



PAN: **Children**



**Children@20 years:  
An overview of child- related  
policy development in the Twenty  
Year Review**

**Summary**

**May 2014**

## Children@20 years: An overview of child- related policy development in the Twenty Year Review

On the 16th of May 2014 PAN: Children invited Mastoera Sadan from the Presidency to discuss the development of child - related policy through a 20-year lens, elaborating on how far we have come and comment on the future of child policy in South Africa.

The purpose of this dialogue was to look at how far South Africa has come in terms of policy development in the child rights sector as well as to see what has worked in furthering children’s rights and what needs to be addressed. In addition, PAN: Children sought to flesh out policy issues that were touched on in the Twenty Year Review as well as to see what kind of research fed into the process.

**The objectives of the dialogue were:**

- Generate discussion of how best we can move on after 20 years and protect and further children’s rights in the future.
- To disseminate more detailed child- related policy information highlighted in the Twenty Year Review.
- Create a space for interested persons (stakeholders) to interact and engage with one of the key developers of the section on children.
- To interrogate and understand the research process behind the child - related evidence provided in the Twenty Year Review.
- To get a better understanding of how and why certain things were left out of the Review

Presentation	Key Highlights from the dialogue
<p><a href="#">Children@20 years: An overview of child related policy development in the Twenty Year Review</a></p> <p><a href="#">Executive Summary</a></p> <p><b>Author: Mastoera Sadan</b> Senior Researcher: National Planning Commission (Presidency)</p>	<p>The Presidency has produced a <a href="#">Ten</a>, then <a href="#">Fifteen</a> and now the <a href="#">Twenty</a> Year Review, as well as the National Development Plan - these are attempts to look at lessons learnt and how to move forward. The question to ask at this point is <i>To what extent have we helped the child born in 1994 and what will we do 2014 going forward for children?</i></p> <p>In the Twenty Year Review government was looking at interventions and examining some of the outcomes of the work done, the challenge lies in <i>identifying the kind of research needed to fill the gaps identified.</i></p> <p>The initial phase of law reform after the 1994 elections was a key feature in policy development. There were numerous policy and programme interventions i.e. Children’s Act 2005, child support grant, free health care, School Fee Exemption Policy, Grade R and so forth. The question to ask at this stage is <i>To what extent have we managed progressive realisation of rights?</i></p> <p>Children living in the Western Cape and Gauteng started off on a better footing than other provinces. Limpopo, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal are among the poorest and remain quite far behind. Government has tried to mitigate this discrepancy but equity is still an issue. In terms of policy and interventions, how do we remedy this?</p>

	<p>There is an increase in migration and there is need to understand what this means for families and in particular for children. Not much work has been done in this area.</p> <p>If one looks at the incidence of parental co-residence with children, one notices that the number of children living with neither parent has increased and children living with both parents have decreased. We need to look at what is going on- what choices are people making and what are their effects? People make choices based on a number of factors. What are these factors? We need to understand these dynamics a lot better. What does it mean for children not to live with their parents?</p> <p>On the issue of basic services such as sanitation, water and electricity, the former homelands started off with a double disadvantage. Statistics show that we have not progressed as we ought to. In terms of policy and interventions, what needs to be done?</p> <p>On ECD the current model has serious limitations, why do we have the same system as we had during apartheid? Indeed there is a new policy on the table but movement is slow.</p> <p>Looking at the issue of resources for ECD- there is no match between where services are available and where people reside.</p>
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**Key issues: discussion and ideas for further research**

On fiscal sustainability of increasing the ECD allocation, what is government's stance on that?

Where is government in terms of the post 2015 agenda and children's rights?

There is an increase in child mothers and child fathers. How can policy address these issues?

The Child support grant only benefits children who actually derive benefit from it i.e. if the money is spent correctly. What is being done to address this?

**Debates -:**

- Has the child support grant crowded out other interventions?
- What are the implications of making ECD a public good?

In the demographics shown, the number of children in rural and urban areas is almost the same. There is a need to explore this in research.

The profile of children still takes the pre-1994 profile- black children being failed. It is mostly the rights of black children that are not being realised- a clear indication that the 'one size fits all approach' is not working.

Drew attention to the situation analysis of children with disabilities. We also need to look at the Care Dependency Grant. When you look at statistics of children with disabilities, there is no synergy with these and the number of children receiving CDG's. We need to understand why such children are not accessing the grant. This is a considerable grey area.

There is a link between child migration and child abandonment. And there are no reliable statistics on child migration.

There is a need to look at integrated services: Children growing up in informal settlements are rendered more vulnerable to other human rights violations.

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**Coming up**

Policy dialogue on children and the media. Check the PAN: Children [portal](#) for dates and details of the event.