We tend to believe that children are the future of the country and this belief also seems to help us to forget that the same children are the citizens of this nation and they also have their rights and responsibilities like any other adult citizen. With time, it has been realized that children do have knowledge, sensitivity, and dedication to bear the responsibilities and raise their voice for their own rights. This understanding led the Government of India to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) and make statutory provisions with an aim of providing them the opportunities and facilities to grow in a healthy manner, which includes an environment of freedom and dignity. The Government changed its legislation to protect children from abuse and exploitation, which led to the changes made by the government in the socio-legal system of the country. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act was enacted in the year 2000, which was amended in 2006 to plug some of its loopholes. To translate the said act into action and to develop programmes for the development of children, the Government of India formed a separate Ministry for Women and Child Development and designed schemes on Integrated Child Protection. To further promote the rights of the children, the ministry drafted a bill called, Offences Against Children Act 2006. Hence, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 has given a new dimension to the whole Juvenile Justice System of the country. The act recognizes the right of children to participate in and made state machineries responsible for child protection. It presents more significance on treatment, care, protection and developmental needs of children by adopting a child friendly approach in the adjudication and disposition of the matters for the best interest of the children. The present move of State and Central Government is obviously a big step
towards the long term goal and it is possible only due to the strong advocacy initiatives taken by many child rights activists.

India is the home for largest number of children in the world but unfortunately, the majority of its children continue to remain in distress and turmoil. Among various social problems of the modern era, child protection occupies an important place. Along with many other social problems, the problem of child abuse has emerged as a result of rapid urbanization and industrialization. This has pushed many families to fall in the vicious poverty cycle resulting into unplanned growth of the cities. Such families are forced to settle on the streets without any shelter and basic amenities of life. Hence, the children of such families remain deprived and are exposed to the risk of abuse, exploitation and lack of participation in the society with their basic rights. Unfortunately, the lack of entitlements and formal identity, extreme poverty, absence of state protection and exploitation force them to adopt deviant coping strategies for their sustainability. They do not get a fair chance of protection from the state protection machineries due to their illegitimate status in the city. This study is an endeavor to understand the socio-economic status of street families and its impact on the child protection. In the whole gamut of Juvenile Justice Administration, Police plays a significant role in child protection. The study seeks to assess the interface between the children of families living on the streets and the police system, which are an integral part of juvenile justice system. Though child participation is still tentative, uneven and relatively unevaluated, the researcher strongly feels that children are one of the important stakeholders in the whole process. If given an opportunity, the children can think and express what they consider appropriate for them. If adults listen to and make space for children, they can actively participate in the policy development, implementing and evaluating of all the matters affecting their rights. Therefore, the present study aims to raise a voice for children living with families on the streets, who are still invisible in the policy documents and, it hopes to contribute to bring about a sustainable change in the protection and overall development process though a harmonized effort.