

i|s|c|i 2024



NATIONAL LAW  
UNIVERSITY ODISHA

# 9<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CHILD INDICATORS

**“GLOBAL CHILDHOODS: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES  
PROMOTING THEORETICAL, EMPIRICAL AND POLICY  
UNDERSTANDINGS”**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**14 - 16 FEBRUARY 2024  
BHUBANESWAR-INDIA**





# ABOUT NLUO

The National Law University Odisha (NLUO) was established in 2009 by Act IV of 2008 of the State of Odisha. The University is located in the city of Cuttack, where the seat of Orissa High Court is also situated. The Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court is the Chancellor of the University and the Chief Justice of India, or their nominee from among the Supreme Court Judges, is the Visitor of the University. The University is recognised under Section 12(b) of the UGC Act 1956 and has been accredited with an 'A' grade by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The University has been consistently placed high by different ranking and accreditation agencies, both public and private.

The University offers five-year integrated B.A.LL.B. (Hons.)/B.B.A.LL.B (Hons.) degree programme at the undergraduate level, Master of Laws (LL.M.) and PhD program at the postgraduate level. Within this short span, NLUO has made its mark as a university engaged in quality teaching and research in law. The liberal yet demanding academic culture coupled with the friendly environment has ensured that students can harness their full potential and contribute to the area of their choice. National Law University Odisha alumni are spread across the globe in top-tier law firms, blue chip companies, judicial offices, courts, academia and think tanks.

Click [here](#) to check the website of NLUO





# ABOUT ISCI

The International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI) is an international organisation that is home to researchers, data users, child advocates, and policymakers. It has made considerable advances in developing and using indicators to measure the well-being of children and adolescents.

The ISCI Inaugural Conference on “Child Indicators: Diverse Approaches to a Shared Goal” (June 2007) dealt with several themes such as the theory and conceptual framework of child indicators, development of policy using child indicators and children’s involvement in measurement and implementation of indicators. Since then, ISCI has organised 8 Biennial International Conferences exploring the use of child indicators to improve the well-being of children in a globalised world and to assess children’s subjective well-being from an international perspective. On average, hundreds of delegates consisting of academics, researchers, data analysts, child advocates, and policymakers from 35-47 countries across the globe have attended these conferences and have shared best practices in their countries and regions for improving the wellbeing of children. The research and experiences presented from the grassroots have broken many myths about adult thinking regarding children’s awareness of their environment and have provided centre-stage to the voice of the child. The 8th ISCI International Conference on “Children’s Rights and Opportunities in an Unequal World: Research, Policy and Intervention” (May 2022) offered a critical perspective on public and social policies and promotion of equality of well-being for all children and how children dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic in different parts of the world.

In 2024, ISCI is going to hold its 9th International Conference for the second time in Asia.

Click [here](#) to check the website of ISCI.





# 9<sup>TH</sup> ISCI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

National Law University Odisha is proud and privileged to be the host of the 9th ISCI Conference on the theme of “Global Childhoods: Critical Perspectives Promoting Theoretical, Empirical and Policy Understandings” on 14-16 February 2024 in Bhubaneswar, India. In organising this conference National Law University has the support of Prof. Ravinder Barn from the University of London, England and Prof. Damanjit Sandhu from Punjabi University, Patiala, India.

The 9th ISCI International Conference will focus on three aspects. Firstly, there will be critical analyses of whether government policies and programs have succeeded in promoting the wellbeing of children. Secondly, there will be an assessment of the rate of progress in Odisha, India and other countries in terms of the SDG goals to be achieved by 2030. Thirdly, there will be deliberations on changes in policies and programs for better results by incorporating the voices of children in consonance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child recognising the Right of Participation of children relating to decisions affecting them. In most countries, this right exists mostly on paper and children are rarely involved in any law, policy decision, scheme, etc. affecting them.

The 9th International Conference of ISCI being held in Asia will provide an added platform for the voices of children in the Asian region. Children are not merely future citizens of a country. The contemporaneous present of children is as important as their future potential as adults.





# CONCEPT NOTE

The Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25th September 2015 titled as “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” provides a plan of action consisting of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for people, planet and prosperity with the aim to strengthen universal peace. Amongst several areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet, the SDGs focus on children’s welfare and well-being. In their broader scope, the following SDGs address children-related issues, aiming to: end poverty in all its forms everywhere (Goal 1); end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (Goal 2); ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (Goal 3); ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (Goal 4); achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Goal 5); ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (Goal 6); promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (Goal 8); make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Goal 11); and promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (Goal 16).





More specifically, the SDGs address issues such as reduction of poverty amongst children, ensuring food security, ending malnutrition and serving other nutritional needs of children and adolescent girls. Health-related concerns of children such as reduction of the global maternal mortality ratio and neonatal mortality rate, ending preventable deaths of newborns and infants and promoting mental health and well-being etc. are also addressed in the targets of SDGs. Besides, the SDGs aim to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by facilitating access to primary and secondary education which is free, equitable and qualitative. The SDGs also highlight the importance of educational facilities which are sensitive to the needs of children and individuals with disabilities and from a different gender providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

Additionally, the SDGs also emphasise the elimination of harmful practices such as child marriage, female genital mutilation, child labour and recruitment of child soldiers. Furthermore, SDGs call for ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children. SDGs also mandate universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible, green and public spaces for children and access to adequate, safe and affordable housing for all.





# **THEMES**

## **1. Essence of Childhoods**

### **Sub Themes**

- Universalism of Values vis-à-vis Cultural Relativism
- Childhoods in Countries with Varying Economic Status
- Socio-Cultural Understandings of Childhoods
- Legal Understandings of Childhoods
- Psychological Understandings of Childhoods
- Gendered Childhoods
- Childhoods in Marginalised Communities

## **2. Children's Wellbeing and Happiness**

### **Sub Themes**

- From Children's Welfare to Children's Wellbeing
- Understanding Wellbeing and Happiness
- Wellbeing Indicators: Children vis-à-vis Adults
- Happiness Indicators: Children vis-à-vis Adults
- Role of Child Rights in Promoting Wellbeing and Happiness
- Best Practices for Promoting Children's Wellbeing and Happiness
- Role of Child Indicators Research in Influencing Public Policy
- Methodologies for Understanding Children's Wellbeing and Happiness



### **3. Health of Children**

#### **Sub Themes**

- Health Indicators for Children
- Children's Experience With Healthcare Services
- Access to Healthcare Facilities: Public vis-à-vis Private
- Schemes, Policies and Programs Affecting Children's Health
- Cultural Practices Affecting Children's Health (Circumcision, Female Genital Mutilation etc.)
- Growing Up in a Technological Environment
- Health of Children in Difficult Circumstances;
  - Substance Abuse
  - Domestic Violence
  - Sexual Exploitation/Violence/Abuse
  - Spatial Constraints
  - Child Labour
  - Children With Disabilities
  - Being a Girl Child
  - Mental Health Issues
  - Children in Institutional Care

### **4. Children's Education**

#### **Sub Themes**

- What Children want to learn?
- Sites of Learning: Homes, Neighbourhood, Schools, Child Care Institutions, Popular Culture
- How do Children want to learn?
- Schemes and Initiatives for Children's Education
- Alternative Education for Children
- Education in Natural Disasters
- Accessibility to Education
- Inclusivity in Education





## **5. Food and Child Wellbeing**

### **Sub Themes**

- Access to Food
- Addressing Malnutrition
- Child Targeted Advertising: Marketing of Junk Food
- Breast Milk Substitutes
- Nutrition in Child Care Institutions

## **6. Children's Freedom of Choice**

### **Sub Themes**

- Evolving capacities and Children's Opinion- Addressing Malnutrition
- Balancing Children's Privacy and Parental control
- Sexual Autonomy
- Child Marriage
- Manipulating Children's Choice: The Effect of Tobacco Advertising

## **7. Basic Rights for Children's Happiness and Wellbeing**

### **Sub Themes**

- Right to Survival
- Right to Family
- Right to Identity
- Right to Development
- Right to Protection
- Right to Participation
- Children in Difficult Circumstances
- Harmonising the Basic Rights





## **8. Children's Access to Justice**

### **Sub Themes**

- Understanding Children's Access to Justice
- Child Advocacy
- Children's Voices in the Institutional Decision-Making
- Legal Aid for Children
- Support System in Legal Proceedings

