

A group of children in school uniforms standing outdoors in a line. The children are of various ages, mostly between 5 and 10 years old. They are wearing dark blue or black sweaters over light blue collared shirts. Some are holding small objects like pens or pencils. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor setting with trees and a path.

**Dissertation
In
Shri Bhuvneshwari Mahila Ashram, Uttarakhand**

(March 2 - May10, 2014)

**“A Comparative Study of Children’s Participation in
Decision Making at Sweden and India, Uttarakhand State”**

**By
Lucky Sharma
PGDRM 03
Roll No 51**

Flow of presentation



Introduction

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child(UNCRC), which has been ratified by all but two member states, establishes the rights of children in three important areas:

- Provision
- Protection
- Participation

Definition

Participation

Child

Aim of the study

The aim of present study was to understand how participation of children in decision-making is perceived in three blocks named Jakhnidhar, Pratap Nagar, Ghansali block of Tehri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand state compare to Sweden and how participation is situated in the obtaining social policy.

Objectives of the study

1. To explore various factors that hinder or facilitate children's involvement in making decisions.
2. To disseminate the various issues related to children involvement at home or work places affect decisions made.
3. To explore up to what extent a children can be involved in decision making.

Study methodology

Sample Unit	100 HH selected from 15 villages of 3 block of District Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. 37 Social Worker
Research Tool	Quantitative Study: structured schedule
	Qualitative Study: In-Depth Interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGD), Case Studies, Field observation and participation in various meetings and training programs.
Source of secondary data	Organizational records, article papers, Census data.
Sampling Procedure	Systematic Multi-Stage Random sampling
Study Type	A descriptive cross sectional study

Data Analysis

Theme 1. Various factors that hinder or facilitate children's participation in decision making

(1) Appropriate age for starting to participate

Figure 1: Appropriate age of starting participation perception of young people (%)

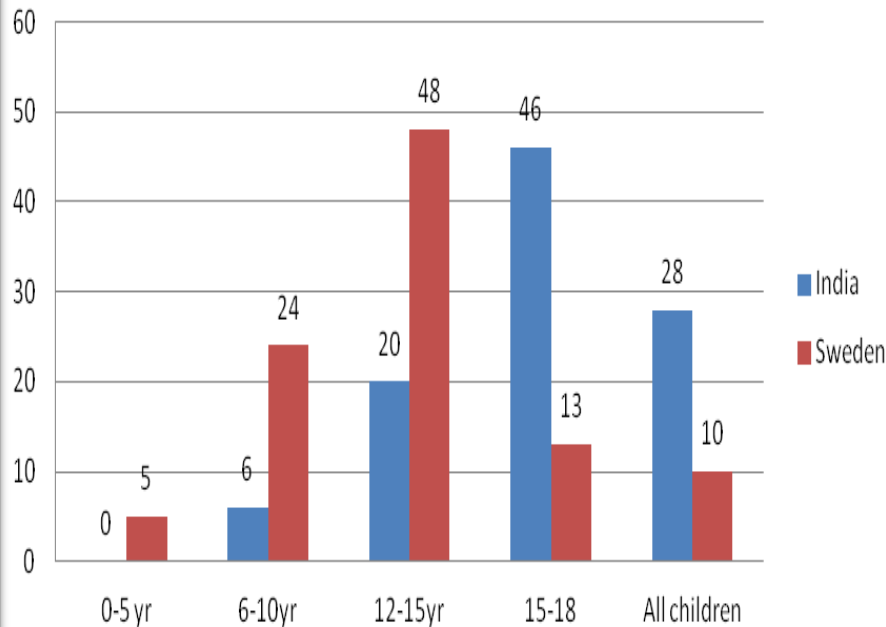
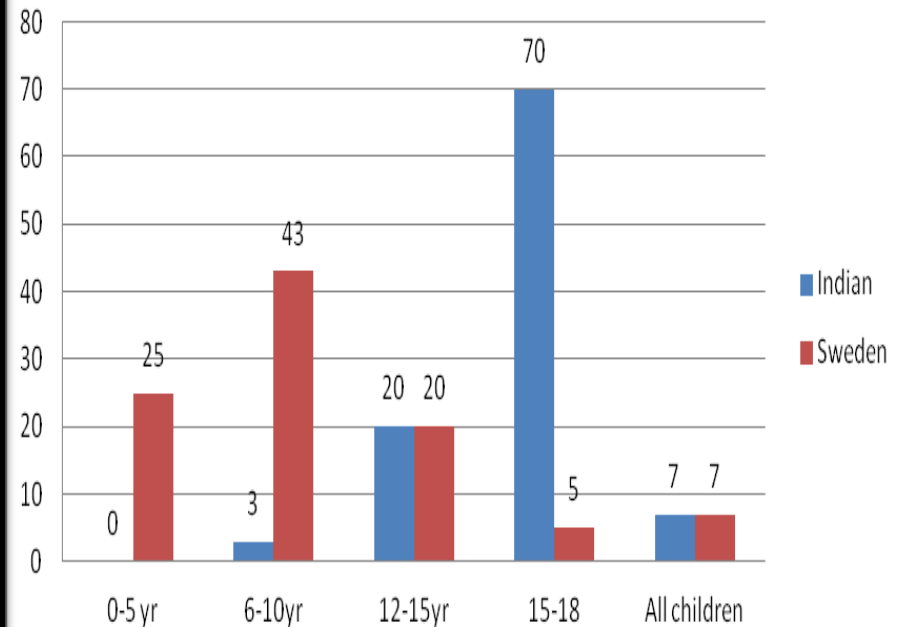


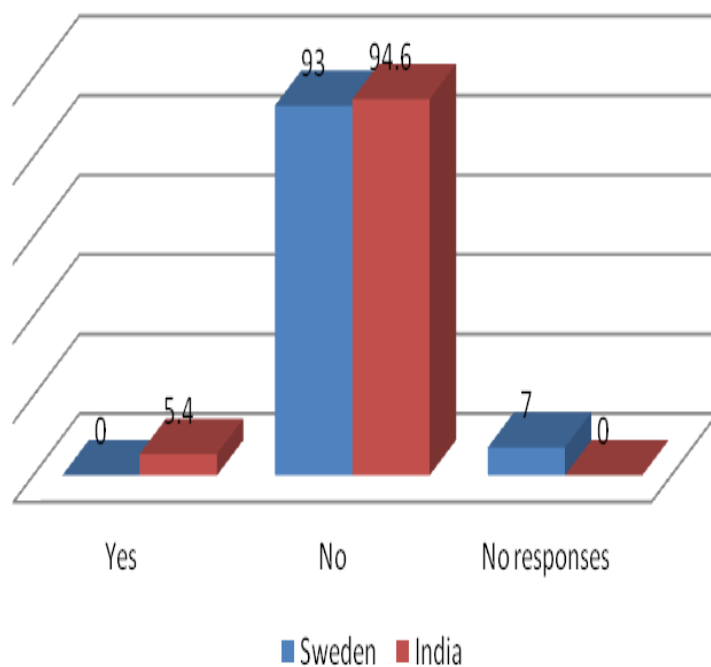
Figure 2: Appropriate age of starting participation perception of social worker(%)



(2) Is gender a factor in children's participation in decision making

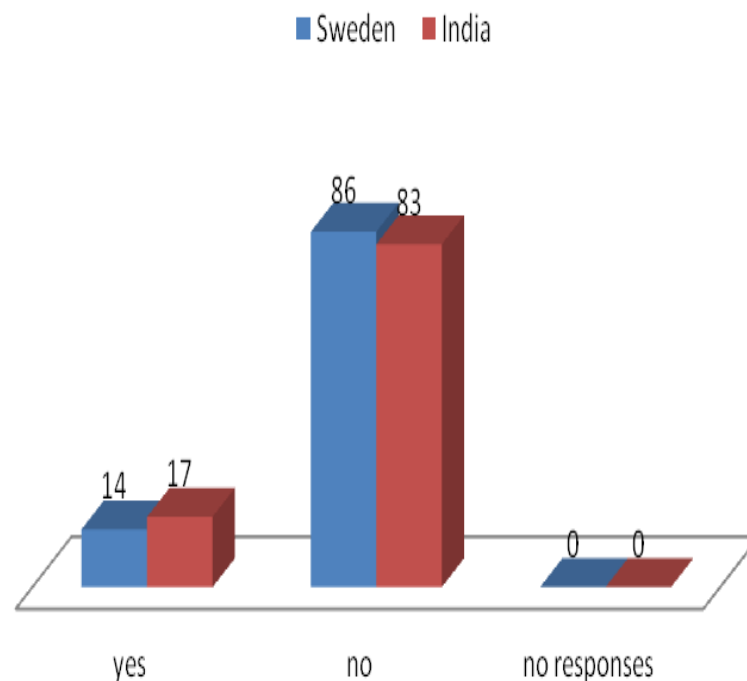
(a) Gender a factor in children's participation in decision making- Social worker's

Figure 9: Is gender a factor in children's participation in decision-making perception of social worker



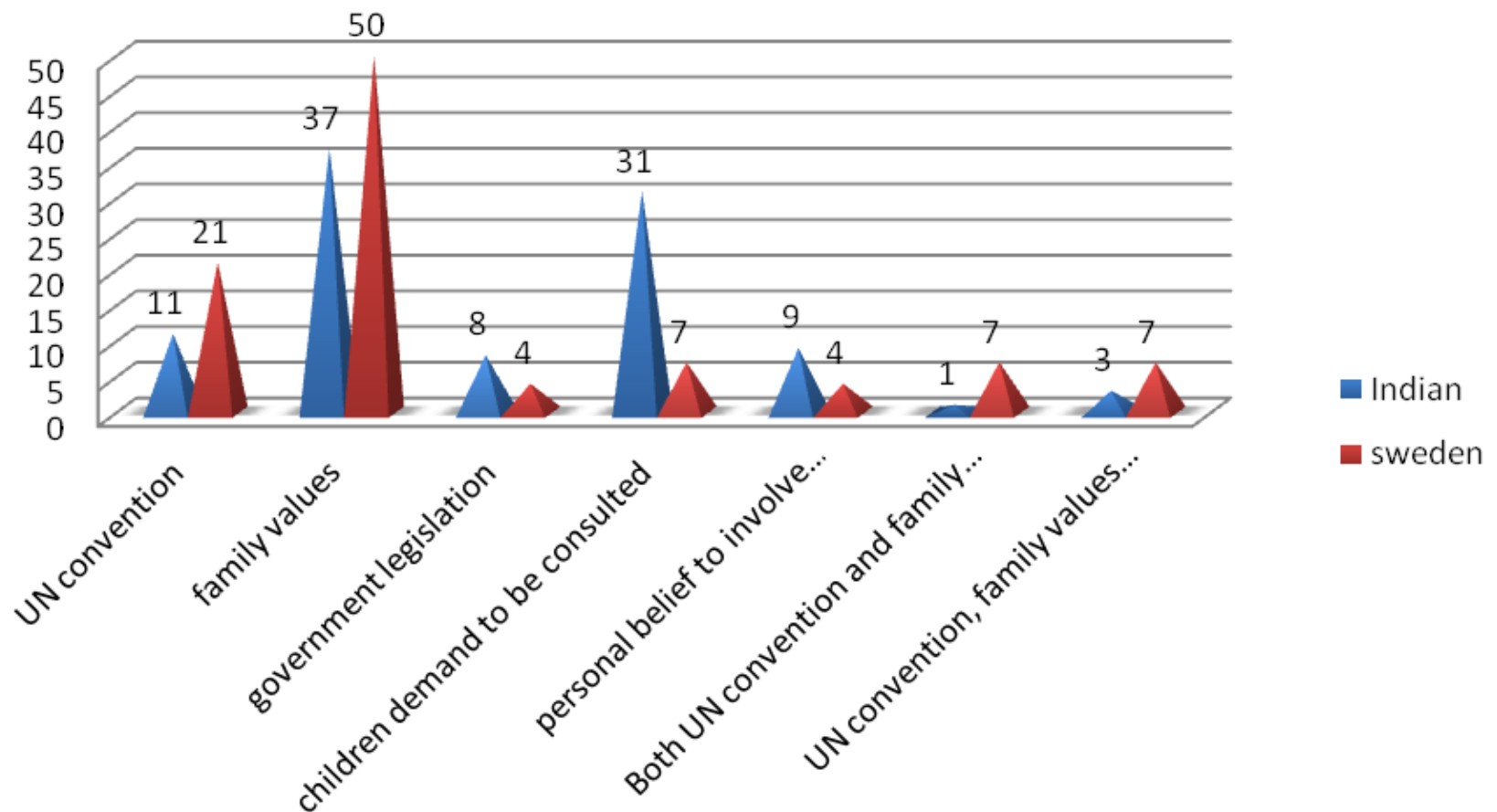
(b) Gender a factor in children's participation in decision making- Children's view

Figure 10: Is gender a factor in children's participation in decision-making perception of children



(3) Major reason for involving children in decision-making – Social worker's view

Figure 3: Major reason for involving children in decision making perception of social worker(%)



Theme 2: To disseminate the various issues related to children involvement at home or work places affect decisions made.

(1) Disadvantages of involving young people in decision-making

	Children		Social Worker	
Responses	Sweden(%)	India(%)	Sweden(%)	India(%)
They would lose respect for adults	19	16	27	19
Adults would lose control of outcomes	33	16	21	30
Decisions are usually wrong	24	6	22	32
No Disadvantage	10	55	10	19
No Opinion	14	7	20	7

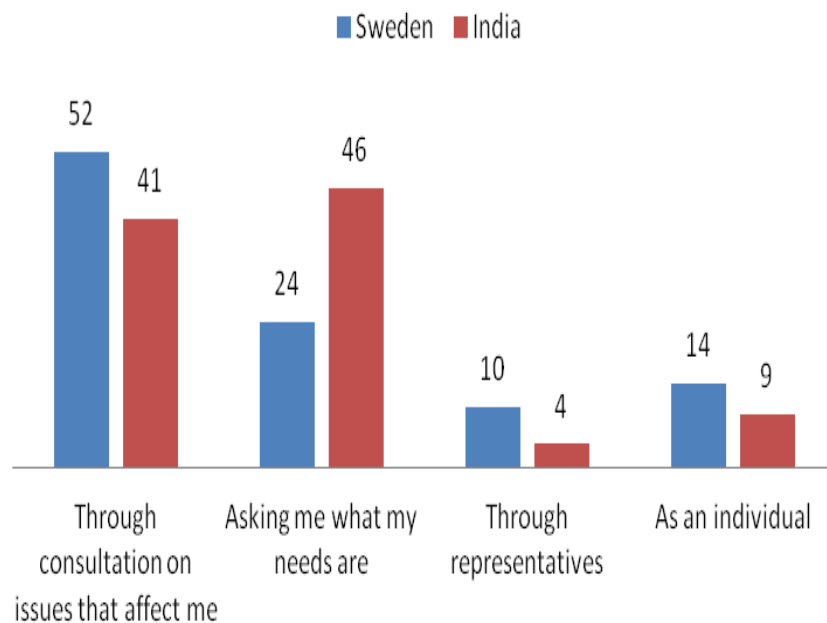
(2) Children are perceived to be incompetent in matters affecting their lives

	Children		Social Worker	
Responses	Sweden(%)	India (%)	Sweden(%)	India(%)
Strongly Agree	5	2	0	11
Agree	5	11	0	5
Partly Agree	19	25	4	14
Disagree	24	53	36	65
Strongly Disagree	33	6	57	0
No Opinion	14	3	4	5
Total	100%	100 %	100%	100 %

Theme 3: To explore up to what extent a children can be involved in decision making

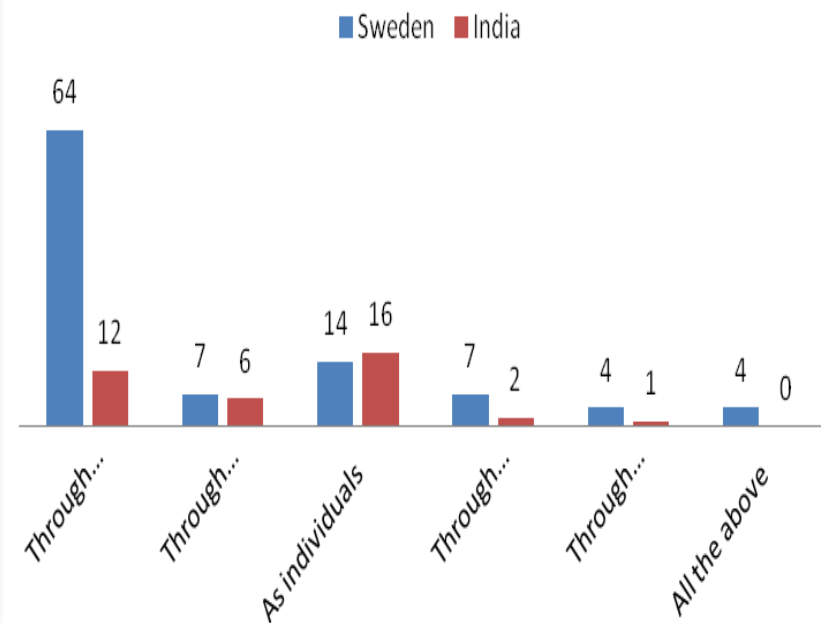
(a): How best children can be involved in decision-making - Children's views

Figure 6: How best children can be involved in decision-making Children's view



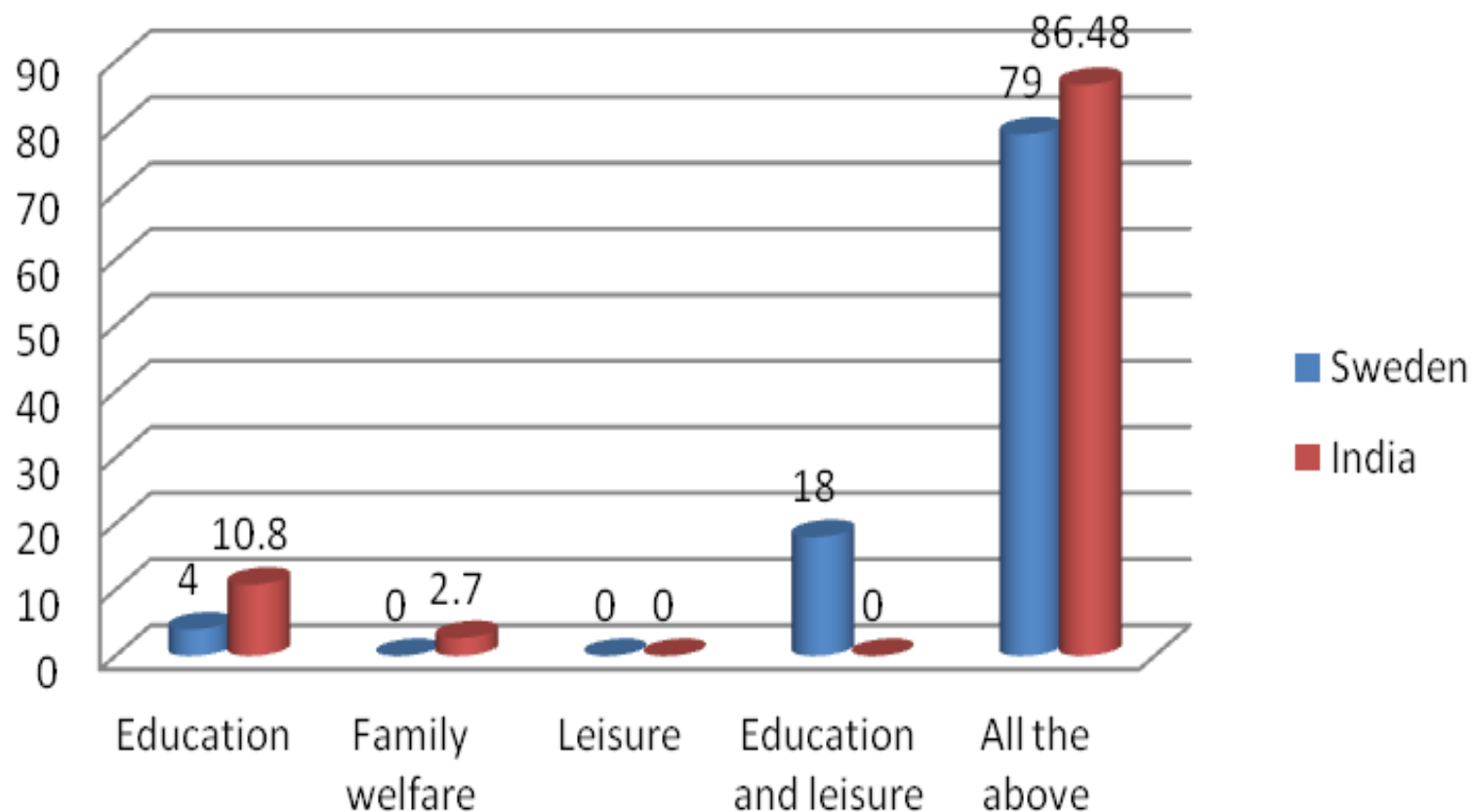
(b).How best children can be involved in decision-making – social worker's views

Figure 7: How best children can be involved in decision-making Social worker's view



(2). Areas of children's lives where they should be consulted

Figure 8: Areas of children's lives where they should be consulted perception of social worker



(3) Level of Decision making at which children should be involved

	Children		Social Worker	
Responses	Sweden(%)	India(%)	Sweden(%)	India(%)
Identifying the problem or need	10	15	14	5
Suggesting Alternatives	19	10	11	0
Choosing the final alternatives	5	16	0	0
Both Identifying the problem or need and Suggesting Alternatives	10	5	25	17
Both Identifying the problem or need and Choosing the final alternatives	5	4	5	7
Both Suggesting Alternatives and Choosing the final alternatives	5	3	11	0
All of the above	48	47	39	71
Total	100	100 %	100	100 %

Key Learning

Organizational benefits

1. Organization will be able to make accurate and relevant decisions.
2. Specific benefits to organization can include:
 - (2.1) Gaining new perspectives on an issue, by obtaining new knowledge and a better understanding of children and young people's issues
 - (2.2) Develop more effective policies and services.
 - (2.3) Enhancing relationships between staff and children and young people.

Benefits for children and young people in being involved

1. Being personally empowered to make a difference Through the participation process
2. Developing an awareness of, and value for, their own knowledge, understanding and insights Participating in decision making helps children and young people gain a better understanding of their own wants and needs
3. Becoming familiar with group and democratic processes Through participation
4. Developing improved relationships with adults and peers This can include an improved ability to work with others
5. Acquiring and expanding their problem-solving

Case Study

Case Studies





Thank - You