Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2016	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
12.5	~200 words

Answer Hint

National Policy for Children 2013; child rights; survival and health; education; protection; participation; institutional mechanisms; implementation gaps

Model Answer

Introduction

The National Policy for Children, 2013 recognises children as individuals with rights and prioritises their survival, health, development, protection and participation.

Main Provisions

- **Survival, health and nutrition:** Emphasises access to healthcare, immunisation, nutrition, sanitation and safe drinking water.
- **Education and development:** Supports early childhood care, quality education, recreation and opportunities for physical and intellectual development.
- **Protection:** Seeks to protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, trafficking, child labour and harmful practices.
- **Participation:** Recognises the importance of hearing children's views in matters affecting them, according to age and maturity.

- **Equity and inclusion:** Calls for special attention to vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, children in difficult circumstances and those from disadvantaged communities.
- **Implementation framework:** Encourages coordination among government departments, local institutions, civil society and families.

Status of Implementation

India has introduced and expanded several relevant programmes and legal frameworks, including the Integrated Child Development Services framework, school education initiatives, the Juvenile Justice Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

However, implementation remains uneven:

- Child malnutrition and anaemia continue to affect many children.
- Learning outcomes and school attendance vary across regions and social groups.
- Child labour, trafficking, abuse and early marriage remain concerns.
- Shortages of trained personnel, weak coordination and gaps in monitoring affect service delivery.
- Vulnerable children may face difficulties accessing protection and rehabilitation services.

Way Forward

Improve frontline staffing, strengthen child-protection institutions, integrate health and education services, improve data quality and ensure effective enforcement of child-rights laws. Local monitoring and child-sensitive grievance mechanisms are also important.

Conclusion

The policy provides a comprehensive rights-based framework, but its impact depends on sustained funding, coordinated implementation and accountability for measurable improvements in children's well-being.