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Comparative Analysis of Developed Countries' Legal Frameworks for Missing Children with a Focus on Security Measures

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ABSTRACT

As rightly said by Jawaharlal Nehru “children are like buds in the garden and should be carefully and lovingly nurtured as they are the future of the nation and citizens of tomorrow”, children surely are the asset of the nation.

According to UNICEF’s “The State of the World’s Children,” report for 2006, one-third of the world’s children lack adequate shelter, 31% lack basic sanitation and 21% have no access to clean, potable water.

Illness, malnutrition, and premature death are common when children lack the most basic protection.

NCRB’s (National Crime Report Bureau) annual report “Crime in India” , states that 83,350 children (20,380 male, 62,946 female and 24 transgender) were reported missing last year. Further, a total of 80,561 children (20,254 male, 60,281 female and 26 transgender) were recovered or traced. NCRB figures for the five years up to 2022 show a mostly rising trend in the figures of missing children — a spike of 7.5 per cent in 2022 in comparison to 2021, a significant surge of 30.8 per cent in 2021 against 2020. This is a major concern for the whole nation, the safety of its children, the tomorrow of the country is not safe and secure in their environment. To terminate this heartless apathy and unease concerning the safeguarding of minors, it is vital to take immediate actions and preventative measures to avoid such heinous crimes.

This research paper is divided into 3 chapter. The first chapter will be dealing with legal framework in India regarding the addressal of the issue of missing children and its comparative analysis with the legal framework of other countries. The second chapter will take into account the enforcement of the laws and the challenges faced, the roles of NGOs including Search My Child Foundation. The third and the last chapter will be dealing with preventive and immediate actions that should be taken, how NGOs and governmental bodies can work together to reap maximum benefit including the conclusion of the paper.

Keywords: *Missing Children, International law, Child Protection, NGO, Child Rescue.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Addressing missing children's cases is a multifaceted imperative, with a primary focus on safeguarding the well-being of the child and preventing potential exploitation. Rapid and effective responses are not only crucial for the emotional stability of affected families but also play a pivotal role in the legal and judicial processes. Swift action allows for the collection of crucial evidence, comprehensive investigations, and, if necessary, legal proceedings against perpetrators, ensuring accountability. Beyond the legal framework, timely resolution contributes significantly to community safety by preventing potential threats to other children and serving as a deterrent against similar offenses. The collaborative efforts of various agencies and international cooperation are indispensable for the efficient use of resources and expertise in these cases. Moreover, recognizing the profound long-term impact on the psychological well-being of the child, addressing missing children cases involves providing essential support services, including counseling and rehabilitation. In essence, it underscores a humanitarian responsibility, affirming the commitment to protect every child's inherent right to safety and security.

The world has talked many a times about the legal framework for missing children. The United Nations has several instruments and initiatives within its legal framework that address the issue of missing children and promote their protection. Key components include:

1. **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)²:** The CRC, adopted in 1989, is a landmark international treaty that sets out the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of children. It emphasizes the right to life, survival, and development and underscores the importance of the best interests of the child. Articles 9 and 11 specifically address issues related to parental abduction and the separation of children from their families.
2. **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC)³:** This protocol, adopted in 2000, supplements the CRC and focuses on protecting children from exploitation and abuse. It addresses issues such as child trafficking, sale, and sexual exploitation, all of which are closely related to the phenomenon of missing children.
3. **United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Guidelines):** Adopted in 1990, these guidelines emphasize preventive measures to

² Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989.

³ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 25 May 2000.

protect children, especially those at risk of becoming victims of crime or missing. They encourage community-based programs and social policies to address the root causes of juvenile delinquency and victimization.

Different nations have different frameworks for addressing the issue of missing children. Legal frameworks of some major developed countries are discussed below:

(A) United States Of America:

United States of America emphasizes a multi-faceted approach, integrating law enforcement, public engagement, and technological tools. Key aspects of U.S. framework are:

National Child Search Assistance Act (NCSAA):⁴ It promotes co-ordination among federal, state and local agencies. It mandates the use of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) which is computerized databank of criminal information and hence promotes rapid sharing of information.

Amber Alert: Amber Alert systems aim to reach a large mass of people as quickly as possible, in the event of an extremely worrying case of disappearance. It was developed in the U.S. in 1996. It notifies broadcasters and state transportation officials. AMBER Alerts are displayed on radio, television, and DOT road signs in addition to interfering with regular programming. Additionally, AMBER Alerts can be re-disseminated via wireless devices including mobile phones, lotteries, digital billboards, Internet ad exchanges, Internet service providers, and search engines on the web.

Missing Children's Assistance Act: Enacted in 1984, it established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to address missing and exploited children's issues. Funds research, training, and technical assistance programs to enhance the response to missing children's cases.

International co-operation: Collaboration with INTERPOL (The International Criminal Police Organization) and other international agencies facilitates information-sharing and cross-border efforts in locating missing children.

Code Adam: A retail-oriented child-safety program named after Adam Walsh; it involves a coordinated response in case a child goes missing in a store. Trains employees to immediately alert security and law enforcement, securing the premises until the child is located.

⁴ House of Representatives- 101st Congress (1989-1990): National Child Search Assistance Act, 21 March, 1990.

(B) European Union, United Kingdom, Norway:

When the missing case is filed in almost all the member states and UK and Norway, the missing case is filed by the person who saw the minor which may include the staff of the reception facilities/care placement or the guardian. The police is the main member handling the case. In some countries like **Spain**, reporting maybe done via fax or email. A distinction can be made between those Member States that involve only the police⁸³ and those where the disappearance is reported to other actors besides the police.

Norway simultaneously reports to the police, the Child Welfare authorities and the reception center.

a. Issuance of Alerts:

Public alerts: Police notifications and public relations appeals are included in this section. In general, appeals made through a variety of platforms and media, including social media, websites, billboards, TV, radio, and other media, fall under the category of publicity appeals. kid alarm systems (also known as kid alert, amber alert, or child rescue alert) are examples of publicity appeals.

Child alert/Amber alerts: In the event of a really concerning incidence of disappearance, the goal of Child Alert systems is to swiftly contact a large number of individuals. In 2008, the European Commission adopted a working paper on best practices for releasing a cross-border child abduction warning, which was welcomed by the JHA Council on 27 and 28 November 2008⁵. It released a request for proposals to assist the initiative with a total of € 1 million to assist members that had not yet adopted the child alert system. Amber alert aims to connect police officials with public and law enforcement agencies.

In EU, the main focus is to establish connection between various member states to facilitate the speedy tracing of the child through **Interpol's, Europol's and Eurojust's**. Europol, the EU's law enforcement agency, and Eurojust, the EU agency for judicial cooperation, play crucial roles in coordinating efforts among member states to combat crimes such as child abduction and trafficking.

The European Union (EU) has taken various measures to address issues related to missing children and child exploitation. EU legislation and initiatives aim to promote cooperation among member states to prevent and respond to cases involving missing and abducted children. Here are some key aspects of EU laws and initiatives in this regard:

⁵ Council Decision 2008, JHA, on the Cross-Border Child Abduction Alert, [27 and 28 November 2008].

Directive 2011/36/EU - Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2011):

The EU directive on combating trafficking in human beings includes measures to prevent and combat the trafficking of children. It emphasizes the protection of victims, support for their recovery, and prosecution of traffickers.

Directive 2011/99/EU - European Protection Order (2011):

This directive establishes a European Protection Order that allows for the mutual recognition and enforcement of protection measures in civil matters, including cases involving children. It facilitates the cross-border protection of children who may be at risk.

The European Commission has established the European Platform for Missing and Exploited Children, a network that brings together law enforcement, NGOs, and other stakeholders to collaborate on issues related to missing and exploited children.

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN INDIA FOR HANDLING MISSING CASES

The link between missing persons and human trafficking was first established in NHRC (National Human Rights Commission) Actions Report. NHRC is a statutory body established in 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act. Across the country hundreds of women and children disappear daily, due to lack of technical support and monitoring mechanism a lot of them remain missing as law enforcement agencies are not able to devise any clue. India has ratified the UN Protocol⁶ on trafficking.

(A) Child protection laws in india:

The Government of India after recommendations by the NHRC action research report has seriously contemplated to have an infrastructural support network for tracing of missing persons and their rescue. The Supreme Court of India gave a detailed guidelines on 14-11-2002, while hearing the Writ Petition filed by Horilal v. Commissioner of Police, Delhi and Ors.,⁷ with respect to effective and emergency steps to be taken in case of tracing out the missing women and children. The ICPS policy paper was updated in 2009 after the Ministry of Women and Children realized that a network and portal were necessary for missing child tracing under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme. The Ministry of Women and Children announced the launch of the missing children portal and it was launched nearly four years after it was first intended. Track Child portal was launched by government and Khoya-Paya portal was also launched in 2015 for parents to directly register and report the details of their child.

⁶ United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified May 2011.

⁷ Horilal v. Commissioner of Police, Delhi and Ors, AIR 1996 SC 610.

With the launch of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme and the Integrated Human Trafficking Units, the Indian government has taken action to establish institutional mechanisms and apparatus throughout the nation. NGOs and civil society play a crucial role in the operation of both of these programs. It is now necessary to have a strong technology platform that will enable agencies to work collaboratively and produce a synergistic effect while simultaneously profiling, publishing, and sharing information with all parties involved as quickly as feasible. A child helpline number 1098 is also available.

Since the missing cases being considered a non-cognizable offence are reported in the station diary and not as a FIR, the follow up is usually nil. The police officials sometimes refuse to report the case stating that the kid might have run away and may return back. The Supreme Court in the case of Bachpan Bachao Andolan v. Union of India⁸ has held every report of missing child has to be reported as First Information Report, the SC has directed this in several other cases as well as the lax attitude of police officials has been noticed several times.

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 focuses on the care, protection, and rehabilitation of children, including those who are missing or in need of care and protection. **National Policy for children, 2013**, provides a comprehensive framework for the protection and well-being of children, including measures to address issues of trafficking and missing children.

III. GAPS IN THE INDIAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- **Implementation Challenges:** The existing legal framework for tracing missing children faces significant challenges in terms of implementation. There may be gaps between the law on paper and its practical enforcement due to lack of attention to prioritize the issue, the careless behaviour of police officials in reporting the cases to conducting further investigation. This is the issue in India with regards to every situation as such, there is a huge gap between what law on paper is and how it is actually being implemented in real life.
- **Coordination Issues:** Coordination among different law enforcement agencies, social services, and NGOs involved in the search and recovery of missing children is inadequate. Improved collaboration and information-sharing mechanisms are necessary for a more effective response. There is no specialised portal to establish a link between various law enforcement agencies, NGOs and public.
- **Resource Constraints:** Insufficient resources, both human and financial, can hinder the proper functioning of

⁸ Bachpan Bachao Andolan v. Union of India., writ Petition (Civil) no. 75 of 2012.

agencies responsible for tracing missing children. This includes limitations in the number of trained personnel, technology, and financial support for awareness campaigns and prevention programs.

- **Limited Legislative Focus on Prevention:** While there are laws addressing the response to missing children, there may be a limited legislative focus on preventive measures. Proactive strategies, such as community awareness programs, could help reduce the incidence of children going missing in the first place. Installation of CCTV cameras, better police patrolling, stringent laws and punishment for the criminals could help in preventing people from committing such heinous crimes.
- **Sociocultural Factors:** Sociocultural factors, such as poverty, lack of education, and traditional practices, contribute to the vulnerability of children. Addressing these root causes requires a holistic approach beyond the legal framework. These factors act as a deterrent in many issues in India.

(A) Recommendations that can be taken from other countries:

- Countries like members of EU and USA have systems of INTERPOL and EUROPOL which help them in across border connectivity and facilitating worldwide police co-operation. India should also foster to develop such system because co-ordination among various agencies is a major problem here in India.
- Amber alert system like that of USA should also be adopted in India to spread the news of a child missing among police agencies as well as general public like a fire so as to ease the process of tracing the child.
- The process of reporting and further investigating the process of search is faster in other nations as compared to India. The negligent attitude of the executives should be seriously condemned.
- Code Adam trains the officials to quickly alert security systems and cease the area till the child is located. Such type of system needs to be adopted in India as India lags a little when it comes to technological developments.
- Creating general awareness among people on how to deal if such a situation arises is very important. Dealing with the biases and prejudices of people regarding crimes and laws is important to fight with the sociological factors.
- Almost all the other countries report cases of missing children as FIR as soon as the it is established that the child is missing whereas in India, the missing cases are reported in General Diary of the police station as it is considered as a non-cognizable offence. Even after the recommendation of SC in many cases that missing cases will be reported

as FIR, the police officials because of their careless attitude refuse to register FIR and ask the family to come after sometime usually 24hrs and till then the case is a lot worse to solve. There lies the difference between India and other countries, other countries start the investigation as soon as the case is reported whereas India is very lenient in approach.

- Specialised agencies to lubricate communication between various states and cross-border communication should be established especially in cases of cross-border abduction.
- Just like EUROJUST AND EUROPOL, system should be established to ensure communication between various states to facilitate cases of kidnapping or abduction where the criminal has taken the kid to another state.

IV. ROLE OF NGOS IN HELPING TRACE MISSING CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a crucial role in tracing missing children by providing support, resources, and expertise. Their contributions complement the efforts of law enforcement agencies and government bodies. NGOs and governmental if work together can act as a strong hand to trace missing children. NGOs bring a diverse set of skills, resources, and perspectives to the complex challenge of tracing missing children. Their role is integral in creating a multi-faceted and collaborative approach to address this issue on both local and global scales. Here are key roles that NGOs play in this context:

- **Advocacy and Awareness:** NGOs actively engage in advocacy to raise awareness about the issue of missing children, promoting public education on preventive measures and safety. They raise awareness in the society by conducting social awareness programs and educating people about the laws and what they can do if their child goes missing and how they will along with the government help to trace their child.
- **Support Services:** NGOs offer support services to families of missing children, providing emotional assistance, counseling, and guidance throughout the search process.
- **Database Management:** Some NGOs maintain databases of missing children and work collaboratively with law enforcement agencies to ensure accurate and up-to-date information is available.
- **Search and Rescue Operations:** Certain NGOs specialize in search and rescue operations, deploying trained personnel to assist in locating missing children, especially in cases involving natural disasters or other emergencies.

- **Technology and Innovation:** NGOs often leverage technology to enhance tracing efforts, including the use of databases, facial recognition software, and online platforms to disseminate information quickly.
- **Collaboration with Law Enforcement:** NGOs collaborate with law enforcement agencies, sharing information, expertise, and resources to improve the overall effectiveness of tracing and recovery efforts.
- **Legal Advocacy:** NGOs may engage in legal advocacy to ensure that legal frameworks related to missing children are comprehensive, supportive, and facilitate efficient cooperation between various stakeholders.
- **Education and Prevention Programs:** NGOs work on preventive measures, conducting educational programs in schools and communities to empower children with safety knowledge and raise awareness about potential risks. Some NGOs engage in teaching children in school with self-defense techniques and endorsing them with the knowledge of what they can do if they or any of their known is stuck in such situation.
- **International Collaboration:** Many NGOs operate internationally, fostering collaboration between countries and working with global organizations to address cross-border issues related to missing children.
- **Rehabilitation and Reintegration:** NGOs provide support for the rehabilitation and reintegration of recovered missing children, addressing their physical and psychological needs as they return to their families and communities. It is very crucial to help the children to clear the fear and make them feel heard and safe after they return to their homes, NGOs play a crucial role in ensuring that the mental state of the kids is healthy.

Several NGOs all over the world are working in collaboration with the government to trace the lost children, provide help to their families as well as ensuring their safety at all costs. Few examples of NGOs who worked to trace the missing children are:

The Smile of the Child is an organization of Greece, they received a call and several messages on their social media regarding 2 videos depicting abuse of a 3-year-old boy in accommodation area. They quickly informed the police authorities, Greek Cyber Crime authority and Security of Chios transmitting all evidences they collected. Soon, the hotline was informed by the Security Department of Chios that the boy had been relocated and transferred to a safe environment, while the alleged father of the boy was under arrest.

The Missing Children organization in Europe is also working on the forefront to get many children back to safe environment.

Many NGOs in India too are working towards providing assistance in tracing the children. **National Centre for Missing Children, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, SATHI, Rescue foundation, Search My Child**, to name a few. NGOs are working together with the law enforcement agencies to combat injustices and child trafficking.

How Search My Child helps- Search My Child aims to contribute to the improvement in the well-being of children as well as towards taking preventive measures to reduce actions and situations that lead to the abuse, exploitation or abandonment of children. They work towards the eradication of child trafficking and also help the families by working with the government to trace the child.

- Search My Child helps by conducting social awareness and educational programmes to spread awareness among the children, guardians, schools as well as communities.
- They strive to prepare a security net for the children by strengthening the system for vulnerable children.
- Search My Child undertakes researches in order to find out the gap areas which are acting as weak links. Finding out the gap areas help to trace what are the areas on which our country needs to work.
- They advocate the government to work on the gap areas.
- They maintain records, statistics and researches to help the government to keep a track on the happenings in the country.
- They engage and assist with the District Child Protection Officer and the Juvenile Justice System for effectively dealing and solving the cases of missing children at the earliest.
- They provide support as much as needed to the police, CID, Child Line, Directorate of Social Welfare and the Juvenile Justice System to rescue and provide any data or assistance needed to solve the case.
- They partner with other NGOs to design linkages to rehabilitate the child to safe environment.
- They make sure to make the child economically independent with the support of other government and non-government organizations and their schemes.

Apart from all these efforts, Search My Child has taken an extra effort to propose a petition from the establishment of a **Fast Track Child Rescue Cell (FTCRC)**. This means a specialized unit or cell within the law enforcement unit or child rescue agencies specifically for the solving of certain cases related to the missing children. The key aspects of FTCRC are the following:

1. **Establishment of a cell:** A fast track child rescue cell should be established either on the basis of population or police stations.
2. **Appointment of trained personnel:** trained persons should be appointed who are re typically trained in handling cases involving children, understanding child psychology, and dealing with the unique challenges associated with child abduction or exploitation.
3. **Zero FIR:** Freedom to file an FIR from any police station in India irrespective of the jurisdiction, this one case should have full privilege to file application from any station.
4. **Freedom to use Aadhar Cards:** Police should have complete freedom to use Aadhar cards to determine the address of the child upon finding them and also to determine the details of the parents.
5. **Advanced Technology:** The use of advanced technology, including biometrics, databases, and tracking systems, may be employed to aid in locating and rescuing missing children.
6. **Centralized data:** Search my child treats all the children as one, they should not be divided on the basis of caste, region, religion or any other division. There should be centralized data for all the cases.
7. **Penalty:** penalty and fines should be imposed on officers for not filing an FIR and causing any delay in registering and proceeding with the case.
8. **Collaboration with Other Agencies:** Cooperation and coordination with law enforcement agencies, social services, and non-governmental organizations are essential to create a comprehensive and effective system for child rescue.
9. **Legal Support:** The cell may work closely with legal authorities to expedite legal processes such as filing FIRs (First Information Reports) and obtaining necessary permissions for rapid action.
10. **Awareness and Prevention Programs:** In addition to rescue operations, a Fast Track Child Rescue Cell may engage in community outreach, awareness campaigns, and preventive measures to reduce the occurrence of child abduction and exploitation.

V. SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority issue: Missing children is a grave matter and a human rights issue. It needs to grab more attention by the government as well as by the society at large. It needs to be made a “priority issue” by all the stakeholders especially by the law enforcement agencies.

Missing person desk: A desk especially to address the issue of missing children should be allocated at every police station. This squad should have a registering officer who will be responsible to take care of all the reports, the current situation of the cases. Additionally,

incident reports should be written by the registering officer and recorded in the station diary or case diary, as applicable. Furthermore, the Registering Officer ought to double as an Enquiry Officer, tasked with overseeing the completion

of the full process of locating and tracking the missing child. Even though the missing children can never be classified as juveniles but are instead children in need of care and attention, the JAPU

(Juvenile Aid Police Unit) can be called upon to handle the issue of missing children if necessary. Senior Officers should periodically monitor and assess how this unit/squad is operating, and they should give the Registering/Enquiry Officer prompt instructions and help as needed.

Mandatory reporting: The newly established National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) should receive reports on all cases of missing children nationwide within 24 hours of the incidence, according to an obligatory reporting system that should be developed by the State Police Headquarters. If you didn't disclose the incident right away, people would assume you were trying to cover it up. The reporting process could be the same as that used by the relevant authorities to notify the NHRC of cases of custodial deaths, and it should be completed promptly.

Involving Panchayat Raj Institutions: The investigation procedure needs to be made more transparent, user friendly and engaging. Involving the Panchayati raj institutions will result in involvement of the general public as a whole. It will be beneficial to involve the community at large, such as representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions / Municipal Committees/ Neighborhood Committees/Resident Welfare Associations, etc. Panchayats and similar entities should be responsible for the following additional tasks:

- Promptly reporting missing children;
- Promptly providing any available intelligence to law enforcement;
- Providing aid to law enforcement organizations in their efforts to locate missing children; promptly informing these organizations on the child's return.

Involving NGOs: Involvement of NGOs especially in places of vulnerable group of children is extremely essential to provide counselling as well as to conduct awareness programs. They could work in association with the police agencies to speed up the process of tracing missing children.

National Database and Monitoring: The NCRB ought to set up a National Tracking System

that would cover the local level of missing kid identification and tracking. Reports of missing children should be filed as soon as possible, as should reports of returns, rescues, and recoveries.

Helpline: The major need of the hour is to establish a helpline with NGOs, Panchayats and other agencies with full co-ordination and support from the government to facilitate the law.

Rescue operations: There is a need to identify “runaway children”, “abandoned children” “neglected children” and such “vulnerable children” who are often found roaming around places where they are particularly exposed to abuse and exploitation such as railway stations, traffic junction etc. Their vulnerability increases due to a lack of support structures – family or otherwise. Proper identification, provision of care and support, and a „safe place“ is vital for them.

Role of Media: In times of such dreadful situations which exists these days, media can play a vital role.

- At newspaper, television and radio level, the news of missing children should be circulated very fast so that it reaches the maximum audience and eases the process of tracing.
- Regular follow-up regarding the current situation of the case should be told to the audience.
- A lost and found could be runs separately.
- Newspapers can have separate section in their newspaper of missing children.
- Media organizations can collaborate with NHRC, NGOs to conduct awareness programs.

Specialized Training for Law Enforcement: Provide specialized training for law enforcement officers to handle missing children cases, including the use of modern investigative techniques and technology. Promote collaboration between police, child protection units, and other relevant agencies to ensure a coordinated and efficient response.

Legal Reforms: Review and update existing laws related to missing children, incorporating modern technologies and international best practices. Consider stricter penalties for those involved in child trafficking, abduction, or exploitation to act as a deterrent.

Child Identification Mechanisms: Implement and promote the use of child identification mechanisms such as biometrics, RFID tags, and other technologies to aid in swift identification and recovery. Encourage parents and guardians to maintain updated records, including photographs and fingerprints, which can be shared with authorities in case of an emergency.

Collaboration with Technology Companies: Collaborate with technology companies to develop and deploy innovative solutions, such as mobile applications and online platforms, to facilitate the quick dissemination of information about missing children. Leverage social media platforms to amplify the reach of awareness campaigns and disseminate information about missing children.

International Collaboration: Foster collaboration with international organizations and neighboring countries to address cross-border issues related to trafficking and abduction. Share best practices and learn from successful initiatives implemented in other jurisdictions.

VI. CONCLUSION

This report on the laws regarding missing children bears testimony to the fact that not much importance has been given to the missing children cases in our country and a quick remedy needs to be devised to address this issue and make it a priority. Role of general public, NGOs and the general public needs to be understood to be able to effectively solve the cases. The world needs to act as a single entity against the crime against children and fight to solve it. We need to realize that if we decide to put collective efforts then only, we can fight against this grave heinous crime. Given the situation of children, especially from underprivileged and vulnerable sections of society, the constitution of India has sufficient mandate to secure the human rights of the children. the central and state governments are urged to develop practical and achievable action plans within specified time frames. Achieving this objective requires substantial mobilization of resources, a dedicated political will, and the establishment of decentralized planning and management structures. The call for "massive mobilization of resources" indicates the necessity of substantial financial and human investments to address the needs of children comprehensively. There needs to be radical reforms in the administration of social services. This implies a call for significant changes in the way social services are managed and delivered to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. The use of the term "radical reforms" suggests a transformative shift from existing systems to more responsive and proactive approaches. The overarching goal of these efforts is to build a robust human resource base for the nation. In other words, by prioritizing and investing in the well-being of children, the nation aims to cultivate a strong, healthy, and educated population that can contribute significantly to its overall development and prosperity.
