



Intersex Children's Foundation of India

Annual Report: 2023-2024

About Us

Intersex Children's Foundation of India [ICFI] is a trust committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of intersex children of India and their families. We recognize the unique challenges that intersex children and their families face and work to create a supportive environment that fosters understanding, respect, and empowerment, keeping the socio-cultural nuances in consideration.

While multiple organizations in our country focus on the interests and rights of intersex people, ICFI is the very first Indian organization dedicated to the healthcare, well-being, and social rights of Intersex Children. We envision a society where children can thrive, free from discrimination, stigma, and the limitations often imposed by societal norms, irrespective of their sex characteristics.

Our website serves as a vital source of information and support structure for intersex children and their parents. All resources are curated keeping in mind the Indian Socio-Economic-Cultural scenario. We provide a safe space for dialogue, ensuring that all stakeholders can contribute to a more inclusive and supportive society.

Our actions are rooted in empathy, understanding, and a commitment to ensuring that intersex children and their families are met with respect and support, rather than judgment and discrimination. In a world that is constantly evolving, the Intersex Children's Foundation of India is dedicated to being a steadfast advocate and ally for intersex children and their families.

Our Team



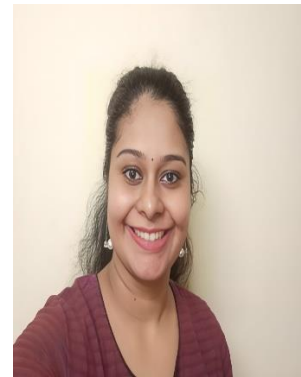
Koushumi Sujata Chakraborti
Co-Founder and Trustee



Dr. Jayeeta Basu
Co-Founder and Trustee



Rahul Karmakar
Treasurer and
Director Legal



Neeraja Sajan
Director - Engagement
and Policy Formulation

Dear Supporters, Partners, and Friends,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that we present our Annual Report covering the transformative period from 2023 to 2024.

Since our registration in January 2021, we have embarked on a journey dedicated to understanding, advocating for, and supporting the rights and well-being of intersex children and adults across India. As a self-funded organization, we are immensely grateful to our supporters and champions, who have encouraged us to aspire to greater heights in our journey. Without their support and guidance, we would not have been able to complete three years of being in action on 14th January 2024.

The time we invested during the first two years of our existence engaging in constructive discussions with the Intersex community across the globe has helped us to understand better the nuanced challenges and discriminations faced by the community. It also validated our reasons behind starting the foundation by consistent reaffirmations of the lack of resources and support systems available in India that are sensitive to the diverse Indian socio-cultural perspectives.

The year 2023 marked a significant milestone for our foundation as we attained the 80G and CSR-1 certifications, and registered with NGO Darpan, enabling us to make even greater strides in our mission. These certifications not only reinforce our commitment to transparency and accountability but also open avenues for collaboration and support from philanthropic entities and corporate partners who share our vision.

A pivotal moment in our journey was the launch of our official website www.icfi.org.in. This digital platform serves as a hub for information, resources, and a supportive community for intersex individuals and their families. Recognizing the diverse linguistic landscape of our nation, we took a step further by ensuring that the website content is not only available in English, but also in Hindi, Kannada, Marathi,

and Bangla, making it accessible to a broader audience. In the future, we aim to expand our impact on society by making the content available in other Indian languages.

To further connect with our community and share updates on our initiatives, we expanded our outreach to social media platforms. You can follow and engage with us on LinkedIn [intersex-childrens-foundation-of-india], Facebook [Intersex-Childrens-Foundation-of-India/], YouTube [@IntersexchildrensfoundationofI], and X [@IntersexChild].

In our pursuit of knowledge dissemination and community engagement, we organized impactful webinars and seminars in Kolkata and Bengaluru. These events provided a platform for intersex adults, social workers, and civil society members to come together with esteemed speakers, including senior doctors, social workers, and government officials. The insightful discussions fostered a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the intersex community and identified collaborative strategies to address them.

While our foundation may be relatively young, our commitment to the cause is unwavering. We understand the complexities surrounding the support we seek to give and believe that our accomplishments in the past year lay a solid foundation for the mission ahead. We express our sincere gratitude to all those who have joined us on this journey and look forward to the continued growth and success of the Intersex Children's Foundation of India.

Together, we can create a more inclusive and compassionate society for intersex individuals.

Sincerely,

Koushumi Sujata Chakraborti
Co-Founder and Trustee

Dr. Jayeeta Basu
Co-Founder and Trustee

**Our Accomplishments
In
Financial Year 2024**

Research & Publication: Our research initiatives have been focused on exploring the multifaceted challenges faced by intersex children, ranging from medical considerations to social and psychological aspects. Through collaborative efforts with medical professionals, sociologists, and gender specialists, ICFI has contributed to a nuanced understanding of challenges faced by intersex children in the Indian context. Concurrently, our advocacy work has been geared towards raising awareness, challenging stigmas, and influencing policy changes that foster inclusivity and protect human rights. This dual approach of research and advocacy underscores our dedication to creating tangible, positive change for the intersex community in India overall and intersex children specifically.

A Critical Review of DSD/Intersex Research in India & Recommendations for augmenting medical care protocols and practices

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/378567670_A_Critical_Review_of_DSD_Intersex_Research_in_India_Recommendations_for_augmenting_medical_care_protocols_and_practices

This review encapsulates a critical examination of the historical clinical and etiological research on intersex conditions in India and acknowledging the progress made, it underscores the existing gaps and proposes constructive pathways for improvement. In the spirit of constructive engagement, we propose ideas for improvement to further enhance the impact of future research endeavors. The advocacy for increased longitudinal research aims to fill existing knowledge gaps, providing a more holistic understanding of the psychosexual impact of intersex conditions throughout an individual's life. Moreover, encouraging regional collaboration is put forth to ensure a more diverse and representative sample pool, capturing the rich cultural, social, and regional diversity within the Indian context. Comprehensive education programs are proposed to bridge the gap between research insights and societal attitudes, targeting healthcare professionals and the wider public.

Support: In our commitment to fostering a supportive community, we aim to provide a range of resources, counseling services, and educational materials that empower individuals to navigate the unique challenges they face. ICFI offers a safe space for intersex children and their parents to share their experiences and seek guidance.

To accomplish the above goals, we have collaborated with healthcare professionals and social workers to ensure comprehensive and sensitive support tailored to the diverse needs of intersex children and their parents is made available. We have a team of committed senior doctors, social workers, and child counselors who have partnered with us.

Through this network, ICFI strives not only to address immediate concerns but also to create a resilient network that promotes long-term well-being and empowerment for intersex children across India.

Advocacy: Our initiatives in advocacy were thoughtfully designed to shape a society that not only possesses knowledge but also empathy and sensitivity towards the distinctive experiences of intersex children. Through carefully tailored participatory workshops ICFI is actively engaged in dispelling stereotypes and challenging misconceptions.

Successful Collaboration & Advocacy Initiatives: West Bengal Chapter

CONSULTATIVE WEBINAR
Approach and Strategy of Rearing of Children of India with Differences in Sex Development

MONDAY
5TH FEB 2024
15:00 TO 17:00

JOIN NOW

Intersex Children's Foundation of India
WWW.ICFI.ORG.IN

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- 01 Start with a strong foundation
Voice of Intersex Adult
- 02 Rearing Children with DSD
Multidisciplinary Approaches and Strategies
- 03 Public Healthcare
Challenges of Current Healthcare Infrastructure
- 04 Public – Private Partnership
Build Awareness and Support Structure
- 05 Deliberations
Reveal Possibilities for Action



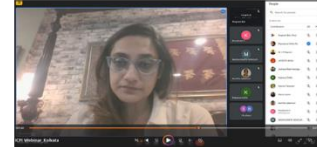
Dr. Pankaj Singhania
Pediatric Endocrinologist



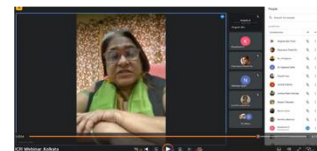
Mohammad Ali
Intersex Adult



Dr. Kalpana Datta (Chatterjee)
Professor & HOD Pediatrics



Dr. Dipanjana Datta
Genetic Counselor



Ms. Sudeshna Roy
Ex-Chairperson, West Bengal State
Commission for Protection of Child Rights

The webinar hosted on 5th February 2024 was graced by incredible speakers who played a pivotal role in making the event a true success:

Dr. Kalpana Datta (Chatterjee) – Professor and Head of Department of Pediatrics and Director of Center of Excellence HIV Care, Medical College Kolkata.

Dr. Shamik Ghosh – Senior Consultant Pediatrician with expertise in Adolescent Health and Developmental Disorders, Bhagirathi Neotia Women and Child Care Centre and Manipal Hospital Kolkata.

Dr. Pankaj Singhania – Specialist in Endocrinology practicing in Purulia, West Bengal.

Dr. Dipanjana Datta – Consultant and Genetic Counselor, State Coordinator of Organization of Rare Diseases, India.

Mx. Mohammed Ali – Molecular and Cellular Biologist, Research Fellow with Intersex Asia.

Ms. Sudeshna Roy – Ex-Chairperson & Current Advisor of West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

Participants expressed a collective desire for more such events, urging us to explore a wider range of topics. It was inspiring to witness the appetite for dialogue and collaboration within our society. What stood out was the appreciation for the inclusive space we created for medical professionals and intersex individuals to interact and foster meaningful connections.

Successful Collaboration & Advocacy Initiatives: Karnataka Chapter



The impactful seminar hosted by the Intersex Children's Foundation of India on 24th February 2024 brought together senior healthcare professionals, educationists, and social workers to discuss collaborative and informed treatment planning for the well-being of intersex children. We aimed to advocate for the rights of intersex children goes hand-in-hand with providing support to them and their parents.

Event Spotlight: "Inclusion and Consent in Healthcare Planning for Intersex Children in India", focused on navigating the Indian socio-cultural and economic contexts.

Our esteemed speakers were:

Dr. Shubha A. M., Professor and Head Pediatric Surgery, St. Johns Medical College Hospital, Bangalore

Dr. Sanjay Rao, Head of Pediatric Surgery, Narayana Health Hospitals, Bangalore

Dr. Tejasvi Sheshadri, Senior Pediatric Endocrinologist, Sparsh Hospital, Bangalore

Dr. Gayatri Iyer, Scientist & Senior Genetic Counselor, Tata Institute for Genetics and Society - India, Bangalore

Testimonials

Intersex Children's Foundation of India (ICFI) organized a Consultative Seminar on the inclusion and consent of intersex children in treatment planning on the 24th of February 2024. It was held in the seminar room of St Johns Medical College Hospital and involved Geneticists, Genetic counselors, Pediatric endocrinologists, Senior Pediatric surgeons, and Medical social workers along with a prominent educationist.

The topics dealt with management perspectives of each specialty in the treatment of intersex children and how best would they be in the interest of these children with the focus being the role of the person or child in the decision-making and consenting to the proposed line of treatment. The role of prenatal diagnosis and interventions and prevention were briefly touched upon.

The discourse was fruitful, drawing attention to a few issues to introspect on and be a roadmap to guide future deliberations of the foundation

A few noteworthy points were – To shift focus from the general larger LGBTQ+ community to Intersex children in specific to have a clear perspective of the concerns and needs of these children both from a medical as well as from a socioeconomic angle, to involve and work in unison with the legal bodies to attend to the requirements of the children with stress on some of the obligate medical treatments (guided by clear scientific basis). To establish peer groups and social support groups primarily with the focus on helping parents of Intersex children

The foundation shall make a difference in the lives of intersex children facilitating reasonable social support to the families and children along with the regulatory norms in the days to come

Regards

Dr Shubha. A. M
Professor and Head
Pediatric Surgery
St Johns Medical College Hospital
Bangalore

Thank you for inviting me as a participant in the deliberations conducted under the auspices of the Intersex Children's Foundation of India. I enjoyed the event, the discussions, and the deliberations during the daylong event.

I must put on record my appreciation for the work that is being done by the Intersex Children's Foundation of India and you. In the current debates, both within society, courts, and government matters, that are of vital importance to children born with DSD are often not addressed. That these children have urgent medical and social needs, different from those of others on the LGBTQ spectrum, is not highlighted. This is probably because of the lack of a clear voice representing them and the relatively small number of them when compared to the larger LGBTQ community. Also, being children, they are under-represented in all such fora. This has resulted in, often, confused guidelines, governmental and legal, that could potentially cause real harm to these children.

By advocating the cause of such children, I am confident that there will be greater education and understanding of their special needs going forward. Once there is awareness, steps will be taken to help them out.

I thank you for the tremendous work that your Foundation and you personally are putting into advocating for these children. I will be more than happy to continue to support you in this endeavor.

With best wishes,

Dr. Sanjay Rao
Senior Consultant and Head,
Department of Pediatric Surgery,
Narayana Health Hospitals
Bangalore

5 Point Action Plan for Financial Year 2024

1. Create multi-lingual instructional content (English, Hindi, Marathi, Kannada, and Bangla).

ICFI aims to curate and design multi-lingual and supportive instructional content that will not only include medical and psychological aspects of healthcare management but also contain guidance on navigating societal expectations, addressing common concerns, and fostering resilience within families.

2. Train and Certify ASHA and Anganwadi Workers across Maharashtra, Karnataka, and West Bengal.

By providing holistic training to grassroots healthcare and social workers, ICFI aims to ensure that healthcare providers and social workers can become allies in creating a supportive environment where intersex children and their parents are equipped not only with knowledge but also with the emotional support required to lead a happy life.

3. Create Support Groups for Parents of Intersex Children through referrals from doctors, ASHA, and Anganwadi Workers.

These groups will provide a safe and understanding environment where parents can share experiences, concerns, and resources related to raising intersex children. By connecting with other parents who are navigating similar challenges, families can find emotional support, practical advice, and access to valuable information about healthcare options and community resources. Moreover, these support groups will foster a sense of belonging and empowerment, helping parents feel less isolated and better equipped to advocate for their child's needs. Through shared experiences and mutual support, parents can develop resilience and confidence in addressing the unique needs of their intersex child, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for their family and community.

4. Create a list of ally doctors, child psychologists, family counselors, and education institutes for parents of intersex children to connect with for informed and compassionate care.

Creating a curated list of ally doctors, child psychologists, family counselors, and educational institutes for parents of intersex children to connect with can be invaluable. These professionals and institutions are committed to providing informed and compassionate care, ensuring that families receive the support they need throughout their journey. Ally doctors possess the expertise and understanding necessary to address the medical needs of intersex children while respecting their autonomy and dignity. Child psychologists and family counselors offer emotional support and guidance to help families navigate the complexities of raising an intersex child, addressing any concerns or challenges they may encounter along the way. Additionally, educational institutes that prioritize inclusivity and diversity can create a supportive environment where intersex children feel accepted and valued, fostering their intellectual and social development. By connecting with these trusted professionals and institutions, parents can access a network of support and expertise tailored to their unique circumstances, empowering them to advocate effectively for their child's well-being and future success.

5. Conduct a baseline survey to estimate the population of intersex children in India

Conducting a baseline survey to estimate the population of intersex children in India holds numerous benefits. Firstly, it provides essential data that can inform healthcare policies and resource allocation, ensuring that adequate support and services are available to meet the needs of intersex individuals and their families. By understanding the prevalence of intersex variations within the population, healthcare providers can develop targeted interventions and tailored healthcare protocols to address the specific medical and psychosocial needs of intersex children. Additionally, this survey can raise awareness about intersex variations and foster acceptance and understanding within society, reducing stigma and discrimination. Moreover, having accurate demographic data allows for the identification of trends and disparities in healthcare access and outcomes among intersex children, facilitating efforts to promote equity and improve health outcomes for all. Overall, conducting a baseline survey is a crucial step toward advancing the rights and well-being of intersex individuals in India.

Call to Action

Register Now:

If you are an intersex child or parent of an intersex child, consider registering with us so that we can understand your needs better, support you with customized resources, and advocate for you appropriately in various forums.

Rest assured that any information of personal nature that you provide us during registration will be protected and not shared with anyone without your express consent. We value your privacy and will not break your trust.

Become a Partner:

You can partner with us and support our cause if:

- You are a medical professional
- You are an educationist
- You are a representative of a government body
- You are an organization that works for the welfare and rights of Intersex People.
- You are an organization that would like to support us in funding our programs.

Support Us:

Your financial support enables us to implement crucial programs and initiatives that address the unique needs of intersex children.

Intersex Children's Foundation of India

Bank Name: Axis Bank Limited

Current Account No: 92302 00307 52678

IFSC: UTIB 0000084

MICR Code: 7002 11011

- **Donations to ICFI are eligible for tax exemption under section 80G of the Income Tax Act.**
- **Donations Accepted from Indian Citizens only.**

Get In Touch

Address:

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Mobile: +91 85508 45550

Website: www.icfi.org.in

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Facebook: Intersex Childrens Foundation of India

X: @IntersexChild

YouTube: @IntersexchildrensfoundationofI