

POLICY ENVIRONMENT AROUND REHABILITATION OF CARE LEAVERS

A STUDY NOTE



Acronyms

ACC	Alternative Child Care
ACH	After Care Homes
ACS	After Care Services
CC	Children's Court
CCI	Child Care Institutions
CCL	Child in Conflict with Law
CL	Care Leaver
CNCP	Children in Need of Care and Protection
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
DCPU	District Child Protection Unit
ICP	Individual Care Plan
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme
JJ Act 2015	Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (1)
JJB	Juvenile Justice Board
JJ Rules 2016	Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 (2)
NCPCR	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SCPS	State Child Protection Society
SCPU	State Child Protection Unit
YLC	Youth Leaving Care

1 As amended in 2021 (w.e.f 1-9-2022, vide S.O. 4127 (E), dated 31st August 2021

2 As amended by G.S.R 678 (E), dated 1st September 2022 (w.e.f 1-9-2022)

Contents

1. Background	01
2. Defining Care Leavers	04
3. Legal and Institutional framework concerning Care Leavers in India	06
4. Rights and Entitlements of Care Leavers	09
5. State Initiatives – Relevant Policies Schemes for Care Leavers	11
6. Suggestions / Recommendations at National Level	13
Annexure 1 – State Schemes	15-46
Annexure 2 – International Situation around Care Leavers	47-50
Annexure 3 – Strategies for Intervention	51-52
Acknowledgement	53

Definitions

Adoption³
After Care⁴
Best interest of child⁵
Child⁶
Child Care Institutions⁷
Child in Conflict with law⁸
Child in need of care and protection⁹
Child Friendly¹⁰
Child legally free for adoption¹¹
Child Care Institution¹²
Fit Facility¹³
Fit Person¹⁴
Foster Care¹⁵
Foster Family¹⁶
Group Foster Care¹⁷
Individual Care Plan¹⁸
Observation Homes¹⁹
Open Shelter²⁰
Place of safety²¹
Special Homes²²
Sponsorship²³
Surrendered Child²⁴
Orphan²⁵
Place of Safety²⁶

Background

India has the largest population in the world, with about 40% of them being children. Globally, it is estimated that India has the third-largest number of children living in institutions or residential care — more than 3,70,000²⁸ are housed in over 9,500²⁹ CCIs in India as per 2018 report issued by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. As per the 'Beyond 18 Leaving Child Care Institutions' report released in 2018 "India is home to 23.6 million orphan children out of which, 2.1 million orphan children are in the age group of 15-17 years, indicating the vulnerability of youth advancing towards adulthood" ³¹. Jena Committee Report³⁴ shared that in 2016 around 33% of CCIs are unregistered under any Law only around 47% were either registered or applied for registration under the JJ Act, and hence are unmonitored and only 42% of the 9500 childcare institutions receive government funds. With respect to aftercare the research says that "Nearly half of the children who leave Child Care Institutions when they turn 18 years old grapple with harsh realities of the world, many of them are not even aware about Aftercare-services and other welfare-schemes that can be accessed by them"³⁶. Children with experience of institutionalisation struggle during their transition to independent living because of the adverse effects of institutionalisation and the lack of social, emotional, and financial support systems necessary for a safe transition. They also often lack the safety net and buffer a supportive family offers, which puts them at a high risk of falling back into the vicious cycle of poverty.

There are serious consequences of unmet aftercare needs. The aftercare for care-leavers is a complex service where there is exchange of hands and child transits from adolescents to adulthood during the whole journey. Integrated and convergent approach is important and availability of data, research and transferring of knowledge and soft skills is critical for handling the distinct issues of care-leavers. When it comes to aftercare of care-leavers there are gaps at the level of definition, coverage, implementing institutions, available services, capacities of individuals and surely at the level of convergence. The available data in India as well as other countries with decades of experiences of alternative care mechanisms, suggest it is still a struggle to solve the puzzle of what fits best for children. In United States, the figures of homelessness of youth transitioning from JJ System is concerning³⁷. An average of 1 out of every 4 youth in foster care will become homeless within 4 years of aging out of foster care. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, each year approximately 550,000 youth without parents/guardians and young adults up to age 24 experience a homelessness episode of longer than one week. More than half are under the age of 18. The Study "Beyond 18: Leaving Child Care Institutions"³⁸ undertaken by Udayan Care, UNICEF and Tata Trust, provide a good insight to the issues faced by the children who just graduated to adulthood. While under the JJ Act, an aftercare programme includes group housing on a temporary basis for groups of six to eight persons. Yet, even among those who received aftercare services, 39% did not receive housing support.³⁹ This leads to poor implementation of already existing provisions in law and policy. States have

not yet looked at comprehensive aftercare programmes for care-leavers, but have different schemes for vulnerable children that provide skills training, jobs, scholarships, housing, healthcare, etc. Missing transitional planning is the reason behind challenges faced by the care leavers.⁴⁰ While many NGOs are working with children and young people without parental support have developed their care leaver associations. GOI has also outlined support for rehabilitation of Care Leavers under many policies and schemes. The Mission Vatsalya outlines After-care with aim to support the children who are leaving a childcare institution on completion of 18 years of age by providing them with financial support to facilitate their re-integration into mainstream of society. Such support may be given from the age of 18 years up to 21 years, extendable up to 23 years of age to help her/him become self-dependent.

Category wise distribution of CCI/Homes -National Snapshot³³

S.N	Type of CCIs/ Homes	Number of CCIs/Homes	Percentage out of total CCIs/ Homes
1	Children Home	6368	66.41
2	Shelter Home	373	3.89
3	Observation Home	278	2.90
4	Special Home	52	0.54
5	Place of Safety	8	0.08
6	Swadhar Home	185	1.93
7	Ujjwala Home	110	1.15
8	SAA	336	3.50
9	Combination Homes	10	0.10
10	Any Other	1869	19.49
	Total	9589	100.00

Research claims that only 26% of CCIs have individual care plans in place, mandated by the Juvenile Justice Act, 64% of CCIs are unregistered under the JJ Act, and hence are unmonitored and only 42% of the 9500 childcare institutions receive government funds.³⁴ With respect to aftercare the research says that "Nearly half of the children who leave Child Care Institutions when they turn 18 years old grapple with harsh realities of the world, many of them are not even aware about Aftercare-services and other welfare-schemes that can be accessed by them".³⁵

Children with experience of institutionalisation struggle during their transition to independent living because of the adverse effects of institutionalisation and the lack of social, emotional, and financial support systems necessary for a safe transition. They also often lack the safety net and buffer a supportive family offers, which puts them at a high risk of falling back into the vicious cycle of poverty.

There are serious consequences of unmet aftercare needs. The aftercare for care-leavers is a complex service where there is exchange of hands and child transits from adolescents to adulthood during the whole journey. Integrated and convergent approach is important and availability of data, research and transferring of knowledge and soft skills is critical for handling the distinct issues of care-leavers. When it comes to aftercare of care-leavers there are gaps at the level of definition, coverage, implementing institutions, available services, capacities of individuals and surely at the level of convergence. The available data in India as well as other countries with decades of experiences of alternative care mechanisms, suggest it is still a struggle to solve the puzzle of what fits best for children. In United States, the figures of homelessness of youth transitioning from JJ System is alarming³⁷. An average of 1 out of every 4 youth in foster care will become homeless within 4 years of aging out of foster care. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, each year approximately 550,000 youth without parents/guardians and young adults up to age 24 experience a homelessness episode of longer than one week. More than half are under the age of 18.

- While under the JJ Act, an aftercare programme includes group housing on a temporary basis for groups of six to eight persons. Yet, even among those who received aftercare services, 39% did not receive housing support³⁷. This leads to poor implementation of already existing provisions in law and policy. States have not yet looked at comprehensive aftercare programmes for care-leavers, but have different schemes for vulnerable children that provide skills training, jobs, scholarships, housing, healthcare, etc. Missing transitional planning is the reason behind challenges faced by the care leavers³⁸.
- The Jena Committee report suggest that the share of unregistered institutes ranges from 22% to 62% of all childcare institutes in the five states (Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan)³⁹. There is a lack of adequate data on the aftercare institutes.
- Out of the total care leavers, 55% were male and 45% female (17 years to 30 years). Average age of entering the child care institution ranged between 8 years to 12 years across states. 42% CLs were placed in 2 or more homes⁴⁰.

- Two out of every five children went through multiple placements in institutions, which adversely affect their education and attachment pattern⁴¹.
- 48% of care leaver did not have an independent source of earning 93% of the earning care leavers were in salaried jobs and 7% were self employed. The average monthly salary was between Rs 7500 to 8500⁴².
- 40% of all care leavers could not complete their schooling in children homes even at 18 years and 34% dropped out during transitioning⁴³.
- 44% care leavers are never consulted in their care and rehabilitation planning while in institutional care⁴⁴.
- Despite a comparable proportion of female care leavers (26%) receiving higher education to males (25%) much fewer females 31% join the workforce as compared to males 61% and therefore struggle for financial independence⁴⁵.

While many NGOs are working with children and young people without parental support have developed their care leaver associations. GOI has also outlined support for rehabilitation of Care Leavers under many policies and schemes. The Mission Vatsalya outlines After-care with aim to support the children who are leaving a childcare institution on completion of 18 years of age by providing them with financial support to facilitate their re-integration into mainstream of society. Such support may be given from the age of 18 years up to 21 years, extendable up to 23 years of age to help her/him become self-dependent.

ABOUT THE STUDY

The present study is an attempt to understand the existing policy environment vis-à-vis children who have been part of the care mechanism under the Juvenile Justice System and move on to be part of the mainstream society. In common parlance this category of children are now termed as "Care Leavers". There is no such term defined as "Care Leaver" under the Indian legislations; this could also be considered as an opportunity to widen the ambit of definition as and if required.

The desk study explores the scope for the support and rehabilitation of Care Leavers within the existing policies and schemes including Mission Vatsalya⁴⁶ and those at the States. The study looks deeper into the Legal and Institutional framework guaranteeing rights and entitlements to Care Leavers. Efforts were made to understand good practices different Indian States as well as other countries (Refer Annexure 2) which can be advocated for replication for children in India. The care leavers as per the existing norms fall in category youths in age group from 18 to 23 years , this age group as per the Indian legislation overlaps with definition of Youth defined as age group 18 to 35 years and there are many focused schemes related to Ministry of Women and Child Development, the study has also tried to cover policies and schemes under Ministry of sports and youth affairs . It is well recognized that a conducive policy environment is needed to support care leavers in catering to their aftercare needs. The study looks at current policy environment and identifies the gaps in policy or schemes that can be advocated at National Level.

OBJECTIVE OF DOCUMENT

This document is expected to give a brief outline of the existing legislations and Policy for care leavers, highlight gaps (if any) and challenges in the implementation of schemes and services as prescribed or mandated.

The document provides an insight into the issues and challenges faced by the Care Leavers and available provisions at the State and National level. Especially on the following aspects;

- Support and preparation to leave care
- Accommodation
- Health and Nutrition
- Legal Identity and Representation
- Financial Support
- Policy level support

- Real time data of care leavers
- Job preparedness including skills development

The document would act as a reference for the stakeholders: State mandated child protection structures, policy influencers and makers along with CCIS., in policy formulation, widening scope of services or enlarging categories and effective need based implementation.

²⁶Section 49.(l) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

²⁷<https://borgenproject.org/orphans-in-india/>

²⁸<https://iacn.in/images/resources/92462916bc0da2a60ec1439137d8ada4.pdf>

²⁹https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/CIF%20Report%201_0_0.pdf

³⁰<https://bettercarenetwork.org/library/principles-of-good-care-practices/leaving-alternative-care-and-reintegration/aftercare-for-young-adult-orphans>

³¹https://www.udayavancare.org/upload/Reports/2019-20/Full%20report_%20Beyond%2018.pdf

³²<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/voices/generations-at-stake-need-for-investing-in-family-based-solutions-for-vulnerable-children-in-india/>

³³https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/CIF%20Report%201_0.pdf

³⁴<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/voices/generations-at-stake-need-for-investing-in-family-based-solutions-for-vulnerable-children-in-india/?source=app&frmapp=yes>

³⁵<https://www.tatatrusts.org/media/press-releases/study-finds-youth-leaving-care-homes>

³⁶<https://hfvi.org/Issues/homelessness/>

³⁷<https://www.indiaspend.com/govt-failing-to-provide-care-services-to-young-adults-from-childcare-homes/>

³⁸<https://www.indiaspend.com/govt-failing-to-provide-care-services-to-young-adults-from-childcare-homes/>

³⁹<https://www.indiaspend.com/govt-failing-to-provide-care-services-to-young-adults-from-childcare-homes/>

⁴⁰<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/almost-half-of-those-who-once-lived-in-child-care-institutions-without-a-job-study/articleshow/70760424.cms>

⁴¹<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/almost-half-of-those-who-once-lived-in-child-care-institutions-without-a-job-study/articleshow/70760424.cms>

⁴²<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/almost-half-of-those-who-once-lived-in-child-care-institutions-without-a-job-study/articleshow/70760424.cms>

⁴³<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/almost-half-of-those-who-once-lived-in-child-care-institutions-without-a-job-study/articleshow/70760424.cms>

⁴⁴<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/almost-half-of-those-who-once-lived-in-child-care-institutions-without-a-job-study/articleshow/70760424.cms>

⁴⁵http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/70944511.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cpbst

⁴⁶Scheme "Mission Vatsalya" norms are applicable from 01st April 2022 [D.O. N. CW-II-22/6/2022-CW-II (e-99580)

DEFINING CARE LEAVERS

The term “Care Leaver” has not been recognized or defined in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (hereinafter JJ Act). However the term finds mention in documents and reports of organizations working with youth or on Aftercare.

The definition of Care Leavers is varied

- One such report⁴² mention the term “Care Leaver” as “**a young adult who is leaving and spent their career in child care institution or any alternative care arrangement and has left the institute or care arrangement family after attaining 18 years approved by the State through a court order or a child protection unit of the Government under the law is considered as the Care leavers.**”
- In another report, ‘Empowering Youth Leaving Care at 18’ ⁴⁹ by ‘Catalyst for Social Action’ and ‘A Future for Every Child’ used the term Care Leaver (or CL) as referring to “**youth who are preparing to leave CCIs, as well as those who have been recently de-institutionalized, i.e. youth ages 14-21.**”
- In the Report⁵⁰, ‘Beyond 18’, Care Leaver is referred to as, “**the youth who have transition out of Care on attaining 18 years of Age after having lived in a State or NGO run CCI**”.

In the Indian context the Care Leaver are one and the same as those who are eligible for Aftercare services. Aftercare as defined within the JJ Act/Rules has two criterions as eligibility, firstly completing the age of 18 years and secondly have left institutional care.

Aftercare⁵¹ means making provision of support, financial or otherwise, to persons, who have completed the age of eighteen years but have not completed the age of twenty-one years, and have left any institutional care to join the mainstream of the society. The Rules⁵² further extends the aftercare provisions up till twenty-three years by stating that, ‘in exceptional circumstances, for two more years on completing twenty-one years of age.’

-- Section 2(5) of JJ Act 2015, Rule 25(2), JJ Rules, 2016

A plain reading of the existing provisions for care-leavers / aftercare is limited in scope as it allows only those children, who are leaving Institutional Care at the age of 18 years; whereas the UK definition of Care-leaver is little wider to what has been provided under the Indian Legislation.

However the recently formulated and in application, Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘Mission Vatsalya’ provides for a wider scope for Schematic support. The Guidelines⁵³ for Implementing Mission Vatsalya states that it is a roadmap to achieve development and child protection priorities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It lays emphasis on child rights, advocacy and awareness along with strengthening of the juvenile justice care and protection system with the motto to ‘**leave no child behind**’. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 provisions and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 form the basic framework for implementation of the Mission.

It is an interesting scenario, with its motto to ‘leave no child behind’ the Mission Vatsalya laid down criteria for receiving Aftercare (4.3.1.) is wider in scope than what has been provided under the Act, and it says that “**Each young person who has turned 18 years of age and who has been cared and protected in any formal or informal form of alternative care as a child (i.e., under the age of 18); such care being either child in need of care and protection as well as to children in conflict with law and is in further need of close support shall be provided with close and continued long term After Care services and facilities in the manner laid down in these guidelines.**”

It is important to note that States have widened the scope in its definition within the Rules, like in Madhya Pradesh⁵⁴ apart from children leaving from CCI, it has also included, children who have lived in CCI at some point of time and have attained the age of 18 years and the State rules has increased the upper age to 25 years in exceptional cases.

So has the Scheme document and State Rule enlarged the scope in terms of eligibility? While the JJ Act, include only those 'who have left Institutional Care' as eligible, the Scheme makes 'each young person who has been cared and protected in any formal or informal form of alternative care' eligible.

Does this require amendment in Section 2(5) definition of aftercare replacing the phrase "any institutional care" with the phrase "any form of alternative care". Are such expansions in provisions through delegated legislations beyond what is provided within the parent JJ Act, ultra virus⁵⁵.

⁴⁷<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/after-care-support-for-50-orphan-children-in-india/reports/?subid=187928>

⁴⁸<https://www.careleavers.com/who-we-are/what-is-a-care-leaver-2/>

⁴⁹<https://iacn.in/images/resources/92462916bc0da2a60ec1439137d8ada4.pdf>

⁵⁰https://www.udayancare.org/upload/Reports/2019-20/Full%20report_%20Beyond%2018.pdf

⁵¹Section 2(5) of JJ Act 2015

⁵²Rule 25(2), JJ Rules, 2016

⁵³https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/GUIDELINES%20OF%20MISSION%20VATSALYA%20DATED%2005%20JULY%202022_0.pdf

⁵⁴Rule 27(l), Madhya Pradesh Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2022; https://mphc.gov.in/PDF/web_.pdf/JJC/PDF/LAW%20&%20POLICY/ACT%20&%20RULES/Acts,%20Rules,%20Regulations%20on%20JJ/JJ%20Act%20&%20Rules/Madhya%20Pradesh%20Juvenile%20Justice%20Rules,%202022.pdf

⁵⁵The doctrine of ultra vires envisages that a rule making body must function within the purview of the rule making authority conferred on it by the parent Act. As the body making rules or regulations has no inherent power of its own to make rules, but derives such power only from the statute, it has to necessarily function within the purview of the statute. Delegated legislation should not travel beyond the purview of the parent Act. If it does, it is ultra vires and cannot be given any effect. <https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/supreme-court-doctrine-of-ultra-vires-delegated-legislation-kerala-state-electricity-board-vs-thomas-joseph-alias-thomas-m-j-2022-livelaw-sc-1034-216998>

Legal & Institutional framework concerning Care Leavers in India

LEGAL PROVISIONS

Aftercare has always been provided within the JJ Act, starting from 1986⁵⁶. It continued under the 2000 JJ Act and under the 2015 version too. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 (JJ Act), Section 2(5) stipulates that, “aftercare means making provision of support, financial or otherwise, to persons, who have completed the age of eighteen years but have not completed the age of twenty-one years, and have left any institutional care to join the mainstream of the society”. Further, Section 46 urges the State to provide financial support to children leaving a CCI at 18 years of age “in order to facilitate child's re-integration into the mainstream of society”. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules 2016 (JJ Rules) [Rule 25(2)] states that children leaving institutional care at the age of 18 “may be provided aftercare till the age of 21 and in exceptional circumstances, for two more years on completing 21 years of age”.

Matrix showing provision of JJ Act for different age group

Age Group	Preferred Provision	Legal Provision	Comments
0 – 6 Years	Can be Legally Freed for Adoption	Section 38 ⁵⁷ Section 30 (xi) ⁵⁸ Rule 19 ⁵⁹ , Rule 44 ⁶⁰	The most appropriate method of care for children in this age group is Adoption in a permanent family
6 – 18 Years	Left for Institutional Care / Foster Care	Section 3 ⁶¹ Section 38 ⁶² Rule 85(iii) ⁶³ Rule 44 ⁶⁴	Children's who are not adopted through adoption are given in Foster care and lastly Institutional Care.
18 – 21 Years	After Care (Stage 1)	Section 46 ⁶⁵ , Section 39 ⁶⁶ , Section 110(xxxiii) ⁶⁷ , Rule 25 ⁶⁸ , Rule 83 ⁶⁹ , Rule 79 ⁷⁰	Children's who left Institutional care are eligible for after care through financial support and limited only to children's leaving institutional care.
21 – 23 Years	After Care (Stage 1)	Rule 25 ⁷¹	After 21 year 2 year aftercare extension is provided in case of exceptional circumstances.

From the above matrix it can be observed that there are legislative provisions for 0-18 and 18-21 years of children's and 21-23 year of age group has been covered through an exception.

After Care for Children in Need of Care & Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL)

PROVISION	CNCP	CCL
Section 46, JJ Act, 2015	CNCP child leaving a CCI is eligible for aftercare financial support.	A CCL placed in a CCI also is eligible since observation homes and place of safety are also considered to be CCIs ⁷² .
Section 49, JJ Act, 2015	Not Applicable	The State Governments are supposed to set up at least one Place of Safety for placing persons above 18 years of age or children between the age of 16-18 years who have committed a heinous offence. Place of Safety shall also be registered as per procedure laid down under section 41 of JJ Act, 2015 for registration of Child Care Institutions.

Rule 25(2) of JJ Model Rules 2016	Aftercare may be provided till 21 years of age. Aftercare may be further extended for two more years till 23 years of age.	Aftercare may be provided till 21 years of age. Aftercare may be further extended for two more years till 23 years of age.
Rule 25(2) of JJ Model Rules 2016	Order for placement of young adults under aftercare schemes will be passed by the Child Welfare Committee or the Juvenile Justice Board or the Children's Court as per Form 37. Aftercare services are provided till the age of 21 years, and in exceptional circumstances, two more years after completion of 21 years. CWC primarily looks into the issues of CNCPs	Similar application as provided for CNCP. JJB primarily looks into the issues of CCLs ⁷³ .
Rule 25(4) of JJ Model Rules 2016	A post-release plan shall be prepared by the probation officer or child welfare officer or case worker or social worker, keeping in view the needs of the child, two months before the child's due date of departure from CCI.	Similar application as provided for CNCP.
Rule 25(5) of JJ Model Rules 2016	The power of monitoring post-release plan and examining effectiveness of aftercare programmes remains with the JJB or CWC or the Children's Court.	Similar application as provided for CNCP.

The background and situation of two children falling under different category of CNCP and CCL may be different, demanding separate aftercare support and mechanism. All Children within the JJ System are entitled to care and protection and possibilities of rehabilitation.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has developed an SOP⁷⁴ specifically for the "Rehabilitation of Children in Conflict with Law: Possibilities and Opportunities"; keeping in mind their specific needs and issues which leads to children getting into deviant behaviors; (Refer Annexure 3 for intervention strategies under SOP).

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM

Mission Vatsalya- The scheme aims to provide comprehensive care and support to children in need, including those who are orphaned, abandoned, or come from vulnerable backgrounds. Under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme 2022, the government plans to set up residential homes, childcare institutions, and foster care facilities for children in need. The scheme also focuses on improving the quality of care and support provided to children, including their health, education, and overall well-being. The Mission Vatsalya Sponsorship 2022 is a centrally sponsored scheme to provide some assistance to meet the financial or other i.e. medical education and development needs of any child in the age group of 0 to 18 years without a mother or father or both. Further with respect to After Care: The State Government shall prepare a programme for children who have to leave Child Care Institutions on attaining eighteen years of age by providing for their education, giving them employable skills and placement, industry apprenticeship, loan support for starting business as well as providing them places for stay to facilitate their re-integration into the mainstream of society. Such plan may be preferably made when the child attains 16 years of age and implemented once she/he becomes 18 years of age. Such support may be given from the age of 18 years up to 21 years, extendable up to 23 years of age to help her/him become self-dependent⁷⁵. The Scheme

supports the children through Non-Institutional Care under Private Aided Sponsorship wherein interested sponsors (individuals/ institutions/ company/ banks/ industrial units/ trusts etc.) can provide assistance to children in difficult circumstances.

Following are some after care specific guidelines⁷⁶ under this scheme:

- Develop programmes for foster care, sponsorship and after-care⁷⁷.
- Maintaining a database of Child Care Institutions, Specialised Adoption Agencies, open shelters, fit persons and fit facilities, registered foster parents, sponsors, after care organizations and other institutions at the State level⁷⁸.
- Facilitate implementation⁷⁹ of family based non-institutional services including Sponsorship, Foster Care, and After Care and all adoption matters as defined in the Adoption Regulations⁸⁰.
- Facilitate After Care in terms of supplementary education, career counselling facility, vocational training, for them at appropriate time the children who are leaving a Child Care Institution on completion of 18 years of age may be provided with financial support to facilitate the child's re-integration into the mainstream of society⁸¹.
- The scheme covers the basic needs including food, clothing, health care and shelter; age appropriate and need based education and vocational training, stipend, and any other requirements of the young person. The main focus of After Care shall be to help the young persons' gain skills for increasing their employability and enable them to adapt to life in the society.
- Financial support of Rs. 4,000 per month per child shall be provided to Child Care Institutions/ organizations/individuals interested in providing After Care to fully implement the Individual After Care Plan (IAP) for meeting the basic needs including food, clothing, health care and shelter⁸².

⁷⁶Section 12, JJ Act, 1986

⁷⁷Section 38. Procedure for declaring a child legally free for adoption. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

⁷⁸Section 30(x) Functions and responsibilities of Committee.

⁷⁹Rule 19(23)(24) Procedure for inquiry. JJ Model Rules 2016.

⁸⁰Rule 44 JJ Model Rules 2016.

⁸¹Section 3(xii) General principles to be followed in administration of Act The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016

⁸²Section 38. Procedure for declaring a child legally free for adoption. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

⁸³Rule 85(iii) JJ Model Rules 2016.

⁸⁴Rule 44 JJ Model Rules 2016.

⁸⁵Section 46. After care of children leaving child care institution. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 ,

⁸⁶Section 39. Process of rehabilitation and social reintegration. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

⁸⁷Section 110 (xxiii). Power to make rules. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

⁸⁸Rule 25(2) After Care of Children Leaving Institutional Care; Juvenile Justice Model Rules, 2016

⁸⁹Rule 83 (v), (vi) Juvenile Justice Fund. JJ Model Rules 2016.

⁹⁰Rule 79(5). Release of a child from a Child Care Institution. Juvenile Justice Model Rules, 2016

⁹¹Rule 25(2) After Care of Children Leaving Institutional Care. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016

⁹²JJ Act, section 2(21).

⁹³<https://www.nipccd.nic.in/file/reports/kit17.pdf>

⁹⁴https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/SOP%20ON%20REHABILITATION%20OF%20CHILDREN%20IN%20CONFLICT%20WITH%20THE%20LAW_0.pdf

⁹⁵Id at 4 (iv), 4.3.2

⁹⁶https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/GUIDELINES%20OF%20MISSION%20VATSALYA%20DATED%2005%20JULY%202022_1.pdf

⁹⁷Mission Vatsalya, Implementation Guidelines, 2.4 A(12)

⁹⁸Id at 2.4 A(9)

⁹⁹https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/GUIDELINES%20OF%20MISSION%20VATSALYA%20DATED%2005%20JULY%202022_1.pdf

¹⁰⁰Id at 2.7 A(9)

¹⁰¹Id at 2.7 B(viii)

¹⁰²Id at 4.3.382

Rights and Entitlements of Care Leavers

RIGHTS OF CARE LEAVERS (FACILITIES COVERED UNDER AFTER CARE)

Internationally rights of Care leaver are recognized in various countries and they are provided with the handholding support to mainstream into the society because of the challenges faced by them in comparison to the other fellow children's of the same age group. In India there are provisions under the JJ Act 2016 as amended in 2021 providing that aftercare will be provided to care leavers in terms of -

- Housing
- Education scholarships
- Skill development
- Counseling for rehabilitation plan
- Loans and subsidies for entrepreneurial Support
- Medical Support and Nutrition
- Assessment of progress made through aftercare program

Further the Centrally Sponsored Mission Vatsalya scheme provides that aftercare services covers the basic needs including food, clothing, health care and shelter; age appropriate and need based education and vocational training, stipend, and any other requirements of the young person. But there are domains that are mentioned in the legislation but not implemented yet such as real time data of care leavers. As per the research studies conducted there is no data available on aftercare, monitoring and children actually mainstreamed to the society/benefit from the aftercare. The research claim that many children leaving institutional care are not even aware of the aftercare being provided to them. At the ground level there are challenges faced by the care leavers. The domains of the Sphere of Aftercare that must be assessed to ensure successful reintegration are represented diagrammatically below⁸³.



Aftercare under Section 2(5) of JJ Act 2015 read as “aftercare” means making provision of support, financial or otherwise, to persons, who have completed the age of eighteen years but have not completed the age of twenty-one years, and have left any institutional care to join the mainstream of the society; limits itself only to the children leaving any Institutional Care. There is a need to broaden the definition and concept of Care-Leavers to include all such children who have been away from natural parents/family and brushed with the legal alternative mechanism of care. Such approach would not only help in mapping the care-leavers need in a holistic manner but would also provide a robust mechanism for their benefit. For Example children given in adoption presumably have better safeguards and monitoring / follow-up mechanism which is missing with the aftercare scheme. Rule 25 of the JJ Model Rules, 2016 provides a comprehensive list of services provided under aftercare that includes;

- Housing
- Education scholarships
- Skill development
- Counseling for rehabilitation plan
- Loans and subsidies for entrepreneurial Support
- Medical Support and Nutrition
- Assessment of progress made through aftercare program

There is a need to cater individual unique needs of each child that forms the basis of the ICP based intervention. On a broader level the needs of a CNCP and that of CCL might be different in terms of handholding and after support when it comes to rehabilitation and bouncing back to mainstream societal role.

State Specific Initiative: Policies and Schemes for care leavers

By following legal and schematic prescriptions, the State governments have been implementing aftercare programmes for rehabilitation of institutionalized children who complete 18 years of age. However, it is far from perfect and some states are lagging far behind, for example, In Odisha aftercare was launched on a pilot basis only in 2014 by selecting six girls from Utkal Balashram for the services. The State still has no aftercare rehabilitation and no mechanism in place for tracking juveniles who are released on completing 18 years of age. Karnataka has only five aftercare homes for men and two aftercare homes for mentally retarded women. Tamil Nadu has only three aftercare organizations—2 for men and 1 for women managed by the Government of the State.

The Committee for Juvenile Justice of the Supreme Court and the High Courts have responded and acted positively to bring about several improvements, especially in (a) the living conditions in CCIs, After-care Homes for adolescents passing into adulthood, in particular the homes for girls and children who are mentally challenged; (b) making juvenile courts child-friendly and various other issues connected with Child Protection & Care; (c) formulation of Rules & Guidelines and (d) filling up vacant posts in CWC and JJB. Mission Shakti - Linkages with Shakti Sadan and Working Women Hostels for smooth transition of girls leaving Child care Institutions (CCIs) after 18 years of age⁸⁴. However, the implementation of this programme is extendable up to 23 years of age only if the institution thinks fit i.e this provision is largely discretionary, not mandatory.

State	Age Eligibility	Other Eligibility	Age till Support Provided	Till Age in Exceptional Cases
Bihar	18 ⁸⁵	Stayed in CCI	21	23
Gujarat	18 ⁸⁶	Stayed in CCI	21	23
Madhya Pradesh	18	Lived in CCI at some point of time ⁸⁷	21	25
Mizoram	18 ⁸⁸	Stayed in CCI	21 ⁸⁹	23
Odisha	18 ⁹⁰	Stayed in CCI	21 ⁹¹	23
Sikkim	18	Stayed in CCI	21	23
Tamil Nadu	18	Stayed in CCI	21	None
West Bengal	18	Stayed in CCI	21	23

While most of the States has followed the JJ Model Rules, 2016, however two States make exception when it comes to aftercare, while Madhya Pradesh makes a positive change expanding the Scope by extending eligibility for anyone who has lived in CCI at some point of time and also in exception cases benefits extended till age 25 years. Tamil Nadu is silent in terms of extension of age beyond 21 years.

Maharashtra:

The Maharashtra Juvenile Justice Rules (MJJR), notified in 2018, after care support is envisaged and categorized in two parts: one is around housing and second is around others. The State Government (Rule 27) shall prepare an aftercare program for children who have to leave CCIs on attaining eighteen years of age by providing for their education, giving them employable skills and placement as well as providing them places for stay to facilitate their reintegration into the society. It further provides that any child who leaves a CCI may be provided after care till the age of twenty-one years and in exceptional circumstances, for two more years on completing twenty-one years of age⁹⁵. Maharashtra State Probation and Aftercare Association provided after care services to children. It functions as an apex body of 35 distinct District Probation and Aftercare Associations.

West Bengal:

ICPS is limited to individuals' up to 21 years of age or to young adults up to a period of 3 years, whichever is earlier⁹⁶.

Punjab:

State Government has its two State Aftercare Home where children between ages 18-21 years are provided institutional Care⁹⁷.

Karnataka:

Aftercare support shall be provided to young persons from 18 years onwards for a minimum of three years and extended to 23 years of age or until the young person is mainstreamed in the society, or whichever is earlier⁹⁸.

Gujarat:

After care programmers shall be made available for 18-21 year old persons, who have no place to go to or are unable to support themselves, by the District or State Child Protection Units in collaboration with voluntary organizations for the purpose of section 44 of the Act and this rule⁹⁹.

Rajasthan:

Rajasthan Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2002 - These after care organisations are essential for all children or youth between the age of 18 to 21 years¹⁰⁰.

Tamil Nadu:

Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) rules, 2017- "aftercare home" means a home that is maintained for persons, who have completed the age of eighteen years but have not completed the age of twenty-one years, and have left any institutional care to join the mainstream of the Society¹⁰¹.

⁹⁴Id at 5.1 A

⁹⁵25(I), Bihar Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2017

⁹⁶25(I), Gujarat Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2019

⁹⁷Section 27(I), Madhya Pradesh Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2022

⁹⁸25(I), Mizoram Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2019

⁹⁹25(2), Mizoram Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2019

¹⁰⁰90 (I), Odisha Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2018

¹⁰¹90 (2), Odisha Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2018

¹⁰²32(I), Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2017

¹⁰³25 (I), West Bengal Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2017

¹⁰⁴25 (2), West Bengal Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2017

¹⁰⁵Maharashtra Juvenile Justice Rules, 2017, Rule 27(2)

¹⁰⁶http://wbscps.in/User/after_care

¹⁰⁷<https://sswcd.punjab.gov.in/sites/default/files/2019-07/after-care-programme.pdf>

¹⁰⁸<https://icps.karnataka.gov.in/storage/pdf-files/Aaftercare%20Guidelines.pdf> 1.7

¹⁰⁹Gujrat Juvenile Justice Rules, 2011, Rule 39(2).

¹¹⁰Rajasthan Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2011, Rule 38(2).

¹¹¹Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2017, Rule 2(b).

Suggestions/ Recommendations at National Level

Recommendations (policy / legal provision related)

1. The existing categorization of children under care mechanism calls for revisiting the overall definitions and chart a formal definition for term 'Care Leavers'

Age Categorization				
Indicators	0-6 Years	6-18 Years	18-21 Years	21-23 Years
	Can be Legally Freed for Adoption	Left for Institutional Care	After Care (Stage 1)	After Care (Stage 2)
Legally Freed for Adoption	Section 38 ¹⁰² , Section 30 (xi) ¹⁰³ , Rule 19 ¹⁰⁴	Section 3(xiii) ¹⁰⁵ Section 38 ¹⁰⁶ Rule 19 ¹⁰⁷ , Rule 85(iii) ¹⁰⁸ Rule 44 ¹⁰⁹	There are large number of cases of Adoptive Children being surrendered back at different Ages¹¹⁰ – need to recognize them as Care-leavers	
Foster Care¹¹¹	Section 37 (2) ¹¹²	Section 37 (2) ¹¹³	Need to recognize	Need to recognize
After Care¹¹⁴			Section 46 ¹¹⁵ , Section 110(xxii) ¹¹⁶ , Section 39(4) ¹¹⁷ , Section 49(1) ¹¹⁸ , Rule 25 ¹¹⁹ , Rule 83 ¹²⁰ , Rule 79 ¹²¹	Rule 25 ¹²²

The above matrix must be read with newly inserted Rule 82A and 82B of the JJ Rules, 2016 to further understand the nuanced difference in approaching restoration / rehabilitation of CCL and CNCP¹²³ differently.

2. Children who are deprived of parental/family support and were provided care within the Juvenile Justice System at some point of time as a Child in Need of Care and Protection (hereinafter CNCP) or Child in Conflict with Law (hereinafter CCL), must be recognized as vulnerable. Families of such children must be assessed as to their socio-economic conditions and efforts must be made to strengthen their family support structure through social security measures. These children for sure require need based financial and other handholding support such as guidance, counseling and mentoring so to integrate in the mainstream. Systemic engagement must be made with such families if identified as vulnerable towards their strengthening so to support the Child for rehabilitation.

3. The below are suggested incidences which should fall in ambit of care leavers definition:

A. Child in conflict with law(CCL) above 16 years who has committed a Heinous Crime who has been assessed by the JJB/Children's Court – two options and both require dedicated aftercare response

- If treated as an adult and sent to Place of Safety till age 21 years (if not provided with adequate Aftercare support, the child is bound to fail the evaluation u/S 20(l) for reformative changes and prove to be a contributory member of the society; and the child would because of systemic failure to provide support would be sent to Jail u/S 20(2)(ii) of the Act
- If treated as a Child / Juvenile – Rule 11 (9) (10) – is not comparable with other CCL as the fact that (s)he has committed a heinous crime now requires – a dedicated attention and support

B. Similarly CCL who is not prevented from indulging in criminal activities and association with people with criminal antecedence would surely fail in the eyes of Law under Rule 13 (8) (vii) (e) of the JJ Rules, 2016. This is not the fault of child whilst the child is already under safety net of JJ system. The system may provide him with adequate aftercare support as a care-leaver.

c. Another example of a Child needing aftercare is indicated under Rule 23(1A)(ii), which hints towards a child to be given in foster care, other than to immediate or extended family who are alleged accused / perpetrators of abuse on the child. When the foster care of such child ends at the age of 18, it implies the child will go back to same family or surroundings where she or he was abused, thus such child should also be receiver of after care benefits.

4. Current usage of term Care Leavers, is linked with Institutional Experiences is limited in scope and it should include other children who transit from JJ System to mainstream in terms of mechanisms related to support, monitoring and safeguards.
5. The State as well as NGOs invest considerable amount of money and efforts in providing institutional care and ideally, there must be a mechanism to capture the outcome of their efforts. Also, monitoring of youths leaving care after their exit from care would give important feedback about the gaps and deficiencies in the pre-exit preparations as also in the aftercare services¹²⁴.
6. Each child is unique, accordingly they need an Individual Care Plan. More arrangements should be made to know and encourage the taste and potential of each child.
7. Monitoring mechanism to seek Information about what happens to these children after they leave the institution is needed. After care system is almost a failure. It fails to arrange programmes for the social re-integration with society. Most of the inmates gone out of CCIs and ACH (After Care Homes) have not at all attained the desired goals.
8. CCI should make facilities for vocational training, job-oriented course and life skill training with the help of trained instructor and certificate should be given on the course completed which will be useful to them in future before they leave CCI.
9. CCIs should have greater awareness of trauma and mental health needs for children in care and duly prepare the children for life after leaving CCIs. Much support should be provided to CCIs in strengthening their services
10. CWCs should act as strict and efficient gate keepers to ensure that only those children reach CCIs for whom CCI is the 'Only' option not the last option. An awareness campaign should be there to inform communities about nuances and negative effects of sending children into CCIs
11. National level database of children living-in and leaving institutions and their status tracking is need of the hour.

¹⁰²Section 38. Procedure for declaring a child legally free for adoption. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

¹⁰³Section 30(xii) Functions and responsibilities of Committee.

¹⁰⁴Rule 19(23)(24) Procedure for inquiry. JJ Model Rules 2016.

¹⁰⁵Section 3,(xii) General principles to be followed in administration of Act The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016

¹⁰⁶Section 38. Procedure for declaring a child legally free for adoption. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

¹⁰⁷Rule 19(23)(24) Procedure for inquiry. JJ Model Rules 2016.

¹⁰⁸Rule 85(iii) JJ Model Rules 2016.

¹⁰⁹Rule 44 JJ Model Rules 2016.

¹¹⁰<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2019/sep/11/hpcr-worried-at-adopted-children-being-surrendered-2032060.html>

¹¹¹Section 3(29) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

¹¹²Section 37(2) Orders passed regarding a child in need of care and protection, The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

¹¹³Section 37(2) Orders passed regarding a child in need of care and protection, The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

¹¹⁴Section 2(5), JJ Act 2015

¹¹⁵Section 46. After care of children leaving child care institution. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 ,

¹¹⁶Section 2(16) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

¹¹⁷Section 39. Process of rehabilitation and social reintegration. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

¹¹⁸Section 49(1) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

¹¹⁹Rule 25(2) After Care of Children Leaving Institutional Care. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016

¹²⁰Rule 83 (v), (vi) Juvenile Justice Fund, JJ Model Rules 2016.

¹²¹Rule 79(5). Release of a child from a Child Care Institution. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016

¹²²Rule 25(2) After Care of Children Leaving Institutional Care. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016

¹²³[https://hpcr.gov.in/uploads/1668950762637a2aeae235c_PROTOCOL%20FOR%20RESTORATION%20AND%20REPATRIATION%20OF%20CHILDREN%20\(1\).pdf](https://hpcr.gov.in/uploads/1668950762637a2aeae235c_PROTOCOL%20FOR%20RESTORATION%20AND%20REPATRIATION%20OF%20CHILDREN%20(1).pdf)

¹²⁴https://www.academia.edu/41118572/Aftercare_for_Young_Adult_Orphans

Annexure 1

Care Leavers Advocacy Note State Level Schemes and Guidelines to Benefit Care Leavers

1. Andhra Pradesh.....
2. Arunachal Pradesh.....
3. North East – Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram
4. Bihar
5. Chhattisgarh
6. Goa
7. Haryana.....
8. Himachal Pradesh.....
9. Jharkhand
10. Kerala.....
11. Madhya Pradesh.....
12. Odisha
13. Sikkim.....
14. Telangana
15. TRIPURA.....
16. Uttrakhand
17. Uttar Pradesh

1. Andhra Pradesh

Scheme/ Guideline	Name of the scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	AP Career Portal	Employment	18-45yrs	For secondary and higher secondary students, the state government has established the AP Career Portal: https://apcareerportal.in/ . The Andhra Pradesh government's Department of School Education, in conjunction with UNICEF, has established this job portal. The AP Career Counseling Portal will make it simple to get data. https://apcareerportal.in/
Scheme	Andhra Pradesh Youth Policy	Overall Growth	18+	The Andhra Pradesh Youth Policy 2017 is aligned with the Sunrise Andhra Vision 2029: "Sustainable, responsible and inclusive industrialization will be the economic engine of growth which can help the state to transcend to a different trajectory of economic and social prosperity for a foreseeable future."
Scheme	YSR ADHARSH AM Scheme	Employment;	18+	YSR Adarsham gives self-employment opportunities for unemployed youth. The youth are given a vehicle for transportation of sand and other essential commodities through Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC), Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation (APCSC), Andhra Pradesh Beverages Corporation Limited (APBCL) and other government agencies. SOURCE : https://cmhelpline.in/employment-scheme/ysr-adarsham-scheme/
Scheme	Mukhyam antri Yuva Nestham Yojana	Employment;	18+	The program offers unemployed young people in the state a monthly stipend that can be used to pay for training classes. Source: www.yuvanestham.ap.gov.in

2. Arunachal Pradesh

Scheme/ Guideline	Name of The scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Deen Dayal Swavalamban Yojana	Employment;	Unspecified	<i>to encourage unemployed youth to gain low cost capital for entrepreneurship.</i> source: https://itanagar.nic.in/scheme/deen-dayal-swavalamban-yojana/
Scheme	Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)	Employment;	16+	<i>To generate employment in Rural as well as urban areas through setting up of new self employment ventures/projects/micro enterprises</i> source: https://lohit.nic.in/scheme/prime-ministers-employment-generation-programme-pmegp/

Deen Dayal Swavalamban Yojana is a state scheme that encourages unemployed youth to gain low cost capital for entrepreneurship.¹ It is a scheme targeted specifically at unemployed youth of the state. It focuses on engaging the unemployed youth in activities such as Agri-Horticulture & Allied Sectors, Eco-tourism, Tradition Textile Weaving, Small scale manufacturing unit, as entrepreneurs.

Another scheme, the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), also is aimed at helping the unemployed youth.² The only requirement for eligibility is to be a VIII pass student. It aims to generate employment in Rural as well as urban areas through setting up of new self-employment ventures/projects/micro enterprises.

Apart from these there are various other child development programmes and policies, such as Arunachal Pradesh Guidelines for After-Care Programme 2020, that are aimed at providing aftercare to youth leaving child care institutions.³

¹ <https://itanagar.nic.in/scheme/deen-dayal-swavalamban-yojana/>

² <https://lohit.nic.in/scheme/prime-ministers-employment-generation-programme-pmegp/>

³ <https://arunachal.mygov.in/group-issue/child-development-and-care-arunachal-pradesh/>

3. North East – Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram

Scheme/ Guideline	Name of The scheme	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Manipur Startup Scheme 2.0	<p>https://startupmanipur.in/</p> <p><i>In Manipur we witness the Startup scheme. According to its site the aim of the scheme is: "To empower the youth of Manipur to become job creators by fostering entrepreneurship and a culture of innovation through the most enabling ecosystem to support and nurture Startups to make Manipur emerge as one of the top Startup destinations in the North East.</i></p> <p><i>The Government of Manipur envisages to strengthen the enabling environment to address the aspirations of youth, and proposes to engage with all stakeholders in the development of an eco- system for strengthening the start-up with appropriate incubation and mentoring infrastructure, fast track statutory support, and network of appropriate funding mechanisms.</i></p>
Scheme	The Mizoram Youth Commission scheme	<p>Aims to address the needs and concerns of youth and care leavers in the state of Mizoram. The scheme provides various opportunities, resources and support to empower youth, promote their development and enhance their overall well-being .</p> <p><i>The first such After Care programme was organised at Fatima After Care Hostel at Ila Snehalya, Betkuchi, with the objective of helping young adults who have grown up in children's homes to become self-reliant through vocational training, higher education, life-skills education and job placement</i></p> <p>Source: https://myc.mizoram.gov.in/</p>
Scheme	The Meghalaya Youth Policy	<p>A comprehensive framework designed to address the needs and aspirations of the youth population in the state of Meghalaya. The scheme aims to create an enabling environment for the holistic development and empowerment of youth and care leavers, promoting their active participation in the socio-economic, cultural, and political spheres.</p> <p>Source: https://meghalaya.gov.in/sites/default/files/documents/Meghalaya_Youth_Policy_2021_0.pdf</p>
Scheme	The Nagaland Youth Policy	<p><i>It focused on areas such as education, skill development, employment opportunities, entrepreneurship, sports and cultural activities.</i></p> <p>Source: https://drys.nagaland.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/YP_Ad_KISCE.pdf</p>
Scheme	The Saksham scheme	<p><i>It focused on enhancing their employability by providing vocational training, apprenticeships, and job placement assistance.</i></p> <p>Source: http://megeducation.gov.in/dhete/scholarship/notification/2021/Pragati_Saksham%20Advt%202021-22%20Upload.pdf</p>

Scheme	Rashtriya Madhya mik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)	<p>Generally applicable to students in the secondary education (Class 9 to 12)</p> <p>Source: https://www.education.gov.in/rmsa</p>
Scheme	Swami Vivekana nda Assam Youth Empowe rment Scheme	<p>ELIGIBILITY: SHOULD BE UNDER 40</p> <p>Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment (SWAYAM) Scheme is a flagship program by Govt. of Assam to provide financial support to the youths of Assam to take up income-generating activities in the manufacturing, trading, and service sector. This program was launched in the year 2017. Rs. 50 thousand will be provided as seed money to each individual under the renewed Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment (SVAYEM) Yojana.</p> <p>While the groups with five members (Rs 50,000 per head) would be entitled to Rs 2.5 lakh, groups with 10 members would be entitled to Rs 5 lakh and so on with the maximum limit for members being 20.</p> <p>The total budget of the scheme is Rs. 1000 crore which will be given entirely from government funding.</p> <p>The beneficiaries would include all members of self-help groups, joint liability groups, and other such groups and federations that have organised themselves for entrepreneurial projects.</p> <p>Source : https://assam.gov.in/scheme-page/264</p>

- These states have been grouped together as they lack in providing a diverse range of schemes that can aid in the specific and specialised aspects of vulnerable youth. However these states do provide the youth with some opportunity for holistic growth and development.

4. Bihar

Scheme/ Guideline	Name of The scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM)	Vocational Training and Placement programs	18-21 Years	https://skillmissionbihar.org/
Scheme	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana	Vocational Training and Placement programs	18-21 Years	https://www.india.gov.in/sportlight/deen-dayal-upadhyaya-grameen-kaushalya-yojana
Scheme	Bihar State Housing Board (BSHB) Schemes	Housing	18 Years	http://bshb.bihar.gov.in/
Scheme	Bihar Rural Housing Scheme	Housing	18 Years	https://state.bihar.gov.in/rdd/CitizenHome.html
Scheme	Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme	Education	18-25 Years	https://bvm.bihar.gov.in/nischay/schemeContent/VFFhbVM5MGJRZEJ5Z3FYaDVxNk5
Scheme	Bihar Startup Policy	Loan & Subsidies to entrepreneur	18 to 35 Years	https://startup.bihar.gov.in/
Scheme	Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana	Girl specific initiative Scheme	Early Childhood	https://biharhelp.in/cm-kanya-utthan-yojana-2023/
Scheme	Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana	Health	Early Childhood	https://biharhelp.in/cm-kanya-utthan-yojana-2023/

- Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM): The Bihar Skill Development Mission focuses on providing skill training to youth across various sectors. It offers a wide range of vocational training programs in collaboration with industry partners and training providers. The mission aims to enhance the employability of young youth and bridge the skill gap in the state.
- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY): DDU-GKY is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented in Bihar to provide skill training to rural youth. It focuses on providing employment-oriented training programs to improve the employability of rural youth. The scheme covers various sectors and provides placement support to the trained candidates.
- Bihar State Housing Board (BSHB) Schemes: The Bihar State Housing Board offers various housing schemes targeted towards different income groups, including young youth. These schemes aim to provide affordable housing options through the construction of apartments and housing complexes.
- Bihar Rural Housing Scheme: This scheme targets the rural population of Bihar and provides financial assistance for the construction of houses. The scheme aims to uplift the living standards of young youth in rural areas by ensuring access to safe and affordable housing.
- Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme: Under this scheme, students are provided with a credit card that allows them to avail of loans for higher education. The scheme covers expenses such as tuition fees, books, accommodation, etc., and offers low- interest loans.

- Bihar Startup Policy: The Bihar government has introduced a comprehensive startup policy to encourage and support the growth of startups in the state. The policy provides various benefits, including access to financial assistance, incubation support, mentorship, and skill development programs.
- Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana (MKUY): Although primarily focused on girls, the Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana also provides health-related benefits. Under this scheme, girls from economically weaker sections are provided with financial assistance for their healthcare needs, including vaccinations, medical check-ups, and nutritional support

5. Chhattisgarh

Scheme/ Guideline	Name of The scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Chhattisgarh State Skill Development Authority (CSSDA)	Vocational Training and Placement programs	18-21 Years	https://cssda.cg.nic.in/
Scheme	Chhattisgarh Kaushal Vikas Yojana	Vocational Training and Placement programs	18-21 Years	https://cssda.cg.nic.in/
Scheme	Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana	Housing	18-25 Years	https://cghb.gov.in/
Scheme	Mukhyamantri Bal Bhavishya Suraksha Yojana	Education	18-25 Years	https://bilaspur.gov.in
Scheme	Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarozgar Yojana	Loan & Subsidies to entrepreneur	18 to 25 Years	https://industries.cg.gov.in/pdf/mmysy/mmysy.pdf
Scheme	Chief Minister Bal Sandarbh Yojana	Girl specific initiative Scheme	Early Childhood	https://www.bqprime.com/labs/chhattisgarh/ridethegrowth/women-and-child-health-schemes-that-are-changing-chhattisgarh.html
Scheme	Chief Minister Bal Sandarbh Yojana	Health	Early Childhood	https://www.bqprime.com/labs/chhattisgarh/ridethegrowth/women-and-child-health-schemes-that-are-changing-chhattisgarh.html

- Chhattisgarh State Skill Development Authority (CSSDA): The CSSDA is responsible for coordinating and implementing skill development initiatives in the state. It partners with training providers, industry associations, and employers to offer skill training programs in sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, tourism, construction, and information technology.
- Chhattisgarh Kaushal Vikas Yojana: This scheme focuses on skill development and job placement for the youth. It offers skill training in sectors like manufacturing, construction, retail, hospitality, and services. The program also provides financial assistance and subsidies for candidates pursuing skill training.
- Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana: This housing scheme targets the urban poor and economically weaker sections of society in Chhattisgarh. It provides financial assistance to eligible beneficiaries for the construction or purchase of houses. The scheme aims to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged sections by providing them with safe and affordable housing options.
- Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarozgar Yojana: While primarily focused on entrepreneurship, this scheme also provides financial assistance for skill development and vocational training. It aims to support young individuals in acquiring skills and knowledge necessary for self-employment and entrepreneurship. The scheme provides training, mentorship, and financial support for starting their own ventures.
- Chief Minister Bal Sandarbh Yojana: Eradicating malnutrition among children is a long-term goal of the Chhattisgarh government. Timely medical check-ups and medical

counselling / intervention at the block level is crucial to achieving this. The government provides these services for free, at the block level in vulnerable areas of the state. Nearly 4 lakh children have benefited from this scheme since its inception in 2009.

6. Goa

Scheme / Guideline	Name of Scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana (UPSDM)*	Health	Not specified	https://www.goa.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Deen-Dayal-Swasthya-Seva-Yojana.pdf
Scheme	Manohar Parrikar Goa Scholars Scheme	Education	Not More than 35	https://www.dhe.goa.gov.in/resource/getDocument/PDF%20%20%2020206/
Scheme	Skill Development Promotion Scheme	Life skills; Vocational training	Not specified	https://goaonline.gov.in/Downloads/Forms/IFT23.pdf
Scheme	Interest Free Education Loan Scheme	Education	Below 30 years	https://www.goa.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Interest-Free-Education-Loan-Scheme-.pdf
Scheme	Griha Aadhar Scheme	Housing	18+	https://www.goa.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Griha-Aadhar-Scheme.pdf
Scheme	GOA STARTUP SCHEME	Entrepreneurship	Not specified	https://www.startup.goa.gov.in/Notification/Goa-Startup-Policy-2021.pdf

Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana:

- covers an entire resident population of the State, residing in Goa for five years and more.
- Covers up to INR 2.5 lakhs per year for a family of 3 and/or fewer members.
- Cover of up to INR 4 Lakhs for a family of 4 and/or more members.
- One can get the Insurance benefits collectively or individually.
- A person is allowed to take a developed cover straight from the Insurance Corporation by giving a greater premium, devoid of having any effect on the existing government policy & facilities.

Manohar Parrikar Goa Scholars Scheme:

- The aim of the Directorate of Higher Education behind this scholarship scheme is to promote postgraduate and doctoral studies among the talented youngsters of Goa. To do so the government is going to recognize the meritorious and outstanding candidates and provide them with scholarships.
- Students who get selected for the award will get a scholarship amount of INR 800000 for pursuing studies in India or USD 25000 for pursuing studies abroad.
- Selection Procedure
- Screening of the application will be made first by the screening committee.
- Candidates will get shortlisted on the basis of their academic marks.
- The top 60 candidates will get selected for the interview round.
- The interview will be held by the selection committee.
- The final selected candidate list will be prepared, and scholarships will be distributed.

Skill Development Promotion Scheme:

- Retail educational institutes that impart programming and technical skills will be

encouraged to establish learning centres in Goa. Institutes listed by the start-up promotion cell and

- o providing courses at pre-fixed rates, will be provided following benefits:
- o Internet subsidy (up to INR 5 lakh per year) for two years
- o Power subsidy (up to INR 1 lakh per year) for two years
- o 25% capital investments reimbursement up to INR 5.0 lakh (on all capital procurement for a period of two years)
- o 10% salary cost subsidy up to INR 3 lakh for a period of two years
- o The maximum benefits aggregating all the benefits in this scheme should not exceed INR 10 lakh per year.
- o The benefits to this scheme can only be availed by up to 10 institutes per year offering courses under the technical areas/ sectors outlined in Annexure 2.
- o Under no circumstance shall the benefits under this scheme be considered an entitlement.
- o The SPC shall reserve the sole right to accept or reject applications.
- o The eligibility and disbursement of incentives shall be reviewed at the end of each year based on the performance of the institute.

Interest Free Education Loan Scheme:

- o The scheme envisages grant of loans to the younger population of Goa to assist them in their pursuit of higher and technical education. It provides for exemption from the payment of interest charges, as long as the loanees adhere to repayment schedule strictly. For this purpose, maximum five years of study period/course duration is covered in India and maximum of two years course duration is covered for abroad courses. If the situation faced by a particular candidate requires minor modification in study period, the scheme provides for flexibility to make adjustments. Failure to comply with the repayment schedule, however, will attract the liability of payment of interest at a prescribed rate.

Griha Aadhar Scheme:

- o The Griha Aadhar scheme provides financial assistance of Rs. 1,200. The government helps housewives from the poor, middle and lower middle sections of the society whose family income is less than Rs. 3000. The fund is directly given to the homemakers in the family so that besides taking care of the family, the homemakers can also have a life of their own.
- o The scheme targets all the homemakers of the family by supporting them financially so that they can be independent and can take care of their needs. In addition to this, the scheme elevates the standard living of the families.

Goa Startup Policy:

- o A venture capital fund (VCF) and incentives for women entrepreneurs are some of the new offerings of the 2021 policy.
- o The government will create a venture capital fund (VCF) to meet the funding requirements of startups in the State. The fund will operate as a 'fund of funds' and indirectly invest up to `One Crore, in lieu of equity in promising startups. Through this, the government aims to finance at least 25 startups in and around Goa.
- o In order to boost the State's prospects as a startup destination in the country, the Startup Cell will also extend the support from Fund of Funds to Startups from outside Goa who set up their major operations in the State and employ more than 50 per cent locals.

7. Haryana

Scheme/ Guideline	Name of the scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Deen Dayal Jan Awas Yojana	Housing;	18+	https://tcpharyana.gov.in/Policy/DDJAY-APHP%202016.pdf
Scheme	Haryana KG to PG Scheme	Education;	Not specified	https://sarkariyojana.com/haryana-kg-to-pg-scheme-free-education/
Scheme	Haryana Udyog Mitra Scheme	Life Skills;	18-35 yrs	https://skillreporter.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Udyog-Mitra-Scheme-Document-V1.1.1-Haryana-Tenders-Skill-Reporter.pdf
Scheme	Haryana Saksham Yojana	Employment; Training;	12th Grade	https://www.hreyahs.gov.in/saksham/notification/notification_67.pdf
Scheme	Ladli Yojana	Girl Specific;	18+	https://www.yojanaschemehindi.com/haryana-ladli-girls-apply/
Scheme	Financial Assistance to Destitute Children Scheme	Financial Aid;	Under 21	https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s37b7a53e239400a13bd6be6c91c4f6c4e/uploads/2020/05/2020051447.pdf

Deen Dayal Jan Awas Yojana:

- The scheme provides affordable housing to the people of Haryana, especially to those belonging to the economically weaker sections and low-income groups.
- Open to all individuals and families with a valid Haryana domicile certificate.
- Covers an area of up to 150 square metres as compared to the earlier 100 square metre limit.
- Encourage private participation and investment in the affordable housing segment.
- No external development charges are levied on the land to be developed under this scheme.
- The scheme offers subsidies and incentives to developers to encourage them to build affordable housing projects and to homebuyers to make housing more accessible and affordable.
- The scheme emphasizes the development of basic infrastructure such as water supply, sanitation, electricity, and access to transportation in the affordable housing projects developed under the scheme.

Haryana KG to PG Scheme 2023:

- Under Haryana KG to PG Scheme, the state government will provide free education to those students whose confirmed family income is less than Rs 1.80 lakh per annum. To avail the Haryana Free Education scheme benefits, the applicant's family must possess Parivar Pehchan Patra or Family ID.
- A.k.a Free Education Scheme was announced to ensure that no talented student from a low-income family is denied the opportunity to pursue his or her aspirations.

Haryana Udyog Mitra Scheme:

- The objectives of Udyog Mitra Scheme are listed below:
- To align vocational skills with apprenticeship and industry.
- To create a framework for the industry to participate by offsetting the cost incurred in hiring and training manpower.
- To develop a mechanism to associate youth with social schemes and by making an initial contribution towards the same.

- To link elements such as industry-linked skilling, apprenticeship and employability to develop entire chain value.
- To create a reward and recognition mechanism for the youth and industry.
- Under this scheme, industries are encouraged for partners who can train the youth into their workforce. The industries which are eligible for Udyog Mitra scheme are given here:
- Industry associations
- Training partners
- Sector skill councils
- Captive employers or industries
- Manpower or staffing companies

Haryana Saksham Yojana:

- The scheme aims to provide Unemployment Allowance & Honorarium to the eligible youth.
- This scheme also intends to provide allowance to eligible educated unemployed youth of Haryana for their skill up-gradation.
- This is expected to enable such youth to develop their skill which in turn will enable them to take up employment or self-employment in the Sector of their choice since this scheme empowers the youth to choose the Sector in which they would like to develop their skill.

Ladli Yojana:

- The objective of the Ladli scheme is to raise the status of the girl child in the family and in the Indian society, as a whole. Launched by the Government of Haryana, in the year 2005, the Ladli Scheme aims to fight against female foeticide and promote proper rearing of the girl children, while also providing them the right to birth and survival. It also seeks to improve the declining sex ratio of females and increase the number of girls in the families.
- The girls registered under the Ladli scheme are eligible to claim the maturity of their scheme either after passing 10th standard and attaining 18 years of age or after passing 12th standard

Financial Assistance to Destitute Children Scheme:

- Financial Assistance for Destitute Children Scheme is a state scheme under which parents/guardians of the children upto the age of 21 years who are deprived of proper care because of the death or long imprisonment of their parents, long illness or mental retardation, are paid financial aid. The amount under Destitute Child Pension Haryana is subject to the maximum for two children of one family as per eligibility criteria laid down in the scheme.
- Child under twenty-one years of age who has been deprived of parental support or care by reason of death, continued absence from the home of his father for the last 2 years, or father/mother has been sentenced imprisonment for a period not less than one year or physical or mental incapacity of a parent.
- Income of parents/guardians should not exceed Rs. 2,00,000 per annum
- Benefit up to two children of a family only

8. Himachal Pradesh

Scheme/ Guideline	Name of the scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Housing Subsidy Scheme	Housing;	Not specified	https://hpkangra.nic.in/scheme/housing-subsidy-scheme/
Scheme	Mukhya Mantri Himachal Health Care Scheme- HIMCARE	Health;	Not specified	https://www.hpsbys.in/content/mmmn#:~:text=Under%20HIMCARE%20Scheme%2C%20cashless%20treatment,for%20each%20such%20additional%20unit
Scheme	Mukhya Mantri Gyandep Yojna	Education;	12th grade	https://education.hp.gov.in/sites/default/files/Files%252FPress.pdf26_11_2017_03_07_39.pdf
Scheme	Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam	Life Skills;	Not specified	https://hpkvn.in
Scheme	Mukhya Mantri Swavlamban Yojna	Loan Subsidy	Male: 18-45 Female: 18-50	https://emerginghimachal.hip.gov.in/themes/backend/uploads/notification/mmsy/MSY-as-on-20-04-2022.pdf
Scheme	Mukhya Mantri Kanyadan Yojna	Girl Specific;	Male: not below 18 Female: not below 21	https://edistrict.hp.gov.in/pages/services/designForm/infoPages/CM_Bestowing_Plan_(Mukhya_Mantri_Kanyadan_Yojana).xhtml

Housing Subsidy Scheme:

- The housing subsidy scheme was launched by the Government of Himachal Pradesh to provide financial assistance to individuals from marginalised sections for the construction of their own houses. Under this scheme, a subsidy of Rs. 1,30,000/- is provided to persons from Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Minority Communities, Single Women, or handicapped for the construction of their houses. This scheme aims to improve the living conditions and overall quality of life of individuals from these sections.
- The scheme provides a subsidy of Rs. 1,30,000/- for the construction of a house.
- Individuals from marginalised sections, including Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Minority Community, Single Women, or handicapped, can apply for this scheme.
- This scheme aims to improve the living conditions and overall quality of life of individuals from these sections.

Mukhya Mantri Himachal Health Care Scheme-HIMCARE:

- Under the HIMCARE scheme, eligible families can avail cashless treatment coverage of up to Rs. 5.00 lakh per year per family in empanelled hospitals. The scheme operates on a co-payment basis, wherein beneficiaries are required to pay a portion of the premium amount based on their category. The scheme categorises beneficiaries into three categories, each with different premium rates. Category I includes BPL families not covered under Ayushman Bharat, registered street vendors, MNREGA workers who have worked a minimum of 50 days under MNREGA, senior citizens above 70 years of age, and children

living in orphanages. Category II includes various groups such as Ekal Naaris, disabled individuals above 40%, Anganwari workers, ASHA workers, mid-day meal workers, daily wage workers, part-time workers, contractual employees, and outsource employees. Category III covers beneficiaries who are not covered under category I or II and who are not government servants, pensioners, or their dependent family members.

Mukhya Mantri Gyandeep Yojna:

- Himachal Pradesh Government has started Mukhyamantri Gyandeep Yojana for the meritorious students of Himachal Pradesh. Under this scheme, the government has given loan facilities to economically weak students for higher education at low rates. In the financial budget of 2016-17, the government had announced a new scheme by the name of Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Gyandeep Yojana. On March 8, 2016, the Chief Minister had announced Mukhyamantri Gyandeep Yojana to provide higher education to the students of the state.
- Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam:
- Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam (HPKVN) is the primary implementing agency of the Himachal Pradesh Skills Development Project (HPSDP), the flagship employment and livelihood scheme of the Government of Himachal Pradesh. It is also the state implementation partner of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). This scheme is in line with the National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, aim to enhance the technical and vocational skills of youth in the state through education and training. HPKVN's immediate goal is to train over a lakh young men and women in the period 2018-22. The organisation's broader objective is to prepare the youth population of the state for the emerging labour markets in India and across the world.

Mukhya Mantri Swavalamban Yojana:

- The scheme will not only generate self-employment but also many other people will be getting employment in these enterprises, thereby resolving the State's issue of unemployment. 103 small Scale Services Enterprises and Business Enterprises are listed in scheme for which applicant can apply for subsidy. Applicant need to make a project report showing estimates of investment needed on Capital Expenditure (Technical civil work, Machinery/Equipment and Fixed/Miscellaneous Assets) and Working Capital mentioning total cost of project. Eligible entrepreneurs shall be financed by financial institutions in State and proposals are sponsored by District Industries Centres to Banks. Applicants can avail Investment subsidy on loan upto Rs. 60 lakh on Capital Expenditure. Interest subsidy of 5% for three years also can be availed on it. Project investment will be in 90:10 ratios between Government and Applicant. The applicant can contribute more than 10% if interested. First instalment of loan by the Bank shall be more than 30 % of the Project cost. The investment subsidy will be approved by GM, District Industries Centre and will be provided in two instalments 60% initially and 40% after verification of unit and commencement of production. Subsidy shall be granted only when the unit will remain in commercial production for at least 3 years. Repayment of loan can be done in 5 to 7 years as prescribed by the Bank.

Mukhya Mantri Kanyadan Yojna:

- Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana is a financial assistance scheme of Government of Himachal Pradesh. It is operated and administered by the Department of Women and Child Development of Himachal Pradesh Government.
- Its main objective is to provide monetary assistance for the marriage of the girl. This scheme has been implemented to ensure that the girls from poor families and daughters of widows/destitute women, and orphan girls can easily manage the expenses incurred at the time of marriage. The amount of assistance under this scheme is payable according to

the category of the beneficiary. An amount of Rs. 40,000/- will be provided on the marriage of Destitute Girls/Women Rs. 51,000/- will be provided for the marriage of Inmates of Nari Seva Sadan or Nari Niketan. The above grant will be drawn and disbursed by the District Program Officer of the District.

9. Jharkhand

Scheme / Guideline	Name of the scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Guruji Student Credit Card Yojana	Education; Financial aid;	Not specified	https://pmmmodiyojana.in/jharkhand-guruji-credit-card-yojana/
Scheme	Eklavya Prasikshan Yojana	Life skills;	18-35 yrs	https://pmmmodiyojana-in.translate.goog/jharkhand-eklavya-skill-scheme/?_x_tr_si=hi&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=
Scheme	Jharkhand Chief Minister Employment Generation Scheme	Employment ;	18-50	https://govtschemes.in/sites/default/files/2023-02/mukhyamantri%20Rozgar%20Sirjan%20Yojna%20Guidelines.pdf
Scheme	Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Protsahan Yojana	Entrepreneurship;	Graduate +	https://pmmmodiyojana.in/mukhyamantri-protsahan-yojana/
Scheme	Savitribai Phule Kishori Samridhhi Yojana	Girl Specific;	18+	https://pmmmodiyojana.in/savitribai-phule-kishori-samridhhi-yojana/
Scheme	Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Sarathi Scheme	Others;	18+	https://pmmmodiyojana.in/jharkhand-mukhyamantri-sarathi-yojana/

Guruji Student Credit Yojana:

- The main benefit of this scheme is that it will provide financial stability to the poor students of Jharkhand. The other benefit is that no student has to leave his or studies for money. A Credit Card will be issued in the name of Student. The Student can also take a load of Rs. 15 Lakhs for Studies. A student can use 30 percent of the amount for non institutional expenses.
- Students will be given 15 years to repay the loan. The repayment of the loan will start from one year after the completion of course.

Eklavya Prasikshan Yojana :

- Under this scheme, various development training will be provided to lakhs of students studying in the state.
- Under Eklavya Skill Yojana, free coaching will be given to students belonging to economically weaker sections.
- Under this scheme, 8000 students will be given free coaching every year.
- Under the Eklavya Training Scheme, an allowance of Rs 1500 and Rs 1000 will be given to boys and girls and disabled.
- Rs 2500 will be made available as an economic allowance to the students living in the hostel.
- Internet, computer education will also be made available to the students.
- Certificate will be provided to the students on completion of 3 months of training. So that they can get employment in future.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Employment Generation Scheme :

- A loan of 25 lakhs will be provided by the government on low interest to the citizens of the state, be it rural areas or urban areas.
- Along with this, 40% subsidy (subsidy) or Rs 5 lakh will be provided by the government.
- If the loan is Rs.5 lakhs and the grant is Rs.2 lakhs (40%) then the EMI and interest will be applicable on the remaining Rs.3 lakhs only.
- Only 6% annual interest will be charged on the remaining amount after deducting the grant from the total loan.
- No guarantor will be required for loans related to vehicles and plant and machinery.
- Movable / immovable property equal to the loan amount will also be considered as a guarantee.
- For taking loan more than 50 thousand one of the following guarantors will be required :-
- Present or former demoted public representative.
- Government employee or retired employee.
- Employees working or retired in private institutions.
- Income tax payer.
- If the applicant is disabled, then in that case it will be mandatory for the applicant to surrender the certificate related to disability (at least 40%).
- The benefit of Jharkhand Chief Minister Employment Generation Scheme can be taken by the citizens of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities, Backward Classes and women of Sakhi Mandal of the state

Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Protsahan Yojana:

- Through this scheme, financial assistance will be provided to the unemployed citizens of Jharkhand.
- This financial assistance will be of ₹ 5000 which will be provided once in a year.
- Only those technically trained citizens can avail the benefits of Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Protsahan Yojana 2023. Those who have a certification from the National Skill Development Agency not to be engaged in any employment or self-employment.
- This incentive amount will be provided to unemployed citizens till they get employment.
- Every citizen of Jharkhand can take advantage of this scheme.

Savitribai Phule Kishori Samridhi Yojana:

- Through this scheme, the standard of living of unemployed citizens of Jharkhand will improve and they will get financial assistance. This incentive amount will be directly transferred to the beneficiary's account through Direct Benefit Transfer.
- Through this scheme, financial assistance will be given from 8th class to 12th class.
- A one-time grant of ₹ 20000 will be provided to the beneficiary girl child for her higher education or marriage after she completes 18 years of age. 37 lakh families of the state, including 27 lakh families included under SECC-2011 census and daughters of 10 lakh Antyodaya card holder families will be given the benefit of this scheme.
- The amount of financial assistance given under Jharkhand Savitribai Phule Kishori Samridhi Yojana will be directly transferred to the bank account of the girl child through DBT.

Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Sarathi Scheme:

- Through this scheme, degree holders will be prepared for various competitive examinations for employment.
- This preparation will be done free of cost.
- Students of the state will not need to go anywhere to get coaching for competitive exams.
- They will be able to prepare for competitive exams from his own state.

- Apart from this, no student of the state will be deprived of getting coaching due to weak economic conditions.
- Coaching will be provided to them by the government. This scheme will also prove effective in making the students of the country strong and self-reliant. The scheme will also provide various facilities and incentives to the students who enrol for the coaching.
- These include:
 - A monthly allowance of Rs. 1000 for travel expenses from home to coaching centre.
 - An additional incentive of Rs. 1500 per month for girls and differently-abled students.
 - Free study material, books, notes, mock tests, etc.
 - Free access to online platforms and resources for self-learning.
 - Career guidance and counselling sessions.
 - Placement assistance and support after clearing the exams.

10. Kerala

Scheme/ Guideline	Name of Scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Financial Aid for providing hostel facility to Transgender students	Housing; Financial Aid.		<p><i>The Department of Social Justice has introduced a scheme that provides an amount of Rs 4,000/- per month as financial assistance to Transgender community as rent for finding hostel facility/ accommodation.</i></p> <p>SOURCE: http://swd.kerala.gov.in/scheme-info.php?scheme_id=MTQ4c1Y4dXFSI3Z5</p>
Scheme	Scholarship for Transgender Students	Education; Financial Aid		http://swd.kerala.gov.in/scheme-in
Scheme	Scholarship for Differently abled Students	Education; Financial Aid	6-25+	http://swd.kerala.gov.in/scheme-in
Scheme	Educational Assistance to Children of Prisoners	Education; Financial Aid		http://swd.kerala.gov.in/scheme-in
Scheme	Financial assistance to Disabled students pursuing (10th, +1, +2 equivalent exams)	Education; Financial Aid	18-19	http://swd.kerala.gov.in/scheme-in
Scheme	Mithram scheme- Job skill training for Socially deviants	Lifeskills; Vocational Training		http://swd.kerala.gov.in/scheme-in
Scheme	Self-employment scheme for dependents of prisoners	Employment		http://swd.kerala.gov.in/scheme-in
Scheme	Educational assistance for children of victims of crime	Education; Financial Aid	5-20+	http://swd.kerala.gov.in/scheme-in

Scheme	Vidya Jyothi scheme- Financial aid for uniforms and study materials to PH students	Education; Financial Aid	12-25	<u>http://swd.kerala.gov.in/scheme-in</u>
Scheme	Flat Club	Housing: Life Skills	15-35	<i>The club is formed by bringing together the youth and youth between the ages of 15 and 35 in the flat, providing various training, enabling engagement in the general community, improving mental and physical health through yoga and physical training despite the hustle and bustle of the flat and making them a part of the society. Around 1000 youth of the state will benefit from this scheme.</i> SOURCE https://ksywb.kerala.gov.in/youth- club/
Scheme	Agricultural Club			<i>In order to attract the youth to the field of agriculture and to ensure food security, the Kerala State Youth Welfare Board directly constitutes agricultural clubs. For the schemes submitted by the agricultural clubs or the schemes implemented by the Board, financial assistance will be provided to a club for various Life skills; agricultural activities as the share of the Board, depending on the beneficiaries and the total cost. In addition, agriculture competitions and collective farming activities will be organised by involving these clubs. The public ponds in the state have been reclaimed and fish farming is being started under the leadership of agriculture clubs.</i> SOURCE https://ksywb.kerala.gov.in/youth- club/

Scheme	Avalidam (Yuvathi Clubs)	Women Centred;	<p><i>One women's club has been formed under all the local self- governing bodies with the aim of empowering the women in the state. In this way, 1040 clubs have been formed across the state.</i></p> <p><i>These clubs provide infrastructure development, library, legal aid committee, counselling centre and facilities for self-training. The plan also aims to form more clubs.</i></p> <p><i>Women's development schemes implemented by the Youth Welfare Board, awareness programmes against dowry, domestic violence and sexual harassment, pre- marital counselling, art and sports development programmes, self- employment vocational training and skill development programmes are implemented through these clubs and at the state/district level involving the members of the clubs. Around 25,000 young women from the state will be a part of this scheme. SOURCE</i></p> <p><u>https://ksywb.kerala.gov.in/youth-club/</u></p>
--------	-----------------------------	----------------	--

11. Madhya Pradesh

Scheme/ Guideline	Name of The scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks	Source
Scheme	CM Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme	Employment; Entrepreneurship	18-40yrs	<p><i>15% of the capital cost of margin money assistance project (maximum Rs.12 lakh), (B) Interest subsidy at the rate of 5 percent per year at registered cost, up to a maximum of 7 years, (C) Guaranteed Fee (CGT), at the prevailing rate, will not be eligible for this planned commercial activity up to a maximum of 7 years.</i></p> <p><i>Training : All necessary actions are taken by departments related to the permission of the Finance Department by making a complete plan in relation to arrangements for the training.</i></p>	<p>https://damoh.nic.in/en/scheme/cm-youth-entrepreneurship-scheme/</p>
Scheme	Mukhya mantri Seekho Kamao Yojana	Education; Employment; Financial Aid	18-29 yrs	<p><i>The youth can apply for a job in the industry of choice and attend selection interviews. If selected, they would be eligible for a monthly stipend of Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000. Of this amount, 75 percent would be paid by the state government as direct benefit transfer (DBT) and the remaining by the industry</i></p>	<p>https://mmsky.mp.gov.in/</p>

Scheme	Chief Minister Yuva Kaushal Yojana	Vocational Training; Financial Aid		<i>Under the scheme, the government will provide a monthly stipend of Rs 8,000 to the youth undergoing training in various sectors. This will enable them to learn new skills and become more employable in the job market.</i>	https://www.pmmodiyojana.org/mukhyamant_ri-yuva-kaushal_kamai-madhya-pradesh/
Scheme	CM Financial Welfare Scheme	Entrepreneurship; Financial Aid	18-55yrs	<i>Under this scheme, low cost equipment or working capital will be provided to the poorest of the society. The benefit of the scheme will be payable only for the installation of new entrepreneurs</i>	https://damoh.nic.in/en/scheme/c_m-financial-welfare-scheme/
Scheme	Maa Tujhe Pranam Scheme	Sports; Welfare	18+	<i>5 youths and 05 women from all development blocks of the district are sent on an experience journey on the international border of India, under the guidance of Mata Tum Sab under the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare.</i>	https://damoh.nic.in/en/scheme/m_aa-tujhe-pranam-scheme/
Scheme	CM Self Employment Scheme	Entrepreneurship; Financial Aid	18-45yrs	<i>Rupees 20 thousand to 10 million for new entrepreneurs</i>	https://damoh.nic.in/en/scheme/c_m-self-employment-scheme/

Scheme	Mukhyamantri Bal Ashirwad Yojana	Financial Aid	18+	<p><i>According to the information given by the Madhya Pradesh Public Relations Department on September 15, 2022, boys and girls above the age of 18 years who leave child care institutions should be restored in the society by providing financial and educational support (aftercare) and orphan children up to the age of 18 years, who are living with their relatives or guardians, 'Mukhyamantri Bal Ashirwad Yojana' has been started with the objective of providing financial assistance (sponsorship).</i></p>	https://scps.mp.gov.in/
Scheme	Launch Pad Scheme	Employment;	18+	<p><i>New opportunities for employment will be provided for the boys and girls who complete 18 years and come out of institutional supervision of the care institutions in the state. Under the scheme, the District Administration will provide space to work to these youth such space for installing coffee shops, photocopying, stationery or computer typing and DTP work.</i></p>	http://aiggpa.mp.gov.in/uploads/project/Updated_final_report_CCI_study_ISS_10022021.pdf#page26
Scheme	Mukhyamantri Koushal Samvardhan Yojana,	Training; employment	18+	<p><i>MMKSY aims at raising the skilling quotient of the youth in the State by providing access to short term demand driven Training courses in employable trades.</i></p>	http://aiggpa.mp.gov.in/uploads/project/Updated_final_report_CCI_study_ISS_10022021.pdf#page26

Scheme	Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana	Employment;	18+	<i>The scheme guarantees 100 days of employment every year to urban youths from economically weaker sections (EWS). The youth would get Rs. 4,000 stipend per month and total Rs. 13,500 for the 100 days.</i>	http://aiggpa.mp.gov.in/uploads/project/Updated_final_report_CCI_study_ISS_10022021.pdf#page26
Guidelines	The M.P. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2003	Juvenile Justice Rules			http://www.bareactslive.com/MP/MP346.HTM?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1

12. Odisha

Scheme/ Guideline	Name of The scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	National Career Service (NCS)	Vocational Training and Placement programs	18-21 Years	https://dge.gov.in/dge/ncs
Guidelines	Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana (BPGY)	Housing	No age limit after reaching age of 18	https://rhodisha.gov.in/home/imf/guidelines/BPGY_guidelines.pdf
Scheme	Odisha State Scholarship Portal (e-Medhabruti)	Education	18-25 Years	https://scholarship.odisha.gov.in/website/scholarship-list
Scheme	Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP):	Loan & Subsidies to entrepreneur	18 Years	https://msme.gov.in/1-prime-ministers-employment-generation-programme-pmegp
Scheme	Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana (MKUY) odisha	Girl specific initiative Scheme	Early Childhood	https://cscportal.in/mukhyamantri-kanya-utthan-yojana/
Scheme	Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)	Health	Early Childhood	https://bsky.odisha.gov.in/bsky/home

- National Career Service (NCS): NCS is a nationwide initiative that connects job seekers with employment opportunities. Through the NCS portal, youth can access information on vocational training programs, job fairs, apprenticeships, and skill certification schemes. The platform also provides career counselling and job matching services.
- Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana (BPGY): BPGY is a state government initiative in Odisha that aims to provide pucca (permanent) houses to the rural poor. Under this scheme, eligible beneficiaries receive financial assistance for the construction of safe and durable houses. The scheme focuses on vulnerable groups, such as Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and people living in kutch houses.
- Odisha State Scholarship Portal (e-Medhabruti): The state government has launched the e-Medhabruti portal to streamline and simplify the process of applying for scholarships. The portal provides information on various scholarships available to students, including merit-based scholarships, post-matric scholarships, and scholarships for students with disabilities.
- Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP): PMEGP is a central government scheme implemented in Odisha as well. It provides financial support to micro-enterprises in the form of margin money and capital subsidy. The scheme aims to generate employment opportunities through the establishment of new enterprises.
- Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana (MKUY): This scheme is aimed at promoting the welfare and empowerment of girl children in Odisha. MKUY provides financial assistance to families for the education, healthcare, and overall development of girl children. It encourages parents to prioritise the education and well-being of their daughters.
- Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY): BSKY is a state government-sponsored health insurance scheme in Odisha. It provides financial protection and health coverage to the eligible beneficiaries, including youth. Under this scheme, beneficiaries can avail cashless treatment at empaneled hospitals for various ailments and medical procedures.

13. Sikkim

Scheme / Guideline	Name of The scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Sikkim Skilled Youth Startup Scheme	Entrepreneur ship;	18-45yrs	https://govtschemes.in/sikkim-skilled-youth-startup-scheme
Scheme	Chief Minister's Free Scholarship Scheme (CMFSS)	Education	18+	<i>The State Government launched the Chief Minister's Free Scholarship Scheme with the aim of providing free scholarships to meritorious and needy students. The scholarship is granted annually to a candidate from the BPL category or to one genuinely deserving. It is granted to a student who succeeds in securing admission to any of the top twenty universities in the world in a chosen discipline. The scholarship aims to cover course fees, hostel/accommodation charges, books, stationeries and to & from travelling charges once a year from the institute to the home country, SIDICO is the nodal agency for implementation of this scheme. SOURCE : https://sikkim.gov.in/scheme/scheme-info/30070?Scheme=Chief%20Minister%20Free%20Scholarship%20Scheme%20(CMFSS)</i>
	COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL LOAN SCHEME (CELS)	Education;	18+	<i>The State Government launched the Comprehensive Educational Loan Scheme (CELS) for pursuing higher/professional studies in India and abroad with effect from July 2007, SIDICO is the nodal agency for implementation of this scheme and has witnessed commendable success. The students are undergoing courses in engineering, medicine, agriculture, horticulture, hospitality management, commercial pilot, post graduate courses etc.</i>

14. Telangana

Scheme / Guideline	Name of The scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Apathbandhu scheme	Financial Aid	18+	<p><i>The Citizen can use this service to implement accident insurance for the below poverty line families in A.P to provide insurance coverage in case of accidental Deaths. The Insurance coverage is for the adults in the age group of 18 to 64 years.</i></p> <p>Source: https://services.india.gov.in/service/detail/telangana-department-of-revenue-apathbandhu-scheme-1#:~:text=%22The%20Citizen%20can%20use%20this%20from%2018%20to%2064%20years.%20%22</p>
Scheme	Housing for the poor	Housing	Not Specified	<p><i>This hallmark initiative of the Telangana government is intended to provide quality and respectable housing to the poor. The 'housing for the poor' plan provides for two and three storied buildings with the 2 BHK flats in Hyderabad and other urban areas while they are to be built as independent houses in rural areas. A pilot has been taken up at IDH Colony in Bhoidguda, Secunderabad. As many as 396 units - with each comprising two bedrooms, hall and kitchen - are being constructed in 32 blocks of G+2 on 580 square yards at a cost of Rs 37 crore at 7.9 lakh per each flat.</i></p> <p>Source: https://www.telangana.gov.in/government-initiatives</p>

15. TRIPURA

Scheme / Guideline	Name of The scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)	Education;	15-35 yrs	<p><i>It is a Government of India Project to engage rural youth specially BPL and SC/ST segment of population, in gainful employment through skill training programmes.</i></p> <p>Source: https://southtripura.nic.in/scheme/deen-dayal-upadhyaya-grameen-kaushalya-yojana-ddu-gky/</p>
Scheme	Housing for the poor	Housing	18-55 yrs	<p><i>Under the scheme working capital will be provided in Cash Credit nature, a portion of genuine consumption need will also be included in Cash credit limit and other requirement will be provided as a Term loan. The NHCC will be valid for 5 years. However it may be continued or loan may be enhanced after five years also on review.</i></p> <p>Source: https://ttaadc.gov.in/sites/default/files/NHCCguidelines.pdf</p>

16. Uttrakhand

Scheme / Guideline	Name of The scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Maun Palan Yojana. (Madhugram Scheme)	Employment	Not specified	<p><i>The Uttarakhand government has started the Maun Palan Yojana with the aim of motivating the unemployed youth of the state for self-employment. Under this scheme, honey production units have to be established in the entire state.</i></p> <p>Source: https://www.myscheme.gov.in/schemes/mpmsy/</p>
Scheme	Uttarakhand Skill Development Mission	Skill Development	18-55 yrs	<p><i>Uttarakhand Skill Development Mission (UKSDM) has been providing free skill development training to youth over all 13 districts urban and rural sectors of state. In order to address the challenges of unemployment and ensure gainful and sustainable employment to the youth of the state, Hon'ble Chief Minister created Uttarakhand Skill Development Mission UKSDM in February 2013. The state plans to train 6.5 lac youth and provide employment.</i></p> <p>Source: http://www.eksdm.org/</p>

17. Uttar Pradesh

Scheme/ Guideline	Name of the scheme	Area Targeted	Age criteria	Additional Remarks
Scheme	Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM)*	Vocational Training and Placement programs	18-21 Years	https://www.upsdm.gov.in
Scheme	Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)	Vocational Training and Placement programs	18-21 Years	https://www.pmkvyofficial.org/home-page
Scheme	Uttar Pradesh Awas Vikas Parishad (UPAVP)	Housing	18 Years	https://upavp.in/
Scheme	Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)	Education	18-25 Years	https://www.pmkvyofficial.org/
Scheme	Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana	Loan & Subsidies to entrepreneur	18 to 40 Years	Avail loans up to Rs. 25 lakhs at a subsidised interest rate.
Scheme	Kanya Sumangala Yojana	Girl specific initiative Scheme	Early Childhood	https://mksy.up.gov.in/women_welfare/index.php

- Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM): It is a flagship program of the Government of Uttar Pradesh that focuses on skill development for youth. The mission offers a range of vocational training programs in various sectors such as healthcare, construction, retail, hospitality, IT, and more. The training programs are designed to meet industry demands and enhance job prospects for participants.
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY): PMKVY is a national skill development program that also operates in Uttar Pradesh. It offers skill training and certification to unemployed youth across various sectors. The program focuses on providing short-term skill training to enhance employability and promote entrepreneurship.
- Uttar Pradesh Awas Vikas Parishad (UPAVP) Schemes - UPAVP offers various housing schemes and projects across Uttar Pradesh. These schemes include both affordable housing and middle-income group housing options.
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY): Although PMKVY is a central government scheme, it is implemented in Uttar Pradesh as well. It aims to provide skill development training to young adults and enhance their employability. The scheme offers various courses and certifications in different sectors to help individuals acquire industry-relevant skills.
- Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana: This scheme aims to provide financial assistance to unemployed youth for setting up their own enterprises. Under this scheme, eligible candidates can avail loans up to Rs. 25 lakhs at a subsidised interest rate and receive assistance for project development, training, and skill development.
- "Kanya Sumangala Yojana." It is a welfare scheme aimed at providing financial assistance to the girl child and promoting their welfare. Under this scheme, a certain amount is deposited in the bank account of the girl child at various stages of her education, from the time of her birth until she completes her studies. The scheme also includes health-related benefits and aims to empower girls by ensuring their access to education and healthcare

Annexure 2

International Situation around Care Leavers

To take care of children's wellbeing, protection rehabilitation and providing support to ACC children the United Nations General Assembly on 20th November 2009 on 20th anniversary of UNCRC introduced the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (UNGACC). The Guidelines intended to enhance the implementation of the UNCRC, target both policy and practice with specific regards to the protection and well-being of children who are deprived of parental care or who are at risk of being so. UNGACC also provides comprehensive guidance on minimum standards for aftercare services (UNGACC, 2009). It urges agencies and facilities to have a clear policy aimed at preparing children and youth to be self-reliant and to acquire social and life skills by giving them educational and vocational training opportunities, and access to social, legal, and health services, along with financial support. It also expects the agencies to take into consideration a youth's gender, age, and maturity; to provide counseling and support throughout the process of transition from care to aftercare — notably to avoid exploitation; and to encourage the public and private sectors to employ such youth by providing the necessary incentives. Internationally the aftercare covers the following:

- Support and preparation to leave care
- Accommodation
- Health and Nutrition
- Legal Identity and Representation
- Financial Support
- Policy level support
- Real time data of care leavers
- Skill Development

Aftercare in Different Countries

Care Leavers are recognized in various countries and they are provided with the aftercare services. The legal definition of a care leaver comes from The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000¹²⁵ which states that a Care Leaver is someone who has been in the care of the Local Authority for a period of 13 weeks or more spanning their 16th birthday. UK has a law for care leaver Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, to make provision about children and young persons who are being, or have been, looked after by a local authority; to replace section 24 of the Children Act 1989; and for connected purposes¹²⁶. The main aim of the Care Leavers Regulations and the Planning transition to adulthood for care leavers statutory guidance (Jan, 2015) is to make sure that care leavers are provided with comprehensive personal support so that they achieve their potential as they make their transition to adulthood¹²⁷.

Various countries have existing practices for care leaver. "In England and Wales, "The Every Child Matters" project helps local authorities to respond in timely and more decisively when children are in difficult circumstances by preventing the situation from escalating to an undesirable situation. The Warwickshire County Council provides Care Leavers with apprenticeships to work within the council. A dedicated housing officer for Care Leavers is appointed by the London Borough of Wandsworth to ensure that young Care Leavers have appropriate accommodation. In Northern Ireland, an organization "Care Matters: Building a Bridge to a Better Future provides strategies to help children in the care system and provide a smooth transition to adulthood that encourages young people to reach their potential. Uganda has a National Youth Employment Action Plan (NAP), which specifically defines the strategies and actions required to engage young people in worthwhile jobs, empowering them with entrepreneurial skills and attitudes, and increasing their involvement in local government and decision-making processes. In India SOS has a strong intervention to support Care Leavers across country programs¹²⁸."

Table 1. Legislation status for care and after care per country¹²⁹

	Well-developed legislation	Rudimentary Legislation	No Legislation
Legislation on Care and After-care	Australia	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Bangladesh
	Austria	Canada	Botswana
	Belgium	Kenya	Ethiopia
	Brazil	Nigeria	Lesotho
	Croatia	North Macedonia	
	Czech Republic	Switzerland	
	Denmark	West Africa	
	England	Zambia	
	India		
	USA		
Legislation on After-care	Australia	Belgium	Austria
	Denmark	Estonia	Bosnia & Herzegovina
	England	Hungary	Brazil
	Finland	North Macedonia	Canada
	India	Russia	Croatia
	Romania	Serbia	Czech Republic
	Scotland	South Africa	Germany
	USA	West Africa	Israel Kenya Nigeria Sweden

In Germany, Croatia, England and Hungary and others, support is officially available up to age 24 and even beyond, but in practice, support is only provided until age 18. Conversely, Ethiopia, Czech Republic, Lesotho, Israel and Russia support care-leavers in practice until 23 years and older, even though policy and legislation expect support to end earlier. It seems, therefore, that there is little congruence between legislative or policy limits for remaining in care and the actual age up until which care-leavers remain in care. Two third of the countries (24 countries, 66 per cent) provide aftercare support, even though only 17 countries (47 per cent) have a legal framework addressing care-leavers after leaving care and/or aftercare services. In other words, seven countries offer aftercare services, despite not having legislation mandating or supporting these services¹³⁰.

Given the limited availability of support for young adults, evidenced by the absence of aftercare legislation in most countries and the underutilization of options that exist formally, it is no big surprise that care-leavers worldwide face substantial challenges. The overwhelming majority of youth in the transition from care to adulthood in the countries in our sample are left to survive on their own at age 18 or younger, even when legislation makes provisions for them to stay in care longer. Even where services do exist, a consistent finding across the globe is the challenge that care-leavers face in finding employment and establishing economic stability.

Table 2. Legislation in various Countries

	Australia	Denmark	England	USA	India
Legislation	Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017.	Danish Act on Social Services 2015.	Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.	The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, 2008.	The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
Important Sections	Sections 111 and 112 under Provision of assistance to care leavers.	Sections 76 and 76a.	All.	Section 201 to 206.	Section 2(5) and 46.
Eligibility	Leaves care at 16 and after care provided up to 26 years of age ¹³¹ .	Leaves care at 18 and after care provided up to 23 years of age ¹³² .	Leaves care at 16 or 17 and Personal Advisor is available up to 25 years ¹³³ .	From 18 to 21 ¹³⁴	From the ages of 18 to 21 years or, if required, 23 ¹³⁵ .
Is providing aftercare mandatory or discretionary?	Preparing a plan is mandatory ¹³⁶ . However, assistance may be provided at the discretion of the minister ¹³⁷ .	Mandatory till 22 ¹³⁸ and discretion to extend up to 23 ¹³⁹	Mandatory ¹⁴⁰	Discretionary ¹⁴¹	Discretionary ¹⁴²
Other instruments regulating aftercare	None.	None.	The Care Leavers Social security (England) Regulations 2010		Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules 2016
Other Features	There are currently no mandatory legislative provisions in Australian jurisdictions for the funding and support of care leavers beyond the age of 18 years.	The condition for obtaining aftercare is that 'there is a prospect for a positive development for the young person during aftercare'.	All eligible and relevant former relevant, Children and Young people must have a pathway plan. This will take over from the existing care plan and run atleast when they are 21 covering education training career plan and support needed for example to move into supported lodgings ¹⁴³ .	For a child who has attained 14 years of age or over, a written description of the programs and services which will help such a child prepare for the transition from foster care to a successful adulthood ¹⁴⁴ .	The power of monitoring post-release plans and examining effectiveness of aftercare programmes remains with the JJB or CWC or the Children's Court ¹⁴⁵ . Section 39(1) of the JJ Act, 2015 refers to the child's individual care plan (ICP) ¹⁴⁶ as the basis for rehabilitation and Social integration irrespective of their age.

¹²⁵<https://www.careleavers.com/who-we-are/what-is-a-care-leaver-2/>

¹²⁶<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/35/data.pdf>

¹²⁷[https://careleaverscommunity.org/wp-content/files/convention_2020_clc_practitioners_brief.pdf](https://southwark.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_cla_serv_adulthood.html#:~:text=The%20Legal%20Framework,-2.1&text=The%20main%20aim%20of%20the,make%20their%20transition%20to%20adulthood.</p><p>¹²⁸<a href=)

¹²⁹<https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/div-class-title-a-multinational-comparison-of-care-leaving-policy-and-legislation-div.pdf>

¹³⁰<https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/div-class-title-a-multinational-comparison-of-care-leaving-policy-and-legislation-div.pdf>

¹³¹Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017, Section 112(6).

¹³²Consolidation Act on Social Services 2015, Section 76(4).

¹³³Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, Sections 1, 2 and 3.

¹³⁴Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675) Section 475(B)(ii); The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, 2008, Section 201.

¹³⁵Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules 2016, Rule 25.

¹³⁶Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017, Section 111(1).

¹³⁷Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017, Section 112(4).

¹³⁸Consolidation Act on Social Services 2015, Section 76(1).

¹³⁹Consolidation Act on Social Services 2015, Section 76(4).

¹⁴⁰Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, Section 1 and 2.

¹⁴¹The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, 2008, Section 201.

¹⁴²Guidelines For After Care of Children under ICPS, 7) i) , <https://iacn.in/admin/docs/guiding_framework/840ca7c04f6d250d477bfd62c8fc46fd.pdf>

¹⁴³Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, Section 3.

¹⁴⁴Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675) Section 475(D).

¹⁴⁵Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules 2016, Rule 25(5).

¹⁴⁶Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules 2016, Rule 2 (ix).

Annexure 3

The SOP provides detailed Strategies for Intervention: By implementing these strategies, intervention programs can effectively address the issues that led children to commit offenses and support their reintegration into their families and communities. These are preventive strategies very much in-line with the object of Aftercare

Secondary Intervention:

- Provide psycho-social interventions for children at risk (individual or group sessions with social workers).
- Involve former children in conflict with the law (CICL) in self-help groups.
- Offer family therapy for families of children at risk.
- Establish watch groups to monitor and support at-risk children.
- Involve foster families to provide a stable environment for children at risk.
- Establish Special Drug Education Centers to address substance abuse among children.
- Implement programs for birth registration to ensure legal identity and protection.

Tertiary Intervention:

- Implement measures to avoid unnecessary contact with the formal justice system and prevent re-offending.
- Use diversion programs as an alternative to formal proceedings.
- Provide temporary shelter and release on recognizance for children in conflict with the law.
- Provide financial assistance and support services for reintegration into the community.
- Facilitate peer support groups for ongoing guidance and support.
- Encourage restitution, reparation, and apology to address the harm caused.
- Implement care, guidance, and supervision orders for ongoing support and monitoring.
- Provide counseling and training on anger management, problem-solving, values formation, and life skills.
- Facilitate participation in education, vocational training, and community service programs.

Strategies for Rehabilitation:

By implementing these strategies, rehabilitation programs can support the holistic development of children in conflict with the law, providing them with the skills, support, and opportunities they need to reintegrate into society successfully.

1. Discipline: Implement structured programs and develop responsible citizenship among juveniles.
2. Yoga: To promote mental and physical growth.
3. Personality Development: Conduct awareness programs and classes to enhance moral values, and build positive self-esteem.
4. Counselling: Via experienced counselors to strengthen confidence and address the psychological effects.
5. Vocational and Skill Training: Identify hidden talents and potential in each child for future employment.
6. Bala-Panchayat: Conduct weekly child self-governance sessions to foster responsibility, discipline, and problem-solving skills.
7. Computer Education: To enrich technical knowledge and enhance employability.
8. Development of Short-Term Courses: To eradicate illiteracy, ignorance, and poverty by providing skills and employment opportunities.
9. Art and Craft Therapy: To relax, develop motor skills, and foster a sense of accomplishment.
10. Spoken English: To improve communication skills and enhance future prospects.
11. Cultural Gathering: Organize weekly cultural gatherings for children to showcase their talents in dance, drama, speech, etc.
12. Farming, Gardening & Animal Husbandry: Provide opportunities for juveniles to engage in farming, etc. to develop entrepreneurship skills.
13. Sports & Games: To promote physical well-being and refreshment.

14. Recreation: To alleviate boredom and monotony.
15. Individual Care Plan: To address their specific needs- needs regular review and updates.
16. Rehabilitation through Professional Courses: Establish links with universities to offer professional courses that can lead to sustainable employment opportunities.
17. Post-Release Follow-Up: Conduct regular follow-up programs to ensure successful reintegration and provide support when needed.

Strategies for Medical and Mental Health Care and Aftercare:

By implementing these strategies, comprehensive medical and mental health care, as well as aftercare programs, can be developed to support the rehabilitation, well-being, and successful reintegration of children in conflict with the law.

1. Mandatory Mental Health Care: Conduct regular mental health assessments by experts and professionals to address the child's psychological well-being.
2. Clear Guidelines for Counselling: Establish clearer guidelines for counseling children in conflict with the law, recognizing the unique challenges involved.
3. Identification of Behavioral Disorders: Develop guidelines for identifying children with behavioral disorders and provide appropriate support and interventions.
4. Referral Lists for Reformatory Services: Create referral lists for reformatory services, including educational support, skill development, counseling, behavior modification therapy, and psychiatric support. These lists should be made available to children during their stay in the facility and displayed online.

Aftercare Programs:

Develop specific guidelines and frameworks for aftercare programs to support the transition and reintegration of children in conflict with the law into society.

- Allocate spaces within the community for running aftercare programs, facilitating the integration process.
- Allow organizations running aftercare facilities the freedom to operate within the legal framework and their own organizational philosophy.
- Establish a national tracking system and database to track the progress and transitions of children leaving care institutions.
- Provide helpline numbers and support services for young adults who have left care institutions, ensuring they have access to guidance and counseling when needed.

Post-Release Planning:

- Reintegrative Services: Undertake reintegration services that prepare young offenders for reentry into society, including collaborative arrangements with the community to prevent re-offending. Develop action-based programs and skill development initiatives to facilitate the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law.
- Continuum of Community Services: Establish a seamless set of systems across formal and informal social control networks, providing a continuum of community services to address the multiple needs of children in conflict with the law. Focus on preventing the recurrence of antisocial behavior and enabling children to become responsible citizens.
- Probation officers or social workers should prepare post-release plans for aftercare, considering factors such as educational qualifications, family support, place of residence, employable skills, and community integration.
- Address the challenge of comprehensive aftercare for young adults between the ages of 18 and 21, who have left institutional care but still require support.

Acknowledgement

This comprehensive study on the policy environment around the rehabilitation of care leavers in India attempts to understand the existing policy environment vis-à-vis children who have been part of the care mechanism under the Juvenile Justice System and are moving on as adults. This document provides insight into the issues and challenges faced by careleavers. It enlists the available provisions at the state and national level, especially in areas such as preparation to leave care, accommodation, health and nutrition, legal identity and representation, financial support etc. It gives an overview of the legal and institutional framework around Care Leavers in India, as well as their rights and entitlements. State-specific policies and schemes supporting the rehabilitation of care leavers have been compiled for easy reference.

The study will be useful to everyone interested in understanding the policy environment around the rehabilitation of youth who have grown up in childcare institutions. It is hoped that this will advance the discourse on creating an enabling environment for care-leavers in India.

Study lead &
report writing: **Dr Vikram Srivastava**

Technical inputs
& quality check: **Ms. Vandhana Kandhari** (Unicef, Child Protection Specialist),
Ms. Nupur Pande (Child Protection Lead - National Care Leavers Network, Aide et Action)

Study Supervision:**Mr. Pranab J Panging** (Regional Manager, Guwahati, Aide et Action)



Changing the world through Education

Aide et Action- Bhopal
House No. A-5, Emerald Park City,
Bagh Sewania (Near AIIMS Hospital), Bhopal,
Madhya Pradesh (Pincode: 462038),
India.
Telephone/Fax: +91-755-2980008.

Aide et Action – Chennai
AA Block, New No. 2 (Old No. 42), 1st Floor,
3rd Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai,
Tamil Nadu (Pincode: 600 040), India.
Telephone/Fax: +9144 43300076/43300077

Aide et Action – Delhi
Tanwar Niwas, Village Badshahpur,
Kadarpur Road, Near Ashoka International
school Sec.-67, Gurgaon-122101, India.
contact No. + 91 86850 54892

Aide et Action – Guwahati
House No: 1, Ground Floor, Sankar Nagar,
Lakhimi Path, Beltola Road, Guwahati,
Assam (Pincode: 700 028), India.
Telephone/Fax: +91-361-2229694.

Aide et Action- Hyderabad
Plot No.24, Polisetty Enclave, Behind
Ghanshyam Super market, Vikrampuri Colony,
Karkhana, Secunderabad, Telangana
(Pincode: 500009), India.
Telephone/Fax: +91-40 27016128.

Aide et Action – Jaipur
B-30, Dev Nagar, Ground Floor, Opposite
Kamal and Co., Tonk Road, Jaipur,
Rajasthan (Pincode: 302 015), India.
Telephone/Fax: +91-141-2709892.

Migration Information Resource Centre
(MiRC), a Thematic Unit of AEAI South
Asia, HIG – 119, Dharma Vihar, Khandagiri,
Bhubaneswar, Orissa (Pincode: 751030), India.
Telephone no: +91 674 2350503.

Aide et Action – Patna
128/A, Pataliputra Colony,
Patna, Bihar (Pincode: 800 013), India.
Telephone/Fax: +91-612 -2277480 / 83.

Aide et Action (India)
AA BLOCK, New No.2 (Old No.42), 1st Floor, 3rd Main Road,
Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India - 600 040.
Tel/Fax: +91 44 43300076 / 43300077

wwwaea-southasia.org

Follow us on

