

Providing Quality Care for Children-At-Risk: An Evaluation of India's Child Welfare Policy

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Children-at-Risk: A Global Issue



The Indian Context

40% of India's children in need of care **>>>** **172 million** children

At least 5 million children live on streets	A child goes missing every 8 minutes	Around 1.2 million children are in prostitution	About 12% of children aged 5-14 (12.6 M) are engaged in labor	About 1.2 M children work in hazardous conditions
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Child Care Institutions: A Viable Solution?

Effectiveness vs. Feasibility

Children in institutions face:

- stunted physical growth
- impaired cognition
- heightened anxiety
- hearing and vision problems
- other medical and psychological issues

These issues persist even when quality nutrition, health, and education are available because of the lack of one-on-one care.

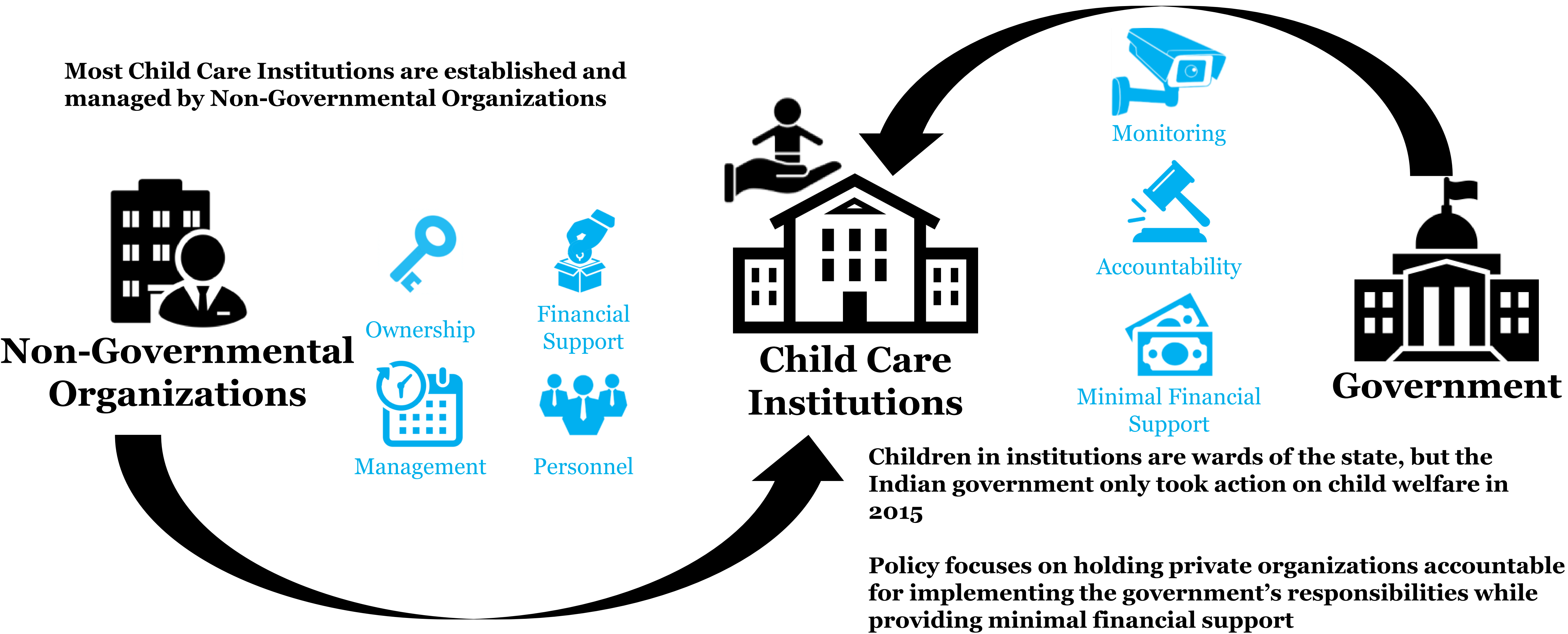
There are large number of children in need of care and protection.

There is little demand for adoption in India.

The system for adoptions is not well-developed in India.

The number of children in need greatly outweighs the space in CCIs.

India's Child Welfare Policy: Aligning Quality and Reality



Policy	Reality	Recommendations
Does not specify building of new Child Care institutions (CCIs)	Inadequate space in CCIs to accommodate all children in need of care and protection	Allocate existing government land to establishing government-owned CCIs
Does not comprehensively penalize all forms of child abuse	Comprehensive law exists only for child sexual abuse	Establish a comprehensive child care law that criminalizes abuse, neglect, and abandonment
All CCIs must be registered	Many CCIs have been registered	Expediate registration of CCIs and expand to rural CCIs
Pre- & in-service trainings for CCI staff	No trainings have been initiated	Support state governments in creating curricula for trainings
High Standards of Care	Local government officials reasonable in imposing standards	Remove funding-intensive requirements such as beds, building infrastructure etc.
CCIs will be provided financial support through the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)	CCIs are unaware of funding opportunities Government-allocated financial support can only support 40% of CCIs	Establish direct communication with CCIs and advertise funding opportunities Revise funding guidelines and provide competitive grants to CCIs
Local government officials should be a part of CCI's management committee and attend meetings once a month	It cannot be realistically expected that government officials attend meetings in each CCI	Revise guidelines to delineate job responsibilities of local government officials and home management officials