



UNICEF AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PARTNERSHIP DYNAMICS: PROMOTION OF CHILD RIGHTS AND WELFARE

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ABSTRACT:

Traditionally, children are generally considered to be the private property of the parents and were barely treated as someone possessing or holding the rights. Children were deprived from separate rights as they did not seen as an individual hence they did not have separate rights. Mostly laws, legal remedies, policies and programs for children were usually framed by adult people only. As it was advocated that the children are incapable of deciding their fate or unable to understand their good and bad notion because of immaturity by age and knowledge. With this aspect many national and international organizations actively engaged with the promotion of the rights of children as immediate and chief motive. UNICEF is one very significant and most important international organization, which vigorously and dynamically engaged with the subject of children rights. This aim and objective of this article is firstly discuss the motive of the establishment of UNICEF with the reference of United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). Then it deliberates with the different methods of evaluation explanation on the partnership of UNICEF with other organizations, agencies, NGO, INGO, such as, UNESCO, WHO, ILO, UNAIDS etc. to raise the issue of children at international floor as well as to promoting the rights of children. The next section is basically highlighting the result of this diverse participations as well as the issue and challenges faced by UNICEF to promoting these rights of children along with other organizations. In concluding assessment, it suggesting some future roadmap for demonstrate and promotes the rights of children by UNICEF along with other organization. (Aim of article is discuss about establishment of UNICEF with reference of UNRRA. Then it explains the partnership of UNICEF with other organizations, such as, UNESCO, WHO, ILO, UNAIDS to raise the issue of children at international floor and to promote their rights. It highlighting the result of this diverse participations and the challenges faced by UNICEF in these participations, in conclusion suggesting some future roadmap for demonstrate and promotes the rights of children by UNICEF along with other organization.



KEYWORDS: UNRRA, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, ILO, UNAIDS, HOLISTIC APPROACH

HISTORICITY OF UNICEF

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established by United Nations General Assembly in December 1946 to give aid and assistance to war affected children.

While before the establishment of UNICEF there was United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), which was established in November 1943, to provide relief and rehabilitation to displaced persons and measures for the relief of victims of war. UNRRA's role did not mention specific about children, however providing food, and cloth as well as the specialized care for children was one of the main role of UNRRA from very beginning (Jacobs, 1950:145). Both organizations established for the rehabilitation of people who are victims in war as well as to help those people who affected from the disaster of war. UNRRA and UNICEF both organizations were started for temporary relief and not as like universal organization. While after the inordinate work of UNRRA, it continued as UNICEF. The program and policies as well as the administrative structure of UNICEF was wholly borrowed from the UNRRA (Jacobs, 1950:145).

In the post Second World War European countries were concerned about the children wellbeing because this war's impact on European Children were very disastrous. They suffered from the famine, health issues, educational problems and many other kinds of difficulties. During the war and in post war period most of children and their families was frequently seen as the greatest wounded of wartime disruption (Wynn, 1996:476). As children were more vulnerable as they are unable to defend their self, this childism and defence-less aspects make them more vulnerable and easy target at the time of war and disaster. Although for the counter these difficulties of children, countries were after the victory think about the child care program and try to carry out some especially post-war planning on the care of the children (Dratch, 1974:187). Because of these instant reasons UNICEF was established specifically to look after children issues. Specifically, this organization was initiated to after the issue of children from Europe.

On 11 December 1946, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established by United Nations General Assembly to the provide food, drug, cloth and other health care to millions of displaced and refugee children (UNICEF, 2006:4-5). In initial period UNICEF's mandates was only related to the temporary needs of children, it had work for the immediate child welfare program and only for the European children not the other part of the world. As the emergency situation was over by 1950, the UNICEF was expected to be closed. However, the developing countries expressed their desire of the service of UNICEF as millions of children from Africa, Asia and Latin America suffer from hunger, and health diseases. Therefore, 1953 UNICEF declared as a permanent part of United Nations and extended its mandates. UNICEF dropped the words 'International and 'Emergency' and the new name of this organization is United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF, 2006:6). However, even after the changed of the name to United Nations Children's Fund, it popular with its old acronym UNICEF (Ferguson, 1972: 172).

UNICEF transformed its previous formal mandate and working area into much wider. They including not only the issue and difficulties of children even their mothers are also included in UNICEF's program and policy (Walt, 1996:60). And UNICEF also initiate with the immediate as well as gradual needs of children. More than a decade's the primary focus was on child health issue, UNICEF expands its role in 1961, and start to addresses the whole needs of child. It works not only on the health issue of children even it included the overall development of children. UNICEF was recognized as the only organization of United Nations which concerned exclusively with the children's issue (Shaffer, 1960: 72). The welfare of the children and to address the problem and challenges of children was the primary aim of UNICEF. While with the transformation of wider role to protect children and promote their welfare UNICEF initiated with the partnership with other organizations.

UNICEF'S PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

UNICEF along with many other organizations, agency, NGO, INGO and with individual government advocating for the rights of children as well as its raised issue of children at international floor. Many other organizations also worked for the children welfare. And UNICEF's partnership with these regional and international organizations uphold the children rights across the world. UNICEF established its relationship with many international NGOs such as, Oxfam and Save the Children since the 1950s and worked for civil society empowerment model (Stiles: 1998). These relationships were

appreciated by United Nations also. It could be helpful that the Fund could make more use of the capital or resources of organizations that had practice or working in similar or related fields (Jacobs, 1950:149).

This partnership with other specialized agencies and organization make the wide range of strategic plan to counter the various issue of children. And it's collaboration with other organizations could work more effective and goal could achieved in short time. Such as United Nations Educational, Scientific and cultural Organization (UNESCO), working for the children education and it is one of the most vital point for UNICEF to collective work on children education and cultural aspects of children. They work together and tried to achieve the goal of education.

UNICEF along with the World Health Organization (WHO) works on children health and development. They make policy and program related to proper food, drug, nutrition and the basic needs of children for overall development. There are many other area also present where both UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO) work together, such as education, gender equality so on, same with the other issue and organizations United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Bank (WB), United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with these UN organizations UNICEF actively engaged in child development programs and policy as well as to promote the rights of children.

UNICEF and UNESCO

UNICEF actively engaged in promotion to ensure all children with the realization of their rights and quality education. It committed to provide all children to quality education without any discrimination on the basis of gender, colour, region, ethnicity and socioeconomic differences. At the same time UNESCO is also very keenly active into promotion of education and it consider as global coordinator to promote education with various program and policies like Education For All and so on. UNICEF works along with the partnership of UNESCO in education field and especially focuses on girls' education as in many region girls are deprive form the educational opportunity due to social norms and standards. Which creates long gender disparity in society as well as girl-child are deprived from their basic rights of education. Both Organizations work together on eliminating gender disparity from society, as gender equality is one of the vital programs of UNICEF and UNESCO also with the equal opportunity of education for all promotes the gender equality. Both UNICEF and UNESCO work for the Education For All (EFA) program also. Education For All (EFA) campaign, which started in 1990, and it jointly by UNESCO, the World Bank and as well UNICEF, and they were first time marked an unprecedented level of educational co-operation between these organizations (Vaughan, 2010: 417).

In 1955 UNICEF and UNESCO organized a survey which was based on the condition of primary schools in least developed countries (Postlethwaite, 1998:290). In this survey they highlighted what are condition of class rooms, standard of class room equipments, level of the teaching and as well as what are the reason behind the drop-out and the rates of drop-out of children from school. And this survey was very helpful for the United Nations to know the condition of education in least developing countries. UNICEF and UNESCO's this joint assessment directly and indirectly advocates for the basic rights quality of education for all children from all over the world.

Child marriage issue was raised by UNICEF and UNESCO and both organizations attempted to counter the root causes of this horrific crime against children. UNICEF along with UNESCO and other organizations work to countering the child marriage tradition from all over the world. UNICEF and UNESCO joint report in 2007 emphasis on eliminating laws that allow girl to marry before the compulsory school- leaving age of allow differences in school-leaving ages or numbers of years of compulsory education for girls and boys. UNESCO and UNICEF are attempts to eliminate the poor socioeconomic condition of girls to marriage before the compulsory school-leaving age. Child marriage violates the various rights of children such as right to education rights to choose spouse, right to give consent and so on (UNICEF: 2008A). These are the collective initiative of both organizations to promote and advocate for the rights of children.

UNICEF AND WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

UNICEF's partnership with World Health Organization (WHO) was very old and deep-rooted with various common issue tackle by both organizations. As WHO well-known for the health and development matter of human being from all over the world, UNICEF is also concerned with the health of children and motherhood. They both are working together in various fields in all over the world. Such as, work on child marriage elimination (which gave the very negative impact on children health), elimination of nutrition deficiency in child and many other health related aspects. According to UNICEF document on Maternal and Newborn Health, WHO along with the UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in while World Bank (WB) also joined and they are working together for improve data collection on maternal mortality field, this inter-agency partnership pools resources and work comprehensively to counter the child mortality as well as the WB also joined and they are working together for improve data collection on maternal issue (unicef, 2008B: 5). They were collecting the data related to child maternity and safely newborn baby and published their report. While with the help of this report the adequate and suitable programs and policies could be started to counter the issue related to child health and their overall development. These reports provides the adequate information for future plan and strategy to address the issue of children.

UNICEF and WHO both are seen as soul organization which concern with children health. Primarily they are engaged only the health issue of children, however after few years of their establishment they give attention on the whole issue of children. According to UNICEF Research Office, there is a great opportunity and potential in UNICEF and WHO, among others, working collectively for the changes of policy and as well as structural issues that wrongly impact on the health of disadvantaged groups and their children's life chances (UNICEF, 2013:29). And works for the appropriate policy formulation related to children welfare. According to a joint report of UNICEF, WHO and World Bank "WHO and UNICEF are dedicated to the collection of high quality and actual data for observing the nutritional condition of children and make sure that the data given to the agencies' so it will helpful in making new policy and as well as these respective databases are of the highest quality (2012:7). Three organizations active engagement on one issue could play very important role to counter the issue more effectively as well as within the timeframe aspects.

Expenditure, workforce, equipment and many other essential things are distributed among the both actors which creates a smooth platform to counter the issue of children and promote their rights. Professional and expert from both organizations could effectively work which will come with more effective outcomes. For instance, both organizations work hand in hand in Asia on 50 projects in 15 countries where UNICEF has provided materials and invested in supplies as well as the WHO has provided the professional personal (Keeney, 1953:606). This project was related to test and vaccination of children health and with the funding support from UNICEF as well as professionals providing from WHO make this project very easier.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is very harmful tradition which affected the girl-child very poorly. This tradition is present in many part of the world and exaggerated the girls' health. Especially girls from Muslim country were more harmed with this tradition; African continent is more affected with this bad norm. United Nations with the help of UNICEF and World Health Organisation started various program. And trying to eradicate this tradition, UNICEF and WHO work jointly on the eliminating program of FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) in Africa and all affected area (GTZ: 2005, UNICEF: 2009). They provide the annual data related to FGM tradition in various part of Africa and other part of world. According to World Health Organization (WHO) millions of girls are affected with this dangerous practice and it creates very difficult situation for girls (WHO: 2008). Collective work of both organizations is very effective to eradicate this harmful tradition against the children.

UNICEF UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

HIV/AIDS is not only the negative aspects for adult even many new born and unborn children are in range of this disease and infection. Due to its very harmful impact on human being and specifically for children, UN started various program and policy to address this issue. UNAIDS is the

organization which played very vital role to protect people from this disease. UNICEF works along with the partnership of United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on HIV/AIDS, and both actors work to help to the people to fighting from HIV/AIDS. UNICEF is one of the cosponsoring agencies of UNAIDS and it attended many discussions with pharmaceutical companies on the various drug for fight to HIV/AIDS (Bellamy, Rundall et. al.2000:960). They actively participated in the awareness program related to HIV/AIDS. With the educational awareness program, organized many discussions on the issue of this disease and both organizations together work against this illness.

UNICEF WORKS WITH THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

UNICEF along with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WHO, they recommend general principle to government as well as to policy maker. As instance, UNICEF and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) combined policy committee suggest policy governing the support tendered to governments for the improvement of the nutrition of mothers and children (Shaffer, 1960:72). UNICEF as its recommendations gives positive impact on policy making and implementation. UNICEF and Food and Agriculture Organization jointly policy committee recommendation for mother had positive impact on women health as well as the health of children also.

Both organizations helped industrial countries as well as to developing countries with these recommendations. For example, there are five Central American countries which are helped by these organizations (UNICEF and Food and Agriculture Organization) in developing milk drying plants as a means of government self-help for the continuation of nutrition programs which started by international assistance (Shaffer, 1960:74-75). This encourage the eradication of hunger problem from across the world. As children are the prime victims of the nutrition deficiency as well as hunger problem.

UNICEF AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

International Labour Organization (ILO) is the organization which well-known for the actively engagements in child labour eradication program and policies and so on. It always creates various awareness program to highlights the demerits of child labour and its horrific negative impact on children. It also formulates various laws against the child labour and force labour to protect children from this crime against humanity. However, as UNICEF is also equally concern with children overall development and child labour is one of the biggest barrier in this development, and due to this similar vision both organizations came together to counter the issue of child labour and raised voice for child right against the child labour. For instance, data collection on this crime, publication of repots on child labour, promotion of laws on child labour prohibition these kinds of initiated by both organization is very significant. ILO and UNICEF worked along for collection of data and report related to child labour. An investigation into domestic service conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF suggest that “staggering numbers” of children around the world an approximate 90 percent of whom are girls are working as household servants, both are investigate jointly and worked together for eliminating this poor condition of children as child labour (Ward, 2011).

UNICEF WITH INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS

UNICEF is working along with many individual governments and they are working as partner in various fields, such as in education field, gender equality field, women maternal health, girls education, birth registration and numerous other fields. As an example UNICEF works with various governmental and non-governmental partners to improve rates of birth registration of all children (unicef, 2013:7). As in UNICEF's strategy the birth registration of all children is important for all country. Birth registration is helpful in provide the actual data of new born children. It also useful in the collection of data related to safe maternal birth rate of children.

UNICEF works with many international and national organizations as well as with non-governmental organizations. It also worked with the national and international voluntary agencies, such as American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood (AIIPC), the Swedish Red Cross,

the Danish Red Cross, the Norwegian Help for Europe, the Don Suisse, the International Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies (Jacobs, 1950:149-150).

UNICEF along with the partnership with private sector Uganda Telecom works for the mobile and web-based technology to digitize birth records and it is helping in the birth registration process faster, easier and reliable (unicef, 2013:38). UNICEF helps governments through supply proper food and health related assistance in their summer camp program and these programs were started from a very previous decade. Such as in June, 1948, the Executive Board of UNICEF took action to set aside funds for summer camps or helps to provide special help to the most seriously under-nourished children (Jacobs, 1950:354).

As discussed the various benefits of these diverse and wider participation UNICEF with various international organizations and individual governments which make goal achievement easier as well as this combined voice for children rights is more effective. It seeks the attention of world community. It also played a very significant role in counter of the issue of children with the different expert as well as to make laws and proper implementation of those laws with collective approach. As UN charter also promotes the collective approach for world peace and prosperity.

CHALLENGES

However, UNICEF's partnership with other organizations has its own significances. Partnership among organizations makes easier to achieve the goal and could be very effective for outcome of program and policy. But there are also some demerits and disadvantages of this collaboration such as organizations different norms and standards, different evaluation process and many other dissimilarity sometimes create conflicting situation program and policy. And because of this disadvantage it faced many criticisms also. Two actors are responsible for different implementation part which creates its more difficult. For example, WHO provides technical support to the UNICEF. So some time UNICEF influence with the norms of WHO. Some of the actors are follows the top-down intervention for the eradication of any difficulties of children which is not equally appropriate in all places. Such as, WHO and UNICEF started the joint program for the eradication of polio from all over the world. According to Dr. Ciro de Quadros, director of the polio abolition programme in the Americas, UNICEF aid worker get amazing result through the single mind and single diseases eradication program but the same policy in Africa was the wastes of resources because without the development of proper health care infrastructure, single diseases eradication program could not be effective (Godlee, 1995:182).

While within the partnership or beyond the partnership the international agencies evaluate all over the area of world in same approach. According to Kararach, HIV/AIDs and the reason behind this in Zimbabwe is different from the other parts of world, here the professionals of UNICEF as well as WHO ignored the social statics of Zimbabwe (Kararach, 2004:571). This uniform process also create problem for proper eradication of any issue related to children.

CONCLUSION

In sum-up UNICEF is seen as continuation of UNRRA and initially it has very limited task. However, Its noticed work on the issue of children, many countries express their desire of the service of UNICEF as well as to expand its mandates, and working area. With these request from developed and developing countries UN declare UNICEF as a permanent part of UN in 1953. With the transformation of UNICEF's previous formal mandates its increase its working area from only European children to children from across the world. As well as it also include and comprise the initial needs of children along with long-term and continuing needs of children. Through this wider aim and objectives UNICEF express its will to collective work with other international organizations to raised voice for children as well as to counter the issue of children from all over the world. UNICEF along with UNESCO, WHO, ILO and many more international organizations worked for children welfare and seek the attention of world community. However, these participations in different field encouraged by various actors as well as it faced many criticism also. The different working and policy implementation mode of different organizations sometimes create a conflicting situation and which effects the outcome or result.

For effective and gradual result for children rights it need a holistic approach from UNICEF along with other international organizations. Children are unable to pose their demand at national and international floor. As well as it also noted that children welfare is an important subject for all states, and this could create an opportunity for UNICEF to work with regional organizations also and raise the issue of children in more proper way. However, because of voluntary funding nature of UNICEF is also a big obstacle for UNICEF to achieve goal and start program and policies. With the partnership with other organizations it is easy to achieve target with minimum expenditure. Uniform process adaptation for evaluation is the one big object and UNICEF faces many criticisms for this. With the partnership with the other international and regional organization it is easier to adopt various different evaluation process for program and policies. Despite of these aspects one aspect is the different types of problems of children from different region. For example, children from African countries chief issue if health and education, child soldier, in Asian countries child trafficking, child labour, as well as children from Europe and Britain and other developed countries is drug addiction and child prostitution, these are the burning issue. And with the collaboration with other specialized organization UNICEF could easily counter the issue of children and raised the voice of children as international floor. Collective and holistic approach without the hegemonic characteristic UNICEF along with other organizations could play more operative and effective role for children welfare.

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