff. Further, some staff did not have requisite qualification. In hearing impaired school most of the staff position were lying vacant. The matter needs to be addressed urgently. People with requisite qualification should only be appointed.
2. All the staff in the Children's Home should be trained and sensitized on issues relating to child rights and protection, provision under institutional care and also about their role and responsibilities. They should know the basics of JJ (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.
3. It should be mandatory to recruit only Diploma Holders (minimum 1 year course) in counseling from a recognized institution for the Counselor post.
4. Counselor post for Special Schools for Disable Children should be created.
5. Vocational training on subjects like repairing of mobile/ TV/AC/ Gas Burner; Electrical work, Cooking, Baking and Confectionary, Beautician and Hair dressing course may be introduced. Some of the present vocational trade are not found to be much gainful and interesting. For children of blind institutions appropriate trade may be selected after seeking advice from experts and also taking into consideration of children's interest and abilities.
6. Yoga, meditation, *Pranayam* should be compulsorily taught and practised in all the institutions for children.
7. Sports materials like cricket bat and ball, volley ball, hand ball, badminton should be made available in all the homes. These items should also be replenished as and when required. Similarly, indoor games such as ludo, carom, chess, should also be supplied in sufficient number to all the institutions.

8. Adequate measures should be undertaken for attitudinal change of the children in-conflict-with-law. Such children should be helped to realize the mistakes/misdeeds (if any) done by them and help them to reform themselves by proper counseling. At present, the Homes are not being able to change the mindset of the children. While interacting with some boys of Observation Home it was felt that they had no regrets for their misdeeds.
9. There is a need to enhance the budget for quality food. The present budget of Rs. 750/- per child per month is grossly inadequate. For insufficient fund in most of the institutions breakfast is not served.
10. For all the children studying in classes above Fifth, coaching should be arranged within the institution.
11. Immunization of children should be carried out as per the schedule of government. Children above six years should be vaccinated against Hepatitis A and B, Encephalitis, Chicken pox, Mumps.
12. Social Welfare Department, Assam should tie up with the Health Department for de-worming all the children and supplementation of iron to all the Adolescent Girls of all the 10 institutions.
13. Institutions should also take initiative to hold Dental Health Camp and Eye Camp at least once in six months.
14. Govt. of Assam should consider covering the girls of two Children Homes at Jalukbari and Nagaon under SABLA scheme for Adolescent Girls of MWCD, Govt. of India.
15. The construction of a hostel for Children of Hearing Impaired School needs to be taken up urgently. For not having a hostel many children are being deprived from receiving the services of the Institution.
16. A special institution for mentally retarded children is of utmost importance. At present mentally retarded children needing care and protection and also in-

conflict-with-law are being kept in different Homes. These Homes are not having any specialized service for such children.

17. Govt. of Assam need to establish a minimum of two more Observation Homes for boys. The present arrangement of placing the boys in-conflict-with-law from far off districts at Boko and Jorhat is delaying in giving them justice
18. Voluntary organizations working near the Homes should be involved with some activities like coaching, recreational activities, vaccination, etc.
19. It was found that many of the cases of children in conflict with law are kept in the Observation Homes at Boko and Jorhat actually do not belong to these districts. Since they are from different districts the children are not being produced before the JJB of those districts for various reasons. For these, many children are languishing in the Homes without any justice. The JJBs of all districts should be activated and made functional.
20. All the Homes under JJ system should be regularly monitored by concerned authority. A monthly monitoring proforma should be developed and regularly filled up and submitted by the Homes.
21. CWC and JJB should compulsorily visit the Homes. At least one quarterly visit to be made to each Home. They should submit the visit reports to Social Welfare Department and also to NIPCCD.
22. Management committees in all the Children Homes should be formed immediately.
23. Screening of children for behavior disorder by clinical psychologist is necessary
24. Almost all the institutions found to have sufficiently large open space in their premises. Government should instruct all the institutions to develop a horticulture and fruit garden in their premises. An incentive may be given to the best growers of fruits and vegetables.

25. Individual care plan was not proper. The Institutions should have proper need assessment for each child and accordingly chalk out the plan for him/her.
26. A clinical psychologist's visit at least once in two months would be helpful. Children found to have serious behavior and psychological disorder should be referred to Child Guidance Centre.

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