

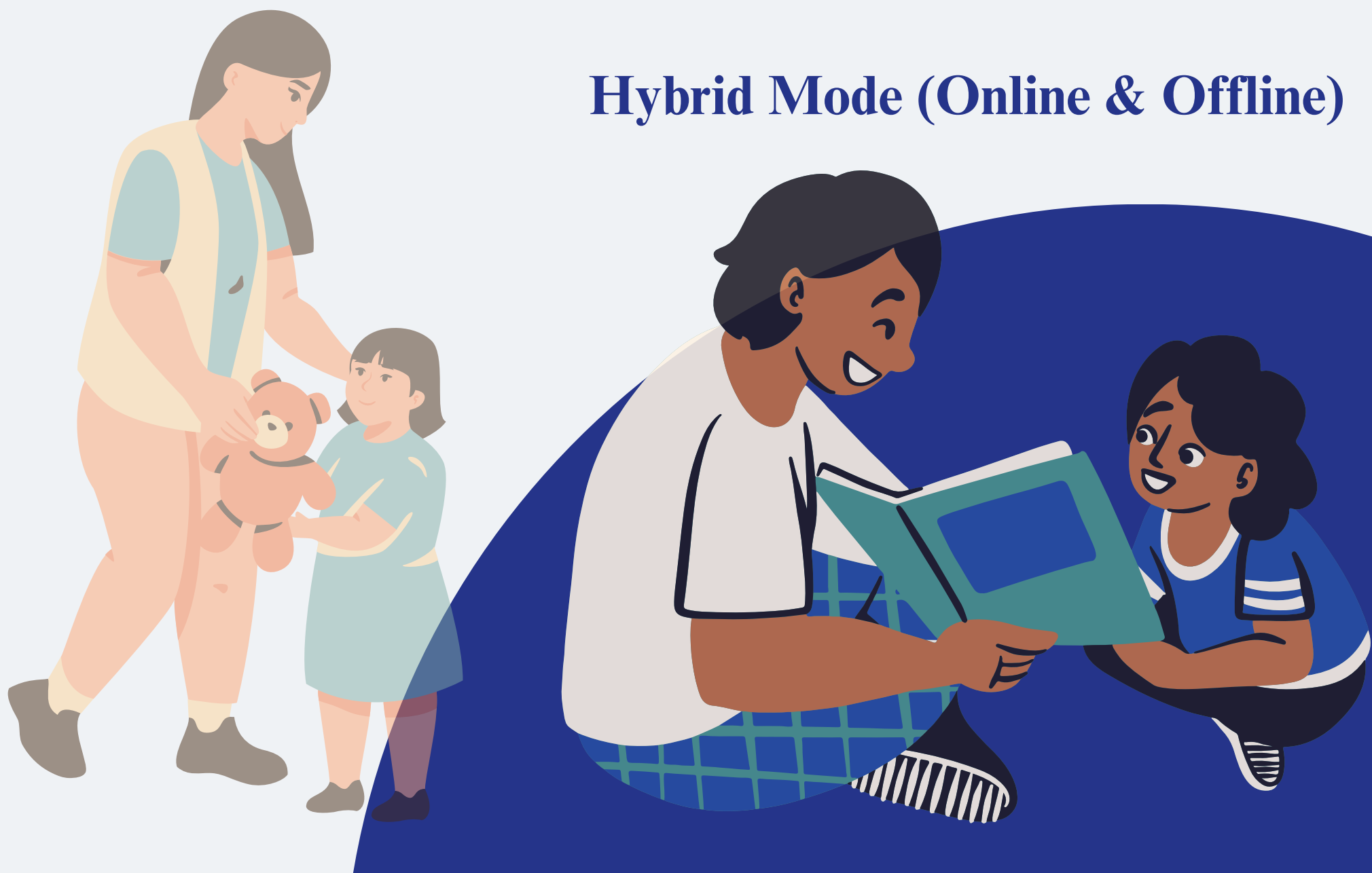
One-Day National Conference

on

**Best interest of child &
child Protection:
Challenges in
Interpretation and
Enforcement**

Date - 24 April, 2024

Hybrid Mode (Online & Offline)



The principle of the "best interest of the child" is a fundamental tenet of international law and child protection frameworks worldwide. It asserts that in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities, or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration. However, the interpretation and enforcement of this principle face numerous challenges across different contexts, jurisdictions, and cultures.

Different cultures and societies hold varying beliefs, values, and norms regarding child-rearing practices, family structures, and the roles of children within communities. As a result, what constitutes the "best interest" of a child may vary significantly from one cultural context to another. This diversity can pose challenges in establishing universally applicable guidelines for determining the best interests of children. While the principle of the best interest of the child is enshrined in international conventions and domestic laws, its interpretation and application can be subjective and context-dependent. Legal frameworks may lack clarity or specificity, leading to inconsistencies in how the principle is understood and implemented by courts, administrative bodies, and other relevant institutions.

In an increasingly interconnected world, children may be affected by transnational challenges such as migration, trafficking, displacement, and armed conflict. Ensuring the best interests of children in such complex scenarios requires international cooperation, coordination, and adherence to principles of non-discrimination and human rights. Upholding the best interest of the child necessitates meaningful engagement with children themselves, allowing them to express their views, preferences, and concerns in matters affecting their lives. However, ensuring children's participation and voice in decision-making processes can be challenging due to age-related barriers, power dynamics, and cultural attitudes that may undermine children's agency and autonomy.

Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from governments, civil society organizations, international agencies, communities, and individuals to prioritize children's rights and well-being in policy formulation, service delivery, and legal proceedings. It involves fostering a child-centered approach that recognizes children as rights-holders and active participants in their own lives, while also addressing systemic barriers and inequalities that perpetuate their vulnerability.

This conference aims to generate insights and recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and advocates working in the field of child protection. It seeks to inform the development of evidence-based strategies and interventions to address the challenges in interpreting and enforcing the best interest of the child principle effectively. By critically examining the complexities surrounding the interpretation and enforcement of the best interest of the child principle, this seminar seeks to contribute to ongoing efforts to strengthen child protection systems and ensure the rights and well-being of all children are upheld and protected.

Sub Themes

- Diverse professional field and multifaced needs of children.
- Best interest of child and tribal culture.
- Exploration of strategies to empower children and enhance their agency in safeguarding their rights and well-being.
- Challenges in applying universal standards in culturally diverse contexts.
- Effectiveness of legal remedies and enforcement mechanisms in protecting children's rights

Important Dates

- Submission of Manuscript with Abstract: 20th April 2024
- Communication of Acceptance of Manuscript: 22th April 2024
- Conference: 24th April 2024

Guidelines for Paper Submission

- Abstracts of not more than 300 words, for original research papers on the above-mentioned themes are invited, and submitted as Word documents, with a cover letter containing the name and designation of the author(s).
- There can be a maximum of two Authors only for each Abstract/Paper.
- Authors of shortlisted abstracts shall be required to send their full-length papers who would have the privilege of presenting their papers at this seminar.
- Full-length research papers in the form of articles within 3000 – 7000 words (inclusive of footnotes), should be sent.
- Potential contributors are required to adhere to Bluebook 20th edition citation style.
- The selected papers may be published in book form.

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