

# Leading Article

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## Children's Rights and Our Responsibilities

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Human rights apply to all age groups and children have the same fundamental general human rights as adults, although some human rights, such as the right to marry, are dormant until they are of age. Children are particularly vulnerable and so they also have particular rights that recognize their special need for protection. United Nations the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) sets out the rights that must be realized for children to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, as well as free from neglect and abuse.

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) adopted and opened for signature by General Assembly of United Nations on the 20 November 1989. It came into force on 2 September 1990, there after it was ratified by the required number of nations. Currently, 196 countries are party to it, including Bangladesh. *The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child spelled out 54 Articles* of which Part-I: described Child Rights (Article 1 to 41), Part-II: for Committee (Article 42 to 45) and part-III: for Procedures (Article 46 to 54). Adopting 54 Articles of UNCRC Bangladesh has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children in 1990 and made commitment to fulfill the rights of the Bangladeshi children. The Government of Bangladesh has attempted to implement and apply the principles and provision of the UNCRC in protecting the rights of the child by enactment of Child act 2013 and the new act abolishes the early Bangladesh Child Act 1974. The act recognizes some organizations and members and mentions about their responsibilities.

According to *Article 1* of UNCRC a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. Bangladesh has also modified Children Act 2013 that defines 'child as a person below the age of 18 years'. *Article 2*: that all UNCRC

rights apply to *all* children without discrimination; *Article 3*: that the best interests of children must be a *primary* consideration; *Article 6*: that the rights of child life means to survival and development; *Article 12*: that children's views must be taken into account in decision-making that ensure Participation. The development of a children's rights perspective throughout governmental structures is best achieved by designing strategies to implement the guiding principles of the Convention. The Guiding Principles are the backbone to the Convention and instrumental to achieving all of the other rights. However, the Articles reflect a much wider set of concerns and all are relevant to different aspects of working with children, covering a range of areas of children's lives: social, economic, civic, political, cultural and participation rights.

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child, "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth", because as a child RIGHTS are Universal- everyone has the same rights- all need food, education and secured shelter; Intrinsic- rights belong to child, no matter what circumstances children are in- whether a child lives in an apartment or a house or in a hut, every child has the same rights; Essential- no one can/should have to do without rights. their rights help them live full lives; Interrelated to each other- e.g. right to food is related to education. The more educated children are the better their chances of earning enough to have plenty of food; Linked to responsibilities- adults are responsible for giving children their complete rights. Child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society and in the spirit of Peace, Dignity, Freedom, Equality and Solidarity.

### The basic Children's rights are:

- All children have the right to SURVIVAL. They should have to live, get good health care, get good food regularly, have an own name, identity and a nationality - belong to a country that will care for them.

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- All children have the right to PROTECTION. They should have a family that will protect them, have to be safe from every harm- physical or mental and have their own privacy. Article 19 of UNCRC 'States Parties shall protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse'
- All children have the right to DEVELOPMENT. They should have good opportunity for education, rest, leisure and recreation.
- All children have the right to PARTICIPATION. They should have to express their self freely, to choose their own set of beliefs, to know about things related to their life, to be a member of associations and to enjoy their own culture

**Our Responsibilities are:**

- Treating a child fairly, honestly, with dignity and respect
- Maintaining high personal and professional standards regarding childcare
- Talking to children to raise their any concern and advise parents or caregiver accordingly
- Absolute acceptance and maintenance of child safeguarding policy
- Supporting and helping parents to obtain child's health service and safety
- Explaining to a parent the safety needs of increasingly mobile and curious toddler
- Arranging a class, training or trying to include of child rights in curriculum for medical profession
- Awareness building and apprising among children and their family regarding children's rights

We must aware and reflect children's rights in our personal as well as professional life, avoid deliberate writing of food or medicine which are not necessary for children and participate in child rights advocacy, social activities to promote and protect children's rights.

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