

ISSUES OF CHILDREN
IN
JAMMU AND KASHMIR
AN INTRODUCTION

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EVALUATION OF THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY FOR SCHOOLS IN J&K: SOME LESSONS

– Javaid Rashid & Aadil Bashir

Abstract:

The present paper is based on an evaluation study of Child Protection Policy (CPP) for Schools in J&K done in the year 2018-19. The CPP was adopted by the School Education Department in the region from the year 2013-14. All the educational institutes in J&K had been directed to implement the Policy and create CP infrastructure within school premises along with capacity building of school personnel. The study aimed to explore impact of the CP Policy on ground vis-à-vis safe and secure environment for children in schools. It attempted to explore the extent to which schools across the state have implemented CP Policy as it was originally envisaged and also whether prescribed procedures under CP Policy are followed in reporting and redressing the issues in the domain of Child protection. In the study 40 schools were covered by employing a random sampling technique in each of the 4 sample districts of the two provinces of Jammu and Kashmir. Interviews and FGDs were conducted with 48 principals/headmasters, 105 teachers and 185 students across Srinagar, Shopian, Jammu and Kathua districts. All the teachers interviewed across J&K showed keen inclination towards emphasizing the fact that access to safe and free environment is essential for Development. Yet, their perspectives and perceptions were closely linked to a diversity of prevailing forces and factors, i.e. region, political environment,