

Republic of Yemen
Yemen National NGOs Coalition
For
Child Rights Care

The Third NGOs Alternative Periodic
Report
On
Rights of the Child

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Words of Thanks & Appreciation

Yemen National Coalition NGOs for the Rights of the Child is honored and pleased to present its Third Alternative Periodic Report on children rights in Yemen . A shadow NGOs Report in response to the Government Third Report forwarded to the International Committee on CRC in 2003. On this occasion and on behave of the Executive Board and all Member Organizations of the Coalition , We sincerely express our thanks and appreciations to everyone who contributed to the success of the preparation and presentation of this report whether from Government Institutions , NGOs and INGOs. We extend our special thanks to:

- Save the Children Sweden (Radda Barnen)

- UNICEF

For funding and supporting the whole preparatory process at its different stages to make the presentation of this report a success.

Executive Committee of YNOC

Introduction:

In response to Article 45 of the CRC adopted by UN General Assembly (1998), signed and ratified by the Yemeni Government in 1991, Yemen has fulfilled its obligation according to CRC provision and submitted its Third Periodic government report to the UN committee in 2003. The submit of reports (the first in 1995 and the second in 1997) and its discussions with International committee on CRC is considered a gain for the Yemeni children to promote and achieve thier rights defined in CRC.

Yemen National Coalition for the Rights of the Child has the honor and pleasure to undertake the responsibility of preparing and presentation its Third Alternative Report in response to the Government Report submitted to the UN committee in 2003.

The successful preparation and presentation of the Report by the Coalition a positive sign to promote and enhance the role of the civil society in adopting children issues and defending the rights of children. It also reflects the democratic atmosphere and cooperation between GOs and NGOs that is starting to prevail in Yemen.

The submission of the Third Alternative by the coalition is considered a continuation for the two previous Alternative Reports presented in 1995 and 1999. It is mainly based on the information mentioned in the Government report and also on the discussion between the Government delegation and the UN committee in Jan.1999 as a reference for follow-up and monitoring. It points out to the achievements on rights of Children realized and also failures, obstacles and problems that should be overcome by the Government.

The preparation of the Report was guided by the instructions and guidelines of the UN committee on CRC and the NGOs Group on CRC – Geneva.

.In regards to the above mentioned remarks the Alternative Report aimed to achieve the following **Objectives** :

:

- 1) Study and assess the Third Periodic Government Report and shed light on what has been implemented so far and what remains to be

achieved. To correct and modify some of the facts and events mentioned in the government report.

- 2) To identify the extent of the Yemeni government commitment to the UN committee recommendations based on the joint meeting with the government committee in January 1999 .

- 3) To present proposals, programs and practical solutions to the International Committee on CRC in relation to problems and difficulties that hinder the implementation of CRC to be discussed with government, to set list of priorities and obligations for future working plans of actions.

To achieve the defined objectives the **Methods and Steps** that were undertaken:

- ◆ Analysis and assessment of the official reports and unofficial published studies that describes the situation of the children in Yemen especially those reports ignored by the Government Report.

- ◆ Study and evaluate the minutes of the meeting of the UN committee for the Right of the Child with the government delegation during the discussions of the second report with a focus on the recommendations brought forth and evaluation of government commitments to implement those recommendations.

- ◆ Design and prepare a special questionnaire that aims to monitor in the field, indicators of change, achievements as well as difficulties, obstacles and violation of the articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Attached Questionnaire prepared by the Coalition in the appendix) .

The implementation of Questionnaire guaranteed the collective participation aimed to involve all members of NGOs in the preparation of the report .

- ◆ To enrich the third alternative report with collective comments and opinions especially children , the coalition organized for the first time a program for children to participate in the discussion of the third alternative report. The coalition highly values this participation and children contributions and will develop that process in all its future activities. (attached meeting minutes with children)

Based on this integral and objective approach the contents and discussion of the third alternative report will be introduced in the following manner:

- 1) Information found in the government report according to the headings and topics presented in the report based on the initial UN Committee recommendations.
- 2) Contra data and information or in some cases complementary information that the GR ignored or neglected.
- 3) Presenting proposals, practical solutions for problems and obstacles that encounter the implementation of articles of the convention on the Rights of the Child in Yemen to be raised discussed with the government delegation.

Chapter One

General Remarks on the preparation Of the government Report

The government of Yemen commitment to present its third periodic report on time scheduled is a positive measure counted for the government of Yemen in the fulfillment of its obligations to the UN Committee on CRC – Geneva – Switzerland .

Inspite of this achievement and the government accessible facilitates and conditions, Yemen has not followed the required guidelines set by the UN committee for the preparation of the state parties' reports. The Report prepared seems to be an initial Report not the Third one of follow-up of early recommendations. Nevertheless our main basic comments are:

First:

The preparation of the periodic report was not a result of a daily activity of monitoring ,follow-up, implementation and data gathering which would reflect genuine indicators of collective changes that occurs in various aspects of the life of the child but the reporting process was finalized to fulfill an obligation only.

Second:

Yemen government was more eager to involve the civil society (NGOS) in the preparation of its second report in 1998 . The UN committee in its twentieth session praised the process in its discussion with the government delegation and valued the government involvement of the NGOs in preparation of the second report (Refer to page 2 of concluding observations of the UN Committee addressing the government of Yemen in 1998).

During the preparation of the third government report , Yemen did not involve the civil society. The preparation in the report was limited to the invitation of one representative of Yemen National NGOs Coalition for the Right of the Child.The report was not broadly discussed and acknowledged to the general public and big number of NGOs.

Third:

The government, represented by the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, was supposed to involve most of the nongovernmental

organization in the different governorates in the Republic and to enrich the report by the children participation in different activities.

Fourth;

The government report was submitted to the coalition in December 2003. Although the government report was submitted on time to the UN committee and formed a ministerial committee representing, related ministries, still the report did not fulfill all aspects in collecting data and collective participation. Therefore we recommend the International committee to recommend the government the following:-

- ◆ To make the process of followup, supervision and gathering data a daily activity.
- ◆ There should be a data base that includes all information related to childhood all information related to childhood issues according to the UN Committee observations No. 12 (Refer to UN committee concluding observations / 1998)
- ◆ Widen the involvement of the civil society and representatives of NGOs and Children in preparation and drafting of the future government reports.
- ◆ Comprehensive and appropriate media coverage of all the stages of preparation of the reports and issued laws related to childhood

– References Utilized to assess and discuss the Government Report.

When we discussed the third government report we based our evaluation on the following references:

First:

The UN –CRC Articles

Second:

Guidelines of the UN Committee on the preparation of the second government report in 1998.

Third:

Information from the field forwarded by the coalition members in various governorates of the Republic through filling the questionnaire prepared by the coalition to collect information and data from the field work for the third alternative report.

Fourth:

Data and information collected by the coalition through Implementation of projects and researches executed in cooperation with international organizations such as :

- A legal research about the situation of children in prisons
- Participation in the national committee program for combating labor child phenomenon in January 2004.
- Out-comes of child participation
- Field studies and researches and published reports Governmental and Nongovernmental institutions .

Based on the collected information, the coalition was careful to be objective in assessing of the content of the third government report and compare it with the information collected by the coalition field work to come out with solutions, proposals and recommendation and hoping that the UN committee will include it in its concluding observations and recommend them to the government of Yemen.

Noteworthy, in past few years Yemen has achieved good progress in some implementation of the articles of the convention on the Right of the Child Rights inspite of obstacles and difficulties in practice execution. Our Coalition welcome these efforts and recommend more steps and a better organizational , basic measures.

We would like to bring to your attention that National Coalition NGOs and for the Right of the child consist of 64 NGOs association which work directly or indirectly to promote child rights based on CRC. It was founded in 1995 to monitor and follow up the implementation of CRC in Yemen Context. The different members of the coalition contributed to the alternative reports which reflects the situation of children and complements any deficiency in the government report. The aim of the coalition is to improve the situation of children in Yemen and promote dialogue between government and civil society institutions taking advantage of the democratic environment in Yemen .

Chapter Two

Analytical Discussions of The Third Period Government Report

Section I

a) General measures for Implementation/Legislative Aspect.

The Yemeni Government has undertaken a number of measures to implement the convention referring to articles (4,42) and paragraph (6) of article (44) of the convention. There has been a remarkable development, though not as ambitious as it should be, in the legislative aspect .

A number of Legislations and laws on the rights of children were issued of which the most outstanding are:

- Child Right Law No. 45 (2002)
- Social Care Law and its amendments.
- Law for the Rehabilitation and care of the disabled (1999)
- Law No. (2) for establishment of Rehabilitation and care for disabled fund (2002)
- Republic Resolution No.(38) for the executive bylaws for Juvenile Law (2000)

In addition Yemen Republic has ratified a number of international protocols of which Child trafficking protocol was the most recent.

Discussion and Evaluation:

The issue of Child Right Law presented a significant change within official recognition of the Right of Children and the importance of the presence of a unified law that guarantees all the rights through articles incorporating care and protection for children which are distributed in a number of national laws that contradict each other. Therefore the unified child right law (2002) included various rights of the child and most of its article conforms with the articles of the International

Convention on the Rights of the Child. However in examining the article of child right law No 45, it is evident that basic articles of the issued law contradict articles of the convention on the Rights of the child and the recommendations of the international committee No.10 that call on the government to the importance of adapting the national laws to CRC articles.

The issue of such legislation will cancel present contradiction in a number of laws pertinent to the rights of Children and this will put an end to applications a complications of the child position in the law . Noteworthy, that the Republic of Yemen has ratified the convention of the rights of the Child in 1991 with no reservations and this new law has been issued eleven years after the ratification of the convention .

Although the issue of Yemeni Child Law is considered a gain , it does not reflect the rules of the convention in the following aspects:

- The age (definition) of the child
- Administration of Juvenile Justices
- Some of the laws are put under especial laws although it is considered an independent separate law.
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- Regarding the issue of Republican resolution No 38 for the year 2000 the executive by laws of Juvenile law is considered by the government report as a legislative accomplishment.

In fact We believe that the by laws repeat articles content of Juvenile No. 24 (1992) which was amended in law No. 26 (1997) that is still criticized by NGOs and since some of its articles does not conform with children rights. Therefore we recommend the revision of child right law to adapting it to the International Convention on the Right of the Child.

b) National Strategies and Plans concerning Children:

The government policy in preparation general national and sectoral plans has expanded which is considered a progress towards organizing work and setting priorities . It is important to put mechanisms for implementing these plans and strategies to have a positive impact on the lives of children and improve their situation in conformity with the recommendations and observations of the UN committee issued in January 1999 (Refer to the recommendation of the UN committee No. (15) page (4).

There is no point in holding workshop and seminars (with no mechanism to follow up its results) and selective implementation of plans. There are a number of program and projects pertinent to children in difficult circumstances (working children, street children, orphans & juveniles) facing difficulties in implementation .

Positive Measures mentioned in the Government Reports:

- ◆ Reformulation of the Higher Council for Motherhood and childhood which has witnessed a qualitative progress in its work during the last two years.

*** Formation of Ministry of Human Rights:**

- ◆ The activities of nongovernmental organizations on the rights of has been accelerating and the number reached 65 NGOs but still have not made a real impact.

Also coordination and Joint work between governmental and nongovernmental institution did no reach the optional standards in all fields.

- ◆ The government provides limited funds to some of NGOs and that does not cover all their needs , it excludes other NGOs.

Regarding measures undertaken to collect data about children and their basic rights , a number of activities have been implemented . In this aspect strategies and programs were initiated in response to UN Committee recommendation No. (12) 1999. Due to lack of funds, the results of this work has been in often slow and hindered the implementation of programs related to surveys, studies and field researches.

- CRC implementation process has not been evaluated while the government report mentioned that it is under consideration and pointed out the importance of international revision especially in the Rights and Legislative aspect which has an impact on the protection of children.
- Initiatives executed in cooperation with the civil society are limited and the relation with governmental institutions is not developed enough to promote effective changes in the situation of the children. Thus relations are confined and coordination is random and ruled by requirements of circumstances and

occasions or personal relationship. Also the role of NGOs in advocating for the CRC is modest and not up to the required standard due to the weak institutional capacity building and shortage of funds.

Expenditure on Social Sectors and Budgetary allocations for children:

The government report admits that no budgets are allocated for children programs in government Annual plans. Therefore, it is difficult to evaluate the percentage of expenditure on social aspects concerning children, but it is possible to say that these allocations are decreasing within the government framework of economic. Under the slogan of administrative reform, the government is abandoning gradually its social responsibility especially in the fields of social care services provisions. In all these policies, children are the most affected victims.

- In the field of raising awareness, dissemination of CRC and its inclusion in school curricula and the role of media according to the UN committee recommendation No (13) in 1999. The previous period has witnessed a lot of activities implemented to raise awareness to rights of the children. Therefore, there is some progress in this aspect as mentioned in the government report but there is a need for intensive efforts to activate the role of official, non official media, mosques to raise awareness to the rights of children and incorporate them in basic education curricula which is considered one of the main concerns of child right advocates.

Section II

Definition of the child article (1) in the convention on the right of the child.

- Child right Law No (45) issued in 2002 defines the Child under the age of 15 (articles (59, 60)). Article (59) of the mentioned child right law describes "The age of maturity is fifteen" complete years and the person enjoy fully his mental ability and fully competent to practice his civil rights. The especial laws can set a higher age where a person can accordingly practice other rights or enjoy it while maturity can be considered as indicated by effective laws.

- Article (60) has specified the age of a minor i.e. " Child " anyone who did not reach maturity i.e. under the age of 15.
- Our comments is that These definitions in the child right law contradicts with the convention for the Rights on the Child which has defined the child "Any human being below the age of 18 ". The legislator has tried at the same time to show that he took the definition of the CRC whose article "2" describes that a child " Any person below the age of 18 and unless majority is attained at an earlier age".
- The government report mentioned that the definition of the child in the law is consistent with CRC. This is not true as the report was not specific when discussing this aspect as it mentioned in article (2) and ignored other articles like article (59) which specify the age of maturity. There is an apparent contradictions in the texts of the child law (No.45) articles in addition to some gaps and deficiencies that endangers the right of Juveniles in conflict with the law.
- The child right law No. (45) defines the juvenile " Any child who completed seven and did not attain maturity ". This is consistent with Juvenile law No. (24) for (1992) amended by law (24) for 1997 of which and its article (2) defines a juvenile is a child who is under 15 years of age. Several Nongovernmental organization s demands amendments of this law and raising the age of the Juvenile .
- Civil law No. (14) for2002 specified the age of responsibility is reaching a fixed legal age where the mature person is fully responsible.
- The Juvenile law specified the age of maturity at 15 years.
- The legal standards set by the Yemeni child right law do not express the insight within the CRC which defines a child below the age of18 years
- Defining the age of maturity at 15 years diminishes the period of child protection and burden him and make him fully responsible for all his act .

- It is worth mentioning inspite of the apparent contradictions in defining responsibility in the law, the criminal law amended recently abolished capital punishment for children under 18 and this is in conformity with UN committee recommendation No (20) for 1999 . Therefore we recommend the government the importance of revising all laws and legislations that do not conform with CRC .

Section III

General Principles:

- (a) **Non-discrimination** , Article (2) of the CRC. Yemeni constitution and the effective laws one of which is child right law guaranteed that all citizens have the right to practice all accessible available laws non-discriminately and this has been mentioned in the government report. But the attitude of equality as a general principle is not realized in a number of fields the most important of which is are:
 - 1) Education : There are not enough schools for girls to respond to negative social attitudes against coeducation and this deprives a large number of girls to access education and this does not fulfill the principle of equal opportunities as the facilities and schools are more available for boys while only 5% of the available schools are for girls and the rest are mixed schools and boys schools. This one of the reasons for non-enrolment girls and their dropout of school .
 - school curricula and media consolidate traditional stereotyped images for a boys and a girl (a man and a woman). This consolidate that a woman's (girl) role in life is limited to being mother, a housewife etc., while a man's role (a boy) is the breadwinner , leader, fighter, innovator ... etc.
 - 2) Issues related to social circumstances such as habits, tradition and social norms still discriminate against a woman in general and a girl child in particular in relation to future roles within the family and society . Thus boys are enrolled in school and qualified to support the family while the girl is prepared for house hold chores , reproduction and raising up children and family.
 - 3) Discrimination in applying harmful practices against girls' health by genital mutilating girls (FGM) in some areas in Yemen. The family status law puts men in charge of divorce and did not protect children from its consequences. In addition to other gaps

and deficiencies , in the family status law there is a genuine problem as the rule pertinent to family is based on the principle of paternal family which gives the father the control and responsibility of wife and children thus the principle of equality in this law does not exist. Family status law should reviewed to address authority within family according to the principle of equality.

- 4) Non-discrimination towards marginalized children (called locally Akhdam). There is a significant discrimination from the society against this category whose families lives under poverty line and could not provide basic needs of education and social to their children.
- 5) Children without family support: abandoned and street children and beggars
- 6) Children with disability suffer from social stigma and negative attitude which hinders their integration in the society, exclusion from school

b)The best interest of the child:

The Yemeni Child rights' Law tried to fill the gaps found in some of the executives laws that lacks guarantees of the rights of children . Noteworthy , the Yemeni constitution , legislations and laws included several important rules pertinent, to the rights of children in relation to care and protection. However the application of these law in reality encounter many difficulties related to the scarcity of capable institution that can provide protection and care for the child, insufficient financial and human resources that hinder qualitative development in taking prioritized consideration for the best interest of the child.

Social protection institutions responsible for securing protection and care for children are not capable of providing care or appropriate services for children due to weakness in institutional capacity building and working mechanisms which have negative implications on residents children.

- Children are exposed to violence, abuse and exploitation within the family, school and society, for example, many families push their children to leave school for work and girls are forced to marry at an early age. Also corporal punishment is practiced within school and the family (Results of researches executed by NGOs and INGOs during 2004)
The role of family and negative parental treatments have implications on the child's personality and affects his/her mental and social well being. (Abdulla Al-Yahri 2004)

It is important to give great consideration to the best interest of the child within the family as it is the first effective in the child's upbringing and due to its main functions to provide security, reassurance and protection for the child.

whenever family relations are good and follow participatory, educational rearing methods involving children in decision that affects their life. It is advisable for adults to be understanding and discard authoritarian approaches and allow a child to grow normally develop his/her abilities, self dependence and confidence.

- Regarding school and social life, it is important to review the diminishing educational role of the teacher inspite of the quantitative increase of schools and teachers. This situation influences the development of the education, and quality of schools is lower while school rules are not implemented. This weakens the educational role of the school, and promotes misbehaviours such as violence and drug addiction among pupils. and their future vulnerable. Both school and family play an essential role in social upbringing of the child.
- Social institution that train those who deal with children rights and protect their best interest should be aware of the problems related to the child. These can only be overcome through provision of the basic needs protection of children and not only through plans and of strategies.

C)Rights for Existence, Survival and Development

- b) Both the constitution and child rights law have guaranteed the right of the child to life, survival and development but this is not enough as child right advocates are worried about measures taken by the government to secure these basic principle of CRC and considered priorities for children.

Are a result of obstacles facing the provision of these rights which as follows:

- There are new factors which have direct impact and forms the root causes for infant and children mortality .
- The six killing diseases (TB, measles, bronchitis, diarrhea and malaria)
- The six killing diseases have killed recently many children in Amran governorate (Ministry of Health 2003 report.)
- Securing the life of the child his/her development and preparation for better life requires more efforts to ensure that the child enjoys these rights within the law which this linked with the level of economic, social , cultural and scientific development in the society. This will improve individual living standard and provide his fundamental needs like: nutrition, healthy housing, preventive health care and services, drinking water drainage systems, clean environment , education for all, provision of cultural resources and social upbringing, the provision of these basic needs have been part of the follow-up actions by the government to the UN Committee recommendations to close the gaps between rural and urban areas.

c) Respect the opinion of the Child:

The constitution gives the child of the right to express his/her opinion (Article 42) and so does child right law (article 7) which is in conformity with CRC article (12) . In reality we can conclude it is too early to make this right reality . Environmental circumstances and prevalent traditions based on parental and adult authority , do not perceive that children have a right of exercising influence over their situation the family, school or society. Due to cultural background and illiteracy often family the relation with the child is not based on dialogue or does not allow the child to express himself or listen to him/her. Therefore there is a great need for intensive media , raising awareness and cultural activities to enhance the importance of the right of child in having their voices and heard and development of their child's personalities .

- Regarding education , learning ,school should be more progressive and child focused far from the existing traditional methods based one rote learning. New curriculum encouraging critical thinks should be introduced

- There is proportional progress in relation to Juvenile Justices and formation of Juvenile courts but still their number is confined to main cities of five governorates . It is essential in the near future to build the capacity of judges and those who deal with children in conflict with the law and expand their services to improve the situation of children in other governorate who do not access the practice of such rights.

Chapter Three

Rights and Civil Liberties

◆ Name and Nationality:

The civil rights are considered priorities of children rights since child's personality depends on them in the future. As mentioned in the government report, the effective laws in the Republic of Yemen have given the child all his civil rights represented in his right of a name, nationality, identity, his right to breastfeeding, financial support, health and education and gave him the right to expression and play besides other rights. There are still obstacles that hamper the fulfillment of some of these rights for a category of children. When an illegitimate child is found, he/she is handed over the social institutions known to care for such children. This procedure is against civil rights law and civil registration law. Some time illegitimate children are given to interested people but the state does not provide them with any financial support according to article (40) in the child right law which states that the government should provide allowance for an illegitimate child with no income.

Regarding name and nationality are stated in the articles in the civil law number (39), Yemeni nationality law number (6) for 1990 and child right law number (45) for 2002 conforms with article (7) of CRC. Most these mentioned articles have been fulfilled in all parts of Yemen and violations are rare.

The constitution in article (57) have secured freedom of formation of association, freedom of peaceful assembly and gave the citizens the right to organize themselves politically and socially on condition that these activities not at variance with the effective laws. Furthermore article (8) of children right emphasized the right of the child to set up clubs and association. The children have practiced this right through the formation of child to child association and girl guides and boy scouts association. There are other clubs and associations that practice different activities. In the last decade the government has established sport clubs and facilitated the formation of children parliament which agrees with the content of article (5) of the CRC.

Protection of Private Life:

Articles (48,52 and 53) in the Yemeni Constitution respects private life and non-violation and there is protection of privacy of home, mosques, educational facilities and secrecy of all and different means of

communication. Herewith we refer to childhood related issued laws in Yemen through issuing and ratifying several convention the most importance of which:

- 1) Child right law No. (45) for 2002
- 2) Juvenile Law and establishment of Juvenile persecution and court in a republicans resolution
- 3) labor child law and the precautional measures, against employers especially those who recruit children in harmful occupations
- 4) Law for care and rehabilitation of children with special needs and establishment of disabled care fund No. (12) for 2002
- 5) Law for care and rehabilitation of the disabled . It is found in child right law article (9) that a child has the right to enjoy all rights and public freedom with no discrimination based on nationality colour , religion or origin . Therefore the role of NGOs should be activate their role in this field and defend the best interest of children and monitor the implementation of articles of conventions that touch childhood especially related to private life protection .

Access to appropriate information:

In Articles (92-102) in Yemeni child right law, the government should provide possible means to access educational and social information that promote child's his education and provide necessary measures for social leisure from a diversity of national and international sources consistent with his mental ability and religion. One of the outstanding implemented activities mention in the government report is training more that 2500 boys and girls in child rights and involving them in the establishment of a democratic institution i.e. children parliament. Furthermore establishment of associations and institutions dealing with childhood issues and promotion of children creativity through organizing free drawing sessions and innovative competitions . It is planned to disseminate these activities in several cities in Yemen.

The government monitors and developed guidelines for the protection of the child from harmful local and imported material injurious and contradictory with Islam values and traditions of the Yemeni society . The government should encourage translation of imported material and involve in children in adapting them to their situation . This process should be executed out in

both rural and urban areas to encourage children to have access to appropriate and useful information.

Right to Protection from exposure to torture , cruel and inhuman treatment:

The child labour law states " the child has the right not to work in hazardous inappropriate occupation" . Also there are article that subjects employers to penalties as in article (155) of child right law paragraph 6 state application of punishment and a fine in case of deliberate maltreatment . Yemen has ratified Convention Against Torture and so children have the right to access protection against cruel and inhuman treatment. In addition to that , the Juvenile law and its by laws, juvenile persecution and courts and NGOs have organized training workshops for policemen , security men, judges who deal with juvenile children. The main purpose was to promote juvenile offenders protection and disseminate awareness to laws and convention that promote right of protection and human treatment highlighting the presence of penalty laws against those who practice cruel and inhuman treatment.

Chapter Four

Family Environment and Alternative Care

Parents Guiding Role:

Parents' Guidance and their responsibilities :

The parents' guidance role is one of the most important rights that comes under the responsibility of parents. Islamic religion has confirmed that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child . The best interests for the protection of the child is a basic concern. Parent should provide them with what meets their needs such as breast feeding, custody , identity, financial support and health and social care

The government report has mentioned in this field that the content of articles Numbers (2-8) in child right law specifies the responsibility of the state and duties towards provision of the child's needs and awareness raising and dissemination of CRC and its importance in building child's balanced personality .

The government report has pointed out measures taken but it is not mentioned that these taken measures are only implemented in big cities and most of the time by civil society organization while law the specified this is the government main responsibility. Furthermore child right law is not effective yet and the amended Juvenile law 1997 is prevalent . The deteriorating living standards of family contributed to diminishing its role and responsibilities towards the child and led to several bad phenomenons such as child's labour, begging and school dropout. This is because the family cannot perform its child-rearing responsibilities and is working hard to provide its basic needs and this led to weakness of parental responsibilities towards their children.

Separation from parents:

The child's best interest is to live with his/her parents but in the care of divorce or dissertation , the child suffers and become homeless and .

The government report has noted that solutions of parental separation implications on the child depends on family status law No. (20) for1992 , although articles No. (24-35) in the child rights law have secured all the child's legislative rights in case of separation of one parents such as breastfeeding , custody, financial support etc. The problem is that child rights law is not applied until now as it does not

conform with the family status law . The latter law is not only out dated according to the new social trends but also it contradicts with CRC.

Family Reunification :

The Yemeni society is considered one of the societies in the Arab world that adheres to prevalent traditions and habits and looks down at the separation of any member from the family for any reason, thus promotion of family coherence . It is true that Yemen's migrate for economic reasons but this does not affect the family reunion.

Illegal child Trafficking :

Child trafficking rarely happen in the Yemeni society and is considered a new phenomenon . The government has safe-guarded in criminal and penalty law and child rights law the provision of several strict penalties , procedures and measures to hamper the spread of child trafficking activities . The government's security law enforcements institutions and civil registration are monitoring all land, sea and air borders.

During the last few years, child trafficking phenomenon information was passed by UNCIEF to Yemeni Government and border security personnel was estimated that 10% of the children are trafficked through Kingdom of Saudi Arabia whose authorities returned them about 10% of children still there is no information about other children who were not returned and could have been exploited in child labour and illegal activities .

The Yemeni government and parliament have interacted positively with this problem and initiated a research to investigate reasons that made parents to facilitate the trafficking of their children. Based on the outcome of this research, Yemen parliament will respond with a number of resolutions that obligate the government to confront problem and prevent it.

Provision of Financial support for the Child:

Child right law article Number (36-40) have specified mechanism for provision of financial support for the child as a legal right and set procedures for its termination, increase, or decrease . Also article Number (155) of the same law stated penalty measures for capable parents who refuse to provide financial support for his/her child Article number (40) of child rights law specified financial support for an illegitimate child to taken from his money if available or if he has no

money and nobody donated to support him, then it is the responsibility of the government to do so . In reality, children without family are not supported .

The government report mentioned based on article number (110) of child rights in relation to provision of alternative family for those children deprived of family environment as a result of divorce or death of one or both parents or in the case of an illegitimate child or a child without relatives to care for him.

Alternatives provided by the child rights law are as follows:

- Alternative families:
This model is not found in our Yemeni society and if there are some families ready to do, often they are more interested in the financial support. Therefore a child grows up disappointed and not provided with the required care.

Social Care Institutions:

What provided by this institution basely cover at all food for a child. The given amount does not exceed ten dollars every three month, which contradict in article number (113) of child right law.

Noteworthy most of the children who are deprived of family environment suffers greatly and they are more exposed to different forms of violations and exploitation, and abuse. They are desperately in need of food and shelter supervision and care.

Adoption and sponsorship:

According to Islamic legislations it is forbidden to adopt children and name them after the adopter as this present a great social danger for the child who would not able to know his real identity when reaching maturity . Therefore Islamic legislation urged sponsorship of the child to care for his brining up and care for his health and social needs. A sponsor has the right to provide him with money in his will on condition the child and can keep his name and identity but he has no right to inherit his sponsor.

Periodic followup of the child creativity :

The government mentionrd in its report Article Number (136) of Child Rights Law which says that a child must undergo medical checkup before joining labour inorder to ensure his physical and health well being . Also article (127) of the same law notes the importance of social care institutions supervision and followup of education and rehabilitation of

juvenile offenders and permit them to work in jobs that would not harm their health and dignity

The related official bodies in the government are aware what is happening in the lives of labor children who work in garbage collection, sweeping streets, welding workshops, fishing and as peddlers . They neither undergo medical check up to ensure their physical and health well being nor are given official permit or provided with tools of vocational safety.

Abuse, neglect including physical and psychological rehabilitation and social integration.

The government mentioned in its report articles issued to protect children from all forms of abuse and exploitation . Also that these articles specify and mechanism and penalties to anyone who maltreat a child in his custody. In addition to that the government report noted positively in article number (158) solution for root causes that should be avoided by responsible authorities to provide facilities for psychological rehabilitation and social reintegration of children to enable them to adapt well in the society.

The Report lacks discussing concrete measures to save children from abuse and neglect. Physical and psychological rehabilitation for child victim does not exist even in the main Capital cities.

Chapter Five

Leisure, Recreation and cultural activities

Education is essential to any society and is considered the basis for any development , innovation and progress in any country in the world.

The constitution gives the right to education and equal opportunities to all citizens and made basic education free and compulsory.

General Education Law No. (45) for 1992 and child right law No. (45) article (81) have mentioned that educational circulla aims to promote scientific and and cultural development and building the child's personality, hobbies and skills article (82) .

The government report highlights the level of implementation of the CRC in. According to what has been highlighted in the report we perceive that :-

- There is commitment to constitutions adherence to effective laws of which the general education law No. (45) for 1992 and child rights law No. (45) for 2002 . In the questionnaire disseminated by the coalition for National NGOs for Child Rights in various governorates the results were as follows:-
 - State does not provide free and compulsory education for all, as children have to pay school fees under different names such as " community contribution which is an annual fee, certificates' fees, examination papers fees etc.
- Education is not considered compulsory as there are many school age children outside school. There should mechanism and executive bylaw to ensure compulsory education . Furthermore , the government economic difficulties hinder the fulfillment of complete coverage for the requirements of compulsory education .

School Administration do not apply especial school fees exemption for children from poor families and there is no ministerial resolution to exempt them from paying school fees. Noteworthy many families are poor and have more than one child in school.

- 5) The government does not provide through any of its institution support to poor families and orphans which help them to continue their education. Social care fund provide for poor

and disabled children three thousands Yemeni Rials equivalent to 17 US\$ every three months.

- There is a tangible role for some of the charitable associations that provide limited support to poor children such as school bags and some school requirements which does not cover the needs of poor children who can not afford school expenses
- School Building :
School Building with all its components is important for the continuation of the educational process. In reality all environmental circumstances and basic requirements for education in relation to school health, toilets, playgrounds should be taken under consideration . There are a number of problems in this aspect where components of the school building is not provided for which should have taken into consideration the age of children, their rights to education in appropriate places. In this aspect we record the following remarks:
 - Some of basic education schools are situated in main roads which is not safe for young children.
 - In some governorates unplanned private building are build within school walls thus decreasing playground areas
 - Lack of school furniture and students are forced to learn while sitting on the floor.
 - Presence of pupils from different educational grades in one class and taught by one teacher due to lack of enough classrooms. These collective classes lead to negative implications on quality of basic education especially " grade one in both rural and urban areas. Many areas in the country side and outside cities are deprived of schools
 - Quantity on the expense of quality: Ministry of Education is striving to make positive changes in the educational system and inspite of the increase in building schools quantative and enrollment of children , there is increase on the expense of quality of education due to lack of financial resources which should improve the educational circumstances, provide appropriate classrooms, qualified teachers, books and visual aids. We notice increase of pupils in one class to 70 students . This affects teacher's ability of class management and students comprehension ability.

School Curricula:

Inspite of the curricula development and the positive aspect of unifying school curricula in basic education, still there are problems pertinent to school books due to continuous curricula changes.

There is a requirement to include concepts related to human rights, physical education and environment education in the curricula. It is also essential to make qualitative change in the educational agenda and discard current traditional approaches based on rote learning and lecturing.

Girl's Education:

The government report highlights that establishing schools in urban and rural areas is on the rise. The number of primary and secondary schools for the years 90,91,2000,2001 rose from (10004) schools in 90/91 to (13141) in the year 2000/2001 out of which 6% are girls schools 13% are boys schools and 81% mixed schools.

According to the above mentioned statistics there is no significant increase in girls schools which show target disparities in terms of gender and urban /rural residence and girls education is not a priority in rural area.

Table indicates total rate of enrollment for age group (6-14) years for the years (90-91-2000).

Gender	Urban %	Rural %	Difference
Boy	99	57	33
Girls	91	38	43
Difference	9	19	10

- Source: General Department for Statistics and planning / Ministry of Education (An saf Kassim)

Literacy programs are weak inspite of the fact that it is a national task and should be one of the government priorities being closely linked with development. If literacy is not accelerated, development will hindered. Furthermore a whole generation of children outside school will have to join literacy classes.

This issue should be reviewed soon by authorities as it could not be postponed

Preschool Education:

Preschool education is important as part of the educational process as this stage prepares children psychologically to school environment (Basic education Law No.(45) for 1992, article (16.a) states that preschool education is part of the education system. Therefore preschools are the basic of the educational process and article (17-6) specified in the education law the objective of preschool is to prepare child to following stages of education and train children to love education and provide them with lofty values and positive habits to ensure their social and health well being cooperation and enjoy with the company of other children.

We can say that preschool education was not considered highly by the government . An evaluation research carried by the preschools research and educational development center states to that no unified curricula as the one several sources for preschool curriculum . It was found that government preschools uses(26.66%) and (22.72%) respectively basic education grade one book. Therefore it is clear that pres-school education suffers from deficiency and weakness . In addition to that teaching reading and writing at an early age has negative effects on children. Preschool education should be prepared by qualified specialists in education and psychology who are aware of characteristics of this age group. The prepared syllabus should incorporate teaching skills through play etc.

The number of preschools mentioned in the government report is exaggerated ⁽¹⁾ . In reviewing the annual statistics report and Ministry of education reports indicates the following:-

- Official data is found incorrect when verified with the general preschool department in Ministry of Education as the number of governments and private pre-schools until academic year

1) (Reality of preschools and their development (first National Conference of Basic Education) prepare by the General Department of Pre-school , Sana'a Oct 2002

(2000/2001) reached 122 preschool targeting (16747) children A table indicating number of government and private schools:

Academic year	No.of Government and Private preschools	No of Enrolled children
90/91	51	9847
91/92	62	12620
92/93	79	11006
93/94	79	9357
94/95	87	11412
95/96	15351	19608
96/97	62178	14642
97/98	123	16231
98/99	172	13367
99/2000	116	12809
2000/2001	122	16747

Source: General Pre-school Department / Ministry of Education paper submitted in the National conference for Childhood Education (May 2001)

Technical Education and vocational Training:

The government has expanded the structure of administrative of technical education and vocational raining, still the progress in this sector is limited as there is not a clear strategy vision for middle technical education which will include students who do not get opportunities to continue their secondary or university education. In addition to that, it is important to take into consideration distribution of students according to their talents , interest and skills and ability development in required middle cadre specialization and meets the needs of market economy.

These are aspects of deficiency in the sector of education admitted in the government report which includes the following:-

- 1) Lack of expansion of development in technical education and vocational training
- 2) Limitation in enrollment capacity
- 3) Most of the enrolled students are males. Girls' enrollment is low.

Deficiency in educational process represented several factors of which:

- 1) Shortage and absence of visual aids
- 2) Lack of school laboratories and libraries
- 3) Lack of encouragement for extra curricula activities.
- 4) Deficiency in school building which is not adapted to educational requirements.
- 5) Dropout from schools which is one of the main problem that face the educational projects in Yemen due to several causes of which low quality of the educational system

Cultural Activities and Leisure time:

The organization of cultural activities and leisure time for children is considered one of the basic rights. Still this right is not achieved and not taken into consideration when setting plans, strategies and cultural projects.

- Absence of children libraries in governorates
- There are no programs for organizing activities for children and youth leisure time . Places where children could play and practice recreational activities are used for building houses.

- Number of children gardens are limited and only found in main cities of governorates and lacks of services and maintenance . Many of these facilities were handed over to investors who changed them to Trade Centers and huge cement building and what happened in the last years in Aden is a good example.
- School playgrounds are neglected and exploited in private building .
- The right of children to leisure is neglected and even disappearing within schools where extra curricula activities programme were organized during summer holidays. NGOs' activities in this aspect is also limited.

Chapter Six

Basic health and leisure

A)Children with disability:

Disability forms is highly prevalence among the population and " there are surrounding various environmental challenges and dangers that confront this category . People with disability are not only exposes to many problems and difficulties related to their disability but also absence of comprehensive environmental legislations which take in consideration cultural , and environmental obstacles and special needs of the disabled. These led to their continuous deprivation of access to services and benefiting from them which deter inclusion of intervention within sectoral and population polices " .

In the Yemeni Family health survey the percentage percentage of disabled is about 38.1 in every1000 persons with a percentage (20.3) in every 1000 males in urban areas (18.8) in every 1000 female while (36.8) in every 1000 males in rural areas to (25.1) females . The general percentage of disability among the population is (2.09%) .

The situation of children with disability in Yemen is one of the man problems in Yemen is one of the main problems which requires care and concern inspite of slight improvement in legislations and law and issue of Disability Law (1999) and establishment of a disability fund for care and rehabilitation of the disabled . Still the problem poses in the executive aspects due to routine practices hindered implementation of by the laws and has negative implications in the disabled child, w have to bear in mind that disability in one to five persons is due to birth and genetic reasons. At the same time approximately one of in persons disability is carried by disease while injury causes reached 16.5 %.

Results of family health survey mentioned that medical is still deficient as during (2002) only (22%) disabled persons got access to health care which means that children are the most vulnerable to access health care due to access health care which means that children are the most vulnerable to access health care due to lack of services to reach this needy category.

It is possible to confine children with disability problems and needs to several aspects that requires holding programs targeting them to promote access to care and protection inorder to alleviate their suffering

and integrate them in the society:

Based on these requirements the child with disability still suffers from the following problems:

- 1) Expansion in establishment of special centers and cadres in the field of disability especially in rural areas where these centers are not available. Only few of these centers exist in four main cities.
- 2) Importance of provisions of medical care for children with disability and obligate all hospitals and medical centers in all governorates in the Republic and support nongovernmental institutions for care and rehabilitation of the disabled to enable them to reach target groups in rural areas.
- 3) Activate laws through serious work of comprehensive national survey to identify the magnitude of disabled children and kinds of disabilities and work to enroll them in basic education schooling according to their abilities and readiness. To enhance this process, there is a need to maintain a number of aspects related to inclusion of children with disability in general education.
 - School building should be more welcoming to the disabled that building do not form an obstacle to the children with disability enrolment in school.
 - Ministry of Education should establish classes within general education schools to enable children with the educational process in addition to safe environment and roads .
 - Encourage rehabilitation and training in the field of special education and qualifying social workers and psychologists who work with this category.
 - Provide children with disability with health cadres to enable them to access free medical care in various hospitals and health center at national level.

B) Health and Medical services:

The right to access medical care is one of the rights secured by Yemeni legislations and law. Article (55) in the constitution states that " Medical care is a right of all citizens secured by the state through establishment of hospitals and health facilities. The laws regulating medical profession and expansion of free medical services and dissemination of health awareness among citizens " Article (56) of the constitution that " the state should provide social security in case of disease, disability, unemployment, old age or loss of breadwinner .

The child rights law highlights " A child has the right to medical care during pregnancy , birth and after birth through provision of free basic medical services of poor children. However, these legislative policies and legal texts are not translated into reality as there are big problems related to medical care and introduction of medical services. The government report did not give objective evaluation of the present situation but highlight to points of positive issues though there are genuine problems in the aspect of the general health services and we discuss the most outstanding.

- Although health is basic right for the individual in the CRC and health care is a mean to access this right without obstacles, we find the role of medical services started to change gradually into relinquishing its social and human role and medical and examination fees have to be paid. In addition that medicines are more expensive and medical services deteriorated in government hospital which affect negatively child and mother's health.
- International care and post delivery care services are still deficient and delivery away from medical supervision is common.
- There is slight process in awareness raising to reproductive health through this did not change the negative attitude towards delivery at early and late ages in addition lack of spacing between deliveries.
- There are limited measures taken towards sexually transmitted diseases through lately a special project for these disease was initiated to combat them. But there are not statistics and data about the magnitude of these problem in relation to children.

Antenatal care:

According to Yemeni Family Health Survey about (55%) of women did not follow up their last pregnancy while (41% have been to a doctor and (4%) to midwives and nurses. The percentage of those who did not get antenatal care is rising to (62%) in rural areas compared to only (31%) in urban areas.

Post delivery Care:

Home delivery is common in Yemen and the survey mentioned that (77%) of women delivery at home which is a high percentage and (16%) delivered in a general hospital. This means that only a small percentage of women received antenatal care in hospital and health centers. Generally delivery outside health facilities have negative effects on mother and child health.

Post Delivery Care:

There is small percentage of post delivery care health facilities, therefore a small percentage of women received medical care during the six weeks after delivery

Safe Motherhood:

Average mother mortality results of pregnancy and delivery complications ranges between medium and high . Therefore great efforts should be made to lower mother's mortality and this is linked with improving medical services in hospitals and health centers and build the capacity of health cadres and midwives.

Infant mortality:

Inspite of all efforts in this aspect still infant mortality percentage is high compared with countries in MENA Region.

A table indicating estimations average under five infant mortality

Chartistics		Average of under five infant mortality
Gender	Male	100.3
	Female	99.3
Residence	Urban	79.30
	Rural	105.2
Total		99.8

Source: Family Health Services 2003

The table shows average estimation under five infant mortality during the last five years for ever 1000 born child according to gender and residence. The average mortality reached 105 in one thousand.

Immunization Against the six killing diseases:

Ministry of Public Health and population area periodic comprehensive vaccination campaigns against the six killing diseases. The family

health survey highlights that the percentage of children in the age group (12-23) months whose vaccination was completed is about group (37.2%) . There are problems pertinent to vaccination as lately measles spread led to the death of a number of children. Also influential factors represented in lower antenatal and post delivery care, increase diseases especially diarrhea , bronchitis and the six childhood diseases and higher number of malnutrition children so there is a great need for more efforts to combat that.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):

FGM phenomenon is spread in Yemen especially in costal area. The result of demographic survey of mother and child health (1991-1992) shows that FGM is mostly prevalent in Hodiada (80%) Hadramout (90%) and Al-Mahra (98%) . Also the result of family health survey have indicated that 56% of women in Yemen knows about female circumcison out of which (38%) had FGM and (22%) have circumcised their daughters. It was found that average circumcison age is (2-8) years in urban areas and gives up to (7-8) years in rural areas. Circumcision is often practiced at home (94%)

The government have taken measures to stop and combat this phenomenon through the issuing of a ministerial resolution Number (113) for (2001) by Minister

According to the resolution practise FGM is banned all health workers in general and private health services which is considered a positive step to combat this phenomenon . Therefore we think a series of procedures should be implemented of which:-

- Legal and administrative measures
- Awareness measures (organizing raising awareness sessions and health education to change attitudes . Through mass media, health education programmes.
- Education and guidance to point out the psychological and medical implications of FGM . These programmes should be incorporated within educational curricula in health and university insinuations .

C) Social Insurance Security and Child Care services facilities:

Although the constitution, social care law and child rights law have stated that the government should provide children requirements, the results of the coalition of national NGOs, for child rights questionnaire in March (2004) shows that social security does not include all categories of poor children. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and its related

institution provide support to a very limited number of children and does not reach poor children who take refuge in the streets to secure their basic needs. The indicators of field study of street children in Yemen shows that the magnitude street children and beggars is on the raise and they practice several minor jobs to secure the minimum of their basic needs to survive.

1) Adequate Living Standard:

The government report noted that the state is trying to take measure to reduce poverty alleviation through the social safety net. The real situation proves that people are suffering from big problems and the poverty circle is expanding .

The application of an economical and administrative restructure reform caused negative results reflected on the people. The economical reform programme included a number of measures associated with people's lives of which:-

- 1) State withdrawal of economic and productive activities
- 2) Abolishing public and mixed sectors through privatization of these sectors without finding solution for the unemployment problem and many workers were made redundant adding new burdens on families.
- 3) Increase in costsof basic services prices (Electricity, Water, communication and fuel)
- 4) Removal of government subsidies to basic goods
- 5) compulsory fees for medical services

Negative Implications of the Reform Programs on the Society:

- Increase in unemployment
- Prevalence of poverty.
- Disappearance of middle class
- Devaluation of local currency in comparison with foreign currencies .The exchange rate reached 185 YR to One US dollar
- Decrease of individual income (GNP) from (707) US\$ to (360) USD in 1996.

All these factors had direct implications on children situation as they are the category in need of family care. Poverty phenomenon according to family budget survey (1998) and information in Poverty Reduction Strategy (2003-2005) it is pointed out the increase in population rate who can not access the food and non food needs which include food, clothing, shelter, health , education and transportation to (41.8%) and

17.6% of the population in Yemen live under poverty line. These rate reflect the hazardous situation and livelihood of (6.9) million people who suffer of poverty and afraid of slipping under poverty line. Furthermore the increase of poverty gap in about 13.2% unit . It is not possible to discuss the standard of living without addressing human poverty and this was pointed by the mechanism of the poverty reduction strategy (2003-2005) which is measured by a number of social indicators pertinent to population e.g. fertility, mother and Infant mortality and other social measure such as literacy rate, primary and secondary education enrollments rates, ability of individuals to access primary health care, safe drinking water, concretes of population who can accessing electricity. All these indicators reflects low level of human development index that reaches)0.468)in Yemen that place the country at (133) out of (162) countries categorized by the international human index report for (2002) . Among the least developed lowest countries . All these indicators in addition to fast population growth and limitation of basic services in rural and urban residences affects directly the basic needs of children who are considered in need of adults care and proection

Inspite of the government's exaggeration in the role of social safety net in its report, what is available shows the modest capabilities of this net to combat poverty and it is confronted by difficulties which prevent fulfillment of its role . In addition to that safety net support provided to children does not represent an important number to consider as an the indicator to alleviate sufferring of poor children.

Chapter Seven

Special Protection

Refugee Child.

Information on the refugee children and children in armed conflicts are very limited. All services provided by the government mentioned in UNHCR Statistics in Kharaz camp/ Lahej is complete in article (259) of the report page (90).

We recommend that more attention should be provided by the government and NGOs to activate their role among refugees to raise awareness to the harms of FGM, early marriage and sexually transmitted diseases which of high

Other NGO and INGO should contribute in caring for the refugees besides UNHCR in the field of health, education, food and guidance.

Soldier Children

There is information that children under 18 years are recruited in armed forces although Yemeni child rights law article (149) states that government should respect international law. There is lack of awareness of parents to the dangers of recruiting children under 18 years in armed forces and they continue to do so because of their economic situation. Tribal big families consider it a pride in carrying weapons . Children are forced to be involve in tribal and family conflicts and they are number one victims .

The government has issued a resolution to ban children carrying weapons especially juvenile offenders .But the problem is deeply rooted in traditions and customs and recommend big concern from the Government.

- 5) The constitution specified in article (48) that the state safeguards personal freedom and it is not allowed to limit anyone's freedom unless decided by a specialized court . The Government report mentioned that there are juvenile prosecution and juvenile courts but in fact they are not playing an effective role. The coalition in cooperation with UNICEF held a training course for those who is working with juveniles in the hope to enhance their role . This includes policemen, prison staff , prosecutors , judges and social workers.

Juveniles :

Houses of Social care for Juveniles are one of the most important institutions for rehabilitation of children e.g. in vocational training ,like carpentry, welding etc., as we have witnessed in Sana'a House for Juvenile but lack the capacity to enhance their role in rehabilitation of juvenile care. Therefore it is essential to develop their capacity building and involve nongovernmental organizations in the development juvenile care programs. VIP social persons and business men, NGOs are required to play a role in expanding the pilot experiment of streets and working children centers. Also there is a need for establishment of juvenile centers for girls and management of these institution in conformity with our Arab traditions and Islamic values.

- Participation of NGO in raising awareness programs to the hazards and abuse working children are exposed to these organization should urge government represented by Ministry of Labor to activate Child Labor Project in coordination with the Civil Society and UN - INGOs present in Yemen .

In relation to the above mentioned issues we recommend the Child right Committee to confirm the government :-

- 1) The efforts of the government and its judicial and security institutions through declaration of Aden Police station free of violence against juveniles are appreciated and that this experience should be disseminated in other governorates .
- 2) NGOs should enhance their role in holding training courses in Refugee camps
- 3) Raise awareness of parents to the dangers of recruitment of children under the age of 18 years in armed forces and weapon acquisition .
- 4) Activate the role of prosecution and juvenile courts ,and houses of direction for juveniles in promoting their rehabilitative role.
- 5) Enhance the role of houses of social care to give the rehabilitation of juveniles a priority and involve specialized staff in psychology and sociology in juvenile related programs

Exploitation:

- Economic Exploitation including child labor:
The government report highlighted a number of articles in some laws which specified child labor conditions of employment, working hours and hazardous work for children.

The government report narrated measures taken by the government, represented by:-

- 1) A project for combating child labor signed in Geneva
- 2) Establishment of child labor unit with Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor
- 3) Appointment of a national coordinator for child labor programs to carry out survey, studies... etc

The coalition would like to note that all the measures mentioned in the government report have only minimal impact in main governorates while not tangible impact in general. Child Labor is still a widespread problem and growing while the government does not set significant and realistic solutions. Child labor is not an inherited problem but a result of a number of circumstances (such as unemployment)that made children victims to exploitation of parents, school and home violence which led to dropout of children from schools. Also spread of chewing qat phenomenon among parents have negative implications on the family economic situation and which lead to deterioration of social and moral aspects of families and exploitation of children.

Sexual exploitation:

The state has provided the required protection for children from any sexual exploitation through issuing effective laws and adhering to Islamic legislations. Yemen judges have enforced cruel punishment against those who abducted children and in some cases reached capital punishment. The child right committee has recommended in Jan.1999 within its concluding observations No. (22) the importance of monitoring these practices and prepare a field study to identify the magnitude of the problem and fill the gap of knowledge on the problem . Until now, this recommendation has not be accomplished by the government.

Protection from Drug Addiction :

Issue of Law No. (3) for 1993 and article of (148) of child rights law No.(45) for (2002) prohibit taking , trade and dissemination of drug substances and this punishment extends to any one who urges a child to do so. These measures taken by the government did not succeeded in preventing the drug addiction phenomenon as long as children are encouraged to chew qat by the family and this plant the seed for taking drugs among children.

Child Trafficking, Kidnapping and Sale of Children

A new emerging acute issue of child rights violation which was condemned by the whole society and was discussed also in the Yemeni Parliament . The government issued a number of legal provisions to protect children of these practices such as criminal and punishment law and child rights law.

It is worth mentioning that in the recent four year, the child trafficking phenomenon have started to raise attentions as children were trafficked illegally through Saudi borders.

This was verified by border securities when they were handed over a trafficked Yemeni child trafficked Illegally. It was estimated that about 10% of Yemeni children are exposed to child trafficking and this is considered an alarming percentage. During investigations, it was found that some families push their children to child trafficking perpetrators as result of their desperate living situation. It is important that government and NGOs increase targeting this problem was recommended by the child right committee in 1999.

E)Other Forms of Exploitation:

There are other forms of children exploitation limited in our society begging and child labor due to spread poverty, lack of social care provision that can rehabilitate these children socially, educationally and psychologically. Furthermore family disintegration resulting from divorce and other social problems make these phenomenon more spread and deepen .

Concluding Remarks And Recommendations

Yemen government has met its obligation and submitted its third periodic report in the specified schedule and this is a positive measure undertaken by the Yemeni government with respect for executing its obligations and schedules to International Committee on CRC .

Inspite of this achievement the report lacked initial steps and procedures to prepare the report accoprding to the UN Committee recommendation and to reply to the IC on CRC concluding observation forwarded to Government delegation in Jan.1999.

- The coalition alternative report discussion of the government report depended on methodological approach in gathering information and data to compare with the information contained in the government report. The main purpose is to come out with recommendations and proposals that will assist the International Child Right Committee discussions with the government delegation in February 2005
- We would like to point out that the preparation of the third alternative report by the Coalition faces organizational and financial difficulties which hampered submitting it at the appropriate time and planed schedule. This is part of the institutional capacity building problems and facilities also other circumstances of NGOs in Yemen.
- One of the difficulties that encountered the process of preparation of the coalition third alternative report is that the government did not adhere to guidelines set by the International Committee . The government report was submitted in 140 pages as if it is the initial report and not a continuation to the first and second report

submitted to the International Committee in 1994 and 1997 . In addition the government report did not take into consideration the concluding observations of the Child Right Committee based on the discussion with the government delegation and did not discuss them within the government report to measure the level of implementation of these recommendation and adherence to CRC ratified in April 1991. This was reflected by the content of the report and big quantity of information required, not required and old and new. The preparing the report and its content formed an added obstacle to the preparation of the Alternative Report. the coalition experienced administrative and financial difficulties to submit the report on time and since all members of the the EB of the Coalition are active on voluntary bases. Thanks to SC – Sweden and UNICEF support that made this report a success.

In the preparation process the coalition involved personalities from the media , NGOs and INGO and Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood to listen to their views and remarks on the process of preparation and content of the report that will be submitted to the international committee. As a result of all these efforts and activities and inspite of faced difficulties, the alternative report managed to discuss the government report and clarify a number of issues the government report failed to discuss in a realistic form. Also the alternative report managed to come out with a number of proposals and recommendations to enable the International Committee to discuss them with the government delegation.

The coalition appreciate the interaction and response of its members and leading executive committee and was able to prepare its third periodic alternative report and submit it to the office of International nongovernmental organizations in Geneva in its original copy in Arabic .

The sustainability and development in methods of preparation of (both the government and the NGOs reports) to measure the extent of the implementation of CRC are positive indicators that should be supported by the International Committee for the Rights of the Child and also all INGOs working on child rights in Yemen.

Finally:

The Coalition hopes that its alternative report raise the interest of all related bodies concerned with children rights and CRC – Committee find it informative to produce productive discussions thus proposals and recommendations for benefits of Yemen children.-

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