



## Nashik Dhol and the violation of Child Rights

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The Nashik Dhol troops are into high prominence due to their inexpensive, simplicity and excitable rhythms. At national, state and district level, the number of nashik dhol troops are at an alarming rate. Each troop consists of 10-20 members and children have been included as their team members. The poor socio-economic condition of the family prompted the children to be part of such troops. Through this paper the author analysis how the rights of the children- **Right to Survival, Right to Protection, Right to Participation and Right to Development** are violated being the member of a nashik dhol troop. Basic rights of the children are curtailed in many ways and there is high risk for behavior disorders and personality disorders in children.

Key words: Nashik Dhol players, Right to Survival, Right to Protection, Right to Participation and Right to Development

### Introduction

Nashik dhols are a percussion instruments used for making the occasions more festive. It is a double-sided barrel drum played mostly as an accompanying instrument in regional music forms. The size of the drum varies slightly from region to region. The dhol remains large and bulky to produce the preferred loud bass. Its of varying shapes and sizes, and made with different materials like wood, fiberglass, steel and plastic. The drum consists of a barrel of any material with animal hide or synthetic skin stretched over its open ends, covering them completely. These skins can be stretched or loosened with a tightening mechanism made up of either interwoven ropes, or nuts and bolts. Tightening or loosening the skins subtly alters the pitch of the drum sound. The stretched skin on one of the ends is thicker and produces a deep, low frequency (higher bass) sound and the other thinner one produces a higher frequency sound. Dhols with synthetic, or plastic, treble skins are common. They are into high prominence due to their inexpensive, simplicity and excitable rhythms. At national, state and district level, the number of nashik dhol troops are at an alarming rate. Each troop consists of 10-20 members and children have been included as their team members.

### Child Rights

The rights of children are the most ratified in the history of human rights. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) defines Child Rights as the

minimum entitlements and freedoms that should be afforded to every citizen below the age of 18 regardless of race, national origin, colour, gender, language, religion, opinions, origin, wealth, birth status, disability, or other characteristics.

These rights encompass freedom of children and their civil rights, family environment, necessary healthcare and welfare, education, leisure and cultural activities and special protection measures. The UNCRC outlines the fundamental human rights that should be afforded to children in four broad classifications that suitably cover all civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of every child:

**Right to Survival:**

- Right to be born
- Right to minimum standards of food, shelter and clothing
- Right to live with dignity
- Right to health care, to safe drinking water, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help them stay healthy

**Right to Protection:**

- Right to be protected from all sorts of violence
- Right to be protected from neglect
- Right to be protected from physical and sexual abuse
- Right to be protected from dangerous drugs

**Right to Participation:**

- Right to freedom of opinion
- Right to freedom of expression
- Right to freedom of association
- Right to information
- Right to participate in any decision making that involves him/her directly or indirectly

**Right to Development:**

- Right to education
- Right to learn
- Right to relax and play
- Right to all forms of development – emotional, mental and physical

*Article 1*

Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights in this Convention.

*Article 2*

The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.

*Article 3*

All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

*Article 4*

Governments should make these rights available to children.

*Article 5*

Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children so that, as they grow, they learn to use their rights properly.

*Article 6*

All children have the right to life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

*Article 7*

All children have the right to a legally registered name, and nationality. They have the right to know and, as far as possible, to be cared for, by their parents.

*Article 8*

Governments should respect children's right to a name, a nationality and family ties.

A milestone in the international human rights legislation, the 'Convention on the Rights of the Child' has been instrumental in putting all the issues pertaining to children issues on the global as well as national agenda. In addition to this, it has extensively mobilized actions for the realization of the rights and development of children worldwide.

**Review of literature:**

The Travancore Devaswom Board President, Mr. Prayar Goplan said that dhols were not suited for the ambiance of the temple and the loud noise the drums produce were detrimental to the health of the devotees, particularly the aged and the children.

A study by Ananaya Dutta said that Dhol-tasha equally deafening. The beats emerging from the dhol-tasha groups playing at pandals across the city may be foot-tapping, but the vibrations of these beats can pose serious health hazards, including disturbing the central nervous system, leading to fatigue, insomnia, headache and 'shakiness'.

Kalyani Mandke an audiologist said that "Long-term exposure to these vibrations can also affect a person's circulatory and/or urological systems. The person playing the instrument is at the highest risk, but people in the vicinity cannot escape its effects either,"

She carried out experiments with a dhol-tasha group during their practice session and the results confirm her fears. The entire discourse on noise pollution during festivals only emphasizes on decibel (dB) levels of the music played, ignoring other damaging effects that it could cause.

Bhat (2010) argues that the quality education can help to keep children away from work, consequently it is important for a school to have educated teachers in adequate

numbers to maintain high students teacher ratio in the classrooms. However for many poor parents it can be costly to send their children to school, as they families live on children's income and cannot afford school fees, uniforms or other additional costs. (Bhat, 2010).

Many children have to work in order to be able to go to school and cover the direct costs of household income. ILO states that if a child combines school with work it might be difficult for him or her to attend school because of long hours work can interfere with class or homework (ILO;2004).

### **Rationale of the study:**

Though a noteworthy progress has been achieved through the 'Convention on the Rights of the Child' yet in developing countries, particularly India, there is still a long way to go in realizing the rights of children. Though all the pertinent rules and policies are in place, there is lacuna in enforcement initiatives. There are several issues that forbid effective implementation of the laws. Due to relatively low success in achieving concrete child development outcomes in India, the condition of underprivileged children is ruthless and needs urgent attention.

In recent days the children and youth are finding their own means of income and platform for recreation by engaging in extracurricular activities. Nashik dhol troop is one among such platform for recreation and a source of income, so there is an increase in the number of troop of such kind at national, state and district level. In Kerala, Nashik got acceptance in the past few years. The number of troops is very less when compared to the northern states of India, but shows an emerging trend. The poor socio-economic condition of the family prompted the children to be part of such troops. The children spend long hours with other troop members as part of their programme practice and performance. It affects the health of the children in many ways and they got much influenced by the senior members in the group which results in high risk for behavior disorders and personality disorders. Basic rights of the children are curtailed in many ways in the circumstances they engaged. In this context the researcher carries out the study on how human rights specially child rights: Right to Survival, Right to Protection, Right to Participation and Right to Development are violated being a member in the nashik dhol troupe.

### **Objectives:**

#### **General objective:**

To analyze how the child rights are violated among the Nashik Dhol players

#### **Specific objectives:**

To explore the socio-economic profile of children being members in the Nashik dhol troupe

To analyze the motivating factors of being in the troupe

To examine how Child Rights (Right to survival, Right to Protection, Right to Participation and Right to Development) are violated in the Nashik Dhol troops.

**The Methodology:**

The researcher adopted *Descriptive cum Exploratory Research Design*. The population for the study was the Nashik Dhol players in Kottayam district of Kerala State. For carrying out the study the researcher used *Purposive Sampling Design* with 20 Nashik dhol players as the sampling size. The methods of data collection were *Interview and Non-participant Observation* and the tools of data collection were *Interview Guide and Observation Guide*. Inclusion criteria used for the study was Nashik dhol players who are in a troop for more than one year.

**Results of the study:**

**General information**

**Table No: 1**

**Age of the respondents**

| Age          | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| 10-12        | 2         | 10         |
| 13-15        | 4         | 20         |
| 16-18        | 7         | 35         |
| 18 and above | 7         | 35         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>100</b> |

35% each of the respondents belong to the age category 18yrs and above and 16-18 yrs of age. 20% of them belong to the age of 13-15 and 10% belongs to age between 10-12yrs.

**Table No: 2**

**Class in which studying**

| Studying in   | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| Class V- VII  | 2         | 10         |
| Class VIII-X  | 6         | 30         |
| Class XI- XII | 5         | 25         |

|              |           |            |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Dropout      | 4         | 20         |
| Above XII    | 3         | 15         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>100</b> |

30% of the respondents are studying in class VIII-X, 25% in Class XI- XII, 10% in Class V- VII, 15% have studied above XII class and 20% of them are dropout.

**Table No: 3**

**Years of experience in the troop**

| <b>Yrs of experience</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1-3                      | 16               | 80                |
| 4-6                      | 4                | 20                |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>20</b>        | <b>100</b>        |

80% of the respondents have 1-3yrs of experience in the troop and 20% have 4-6 yrs of experience in Nashik Dhol troop.

**Major findings**

- Average of 15 members in each troop
- No: of adults: 78% of them are adults
- No: of children 22% of them are children
- No: of earning members in your family: Average of two members in each family
- 80% of them were motivated to join the troop to satisfy their interest/ passion and the rest 20% see Nashik dhol troop as an income to meet the family needs and their own educational needs.
- The adult member gets an income of 10,000 per programme where as some customers hire children's troop because they will perform the dhol for a maximum of Rs.3000.
- During festive seasons, they earn an average of 10,000 per month
- The members may use it for buying things for their personal uses like meeting educational needs, buying smart phones, dresses and savings
- They will give a share to the troop

- Earlier parents were not interested to let them to join the troop but now they are not against of it.
- Cent percent of the respondents said that their teachers/ authorities knew that they are members in the nashik dhol troop
- Majority of the teachers are against it and they treat the children in the troop as least studious and irregular in academic activities.
- 65% of the members said that they are studying as before and there is no decline in their educational performance at school and the rest face lack of interest in studies as they have more interest towards performing arts than studies.
- The benefits they achieved through the troop was listed as that they are able to make their life better, able to buy things on their own, possess smart phone with their own cash, dress and other materials, also they save money for their future.
- As they contribute to family, they have a decision maker role in the family.

### **Rights of the Child**

#### ***Right to survival***

- 35% of the children in the nashik dhol troop work for an earning to support his family and 65% of the children in the troop work for their interest and satisfaction.
- Health issues related with nashik dhol

| <b>Health issues</b>                                                                      | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Severe body pain                                                                          | 20               | 100               |
| Ear ache                                                                                  | 7                | 35                |
| Tinnitus (Ear ringing and other abnormal ear noises)                                      | 5                | 25                |
| Disturbing the central nervous system (causes numbness, pain, and discomfort in the hand) | 15               | 75                |
| Fatigue                                                                                   | 18               | 90                |
| Insomnia                                                                                  | 2                | 10                |
| Headache                                                                                  | 12               | 60                |
| Shakiness                                                                                 | 4                | 20                |

- Long term exposure to these vibrations can also affect a person's circulatory and /or urological systems
- People in the vicinity of the dhol are also at the risk of auditory problem because of noise pollution
- Stamina they gain to keep the momentum for the performance is a matter to be explored, the respondents said that it is the support of the audience motivates them to maintain their stamina throughout the performance but there are chances for the use of narcotics.

### ***Right to Protection***

- Continuous performance with unscientific and damaging positioning of the dhol for long hours affects their health especially the spine and central nervous system
- Strict training for better performances sometimes leads to violence such as physical and verbal abuses.
- There may be chance for homosexual behavior from adults and to the use of drugs& alcohol
- They used to give a share of their earnings to the seniors for doing the maintenance work of the dhol
- The share of the earnings of the children will be used to buy alcohol for the senior members of the troop, this may lead a chance to get into addiction as they grew up.
- The troop members said that it is the encouragement from the part of the audience made them to perform for long hours, infact the matter is to be explored about the drinks that they have in between the programme.

### ***Right to Participation***

- The children in the troop has to contribute part of their earnings to the troop members for their enjoyment of the senior members, if the younger members have any opinion against it, they won't express it openly.
- The children in the troop are not involved in the decision making process of the troop.

### ***Right to Development***

- Even though 95% of the respondents said that it doesn't affect their education, still they bunk classes for dhol programmes.
- Exposures to high decibel sound for long hours affect them emotionally, mentally and physically.

### ***Suggestions***



- The Nashik Dhol troop must be registered in the Panchayath/ municipality so that strict supervision or control must be ensured by the local government officials regarding anti-violation of child rights.
- District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) should take an active role in invigilating the violation of child rights wherever children are indulged in, in this case also DCPO should be vigilant.
- The authorities should ensure that the remuneration they earn

#### ***Right to survival***

- The size of the dhol is very bulky and heavy, even children are using the same dhol as of the seniors this intensifies the impact on the health of the children.

#### ***Right to Protection***

- The dhol players should be well aware about the good postures and about the position of the dhol to be placed so that reduces the impact on their health.
- As the physical, verbal and other forms of abuses may affect the child performers' physically and psychologically it may lead to behavior and personality disorders. So strict supervision should be ensured by the local authorities or the responsible person of the troop.

#### ***Right to Participation***

- The children should be encouraged to express their opinion regarding their unwillingness to contribute their earning for senior's enjoyment
- The child performers should be included in the decision making process of the troop in which they are members.

#### ***Right to Development***

- The school counselors or social workers should take utmost care about the students who engaged in co-curricular activities and frequent follow-up will encourage them to be in the right path of his life.
- The influence and encouragement from the part of school counselors or social workers will check dropout and the tendency to use narcotics.

#### ***Social Work Implication:***

- Policy guidelines should be reframed to ensure strict implementation of the Laws and Rights for protecting the children regarding weight of musical instruments, hours of performance and remuneration they earn.
- Timely Amendment of policies and rules regarding new endeavours where children are engaged in.
- Enforcement of laws for protecting the Rights of the children and the violation of it should be of high consequence.

- Role of school counselors or social workers should be ensured in moulding the personality and maintaining psychological balance of the students in curricular and co-curricular activities.
- The role of District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) in invigilating the violation of child rights wherever children are indulged in.

### **Conclusion**

The culture of 'Earn while they learn' is to be recognized and encouraged but has to be closely monitored whether the children are getting their rights. This is the obligation of every nation to make sure that their younger generation may enjoy the rights at its fullest for the development of their potentialities. Wherever the basic rights are curtailed the government should take active role in enforcing it and the government machinery should be channeled for the welfare of the children.

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