



Bala Mandir Research Foundation

cordially invites you to the

S. Manjubhashini Memorial Seminar - 2014

Children's Rights and Responsibilities

Engalukkum Urimai Undu

Date: Saturday 13th December, 2014

Time: 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Venue: Bala Mandir German Hall
50, Prakasam Street, T. Nagar, Chennai - 600 017.

Programme

09.30 am Registration

10.00 am Prayer and welcome followed by Release of "Baalar Paadalgal"
by Dr. Nirmala Lakshman, Director, "The Hindu"

10.30 am A Presentation of the Children's Charter
A panel of adolescent children will present the Children's Charter based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) through song, role play and dialogue. A discussion will follow.



RIGHTS FROM THE CHILDREN'S VIEWPOINT

India is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is a step in the right direction, but it does not ensure that all children in this country are able to exercise their rights.

Parents, teachers and members of the community have to know that the children are entitled by birth to a name, parents, a home, health care, education and opportunities to realize their potential. They should be able to pursue a faith and a vocation of their choice. There is dramatic development from the stage of infancy to adolescence in all domains, including the sense of self. This sense is enhanced when children are treated as persons who can think and express themselves. Children feel good to be asked their views, to make decisions concerning their lives and to be treated as responsible individuals. These rights are usually not as obvious as the basics of food, shelter and clothing.

Children have a sense of natural justice. They dislike adults who are unfair to them or their peers. They stand up for each other, speaking up when they confront bias or prejudice. Adolescents occupy a space between childhood and adulthood, sometimes clumsily, with one foot in each stage. We as their caregivers have a responsibility to provide settings which enable them to develop autonomy while also ensuring that they recognize the rights of others. That rights and duties go together in a good society must be internalized as a value by all children.

