

CHATHURI HIMESHANI JAYASOORIYA

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ACADEMIC PROFILE

2012 May-2014 April – University of Colombo, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Sri Lanka

MA IN COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

- Field Placement – *Implementation of the pilot project ‘Promoting Meaningful Child Participation through Involving Children in their Own Protection’.*
- Thesis – [“Why Aren’t You Married Yet?”: Experience and Perceptions of Never-Married Single Women in Urban Sri Lanka.](#)

2008 March –2009 September – University of Colombo, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Sri Lanka

PGD IN COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOSOCIAL WORK (Distinction)

- Placements – *Halpathota Detention Centre for Children and the Women and Children’s Bureau.*
- Term Paper – [‘Rehabilitation, Care & Protection of Children in Contact with the Law: Is Institutionalization the Best Option?’.](#)

2002-2005 – University of Colombo, Faculty of Arts, Sri Lanka

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA, HONS – 2nd Class Upper Division)

Major Disciplines: Sociology, International Relations, English Literature

PROFESSIONAL COURSES AND TRAININGS FOLLOWED

2024 – The Den Meditation, USA

INTUITIVE HEALING (Level 1)

2023 – Sounds True (www.one.soundstrue.com)

PSYCHOTHERAPY AND MEDITATION (online course)

2023 – The Shift Network (www.theshiftnetwork.com)

AWAKEN INNER HEALING WITH THE POWER OF VOICE (online course)

2022-2024 – Vitality Living College, India

EMOTIONAL FREEDOM TECHNIQUES (EFT), INNER CHILD MATRIX (ICM) AND BREAKTHROUGH COACHING WITH NLP, HYPNOSIS AND TIMELINE TECHNOLOGY (international certification)

2022 – Amirtha Narayan, Reiki Master and Teacher of the Usui Reiki Lineage

REIKI MASTER INITIATION

2022 – Hay House Global (www.hayhouse.com)

CERTIFIED CARD READER (online course)

2021 – Naama Gabbay Nahoya, Teacher and Healer in the Curanderos Lineage of Mexico

LIGHT LANGUAGE (LEVEL 2) INITIATION

2011 – Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, USA in association with the University of Indonesia and the Care and Protection Network (CPC) in Sri Lanka

GLOBAL CLASSROOM ON CARE & PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES

(Global Classrooms in New York/USA, Jakarta/Indonesia and Colombo/Sri Lanka)

2001-2002 – JD Institute of Fashion Technology, Sri Lanka
DIPLOMA IN FASHION DESIGNING

2002 – Alliance Française de Colombo, Sri Lanka
FRENCH LANGUAGE COURSE – INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

2001 – Gateway Centre for Information Technology, Sri Lanka
DIPLOMA IN COMPUTER STUDIES - EUROPEAN COMPUTER DRIVING LICENSE™ (ECDL)

Local and international trainings (including TOTs) received on the following areas from 2007-2015:

Child Rights; Child Protection Policy (CPP); Advocacy and Lobbying; Child Centric Budget Analysis; Reporting Under the UNCRC; Reporting Under the UNCRC OPs and the UPR; Reporting on Children in Disasters; Involving Children in CRC Reporting; Involving Children in Their Own Protection; Child-led Research; Children's Consultations; Initiating and Sustaining Active Children's Societies; Providing Effective Support to Children; Gender Mainstreaming; Girls'/Gender Education; Supporting Community Workers involved in Helping/Counselling; Do No Harm (DNH); Qualitative and Quantitative Data Analysis.

WORK EXPERIENCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2021 September to present – PSYCHO-SPIRITUAL PRACTITIONER / THERAPIST / COACH / ENERGY HEALER / CHANELLED HEALING MANDALA ARTIST (www.suwamandala.com)

- I offer a variety of psycho-spiritual and therapeutic services to both individuals and groups (including organizations), with the intention of supporting their journeys of healing, transformation, awakening and empowerment.

2018 March to 2021 June – SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL

Regional Advocacy Advisor - Asia

- The key responsibilities included coordinating and acting as a point of contact for work on global advocacy projects at regional level; acting as an effective representative for the region while exchange with relevant NGOs, government bodies and other stakeholders with an objective to raise visibility for the organisation and advocating for the mission and purpose of SOS Children's Villages, as one of the models of child-care; as the regional representative in the global function network, bringing-in regional view and proactively advocate the regional interests; representing, promoting and advocating for the organisation's key messages through regional/international networks and meeting with governmental and like-minded non-governmental organisations to ensure child friendly policies; building professional relationships with relevant NGO and partners, including through NGO working groups/coalitions and exchanging meetings that enhance organisation advocacy impact; supporting Members Associations (in 8 countries across Asia) for effective advocacy with training, coaching and guidance on advocacy; supporting the 'Deputy COO-Asia & IDR- Asia' on socio-economic context in relation to advocacy work in the region; in cooperation with advocacy co-workers at national levels, identifying crucial child rights issues relevant for the region as well as individual countries; working in close coordination with CVI Representative, Director Programme - Asia and other functions for advocacy related deliverables; providing support in brand compliance and communication wherever necessary.

2015 March to 2018 March – SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES IN SRI LANKA

National Adviser on Advocacy (External Consultant)

- The key responsibilities included analysing the national child care mechanism to design advocacy initiatives, especially with regard to the alternative care settings in Sri Lanka; defining the advocacy priorities of the organization, proposing strategic goals, targets, actions and budgets for the advocacy work and facilitating the implementation of advocacy activities; forming and leading national advocacy group for alternative care and de-institutionalization; and providing training and technical support to the field staff in advocacy planning, implementation and monitoring.

- Key achievements include the formation of 'Generation Never Give-up', the pioneering national care leavers' association in Asia; advocating for the formulation of the Alternative Care Policy in Sri Lanka; and initiating a national discourse on deinstitutionalization and alternative care.

2011 January to 2018 March – INDEPENDENT PSYCHOSOCIAL AND CHILD RIGHTS PRACTITIONER

Consultancies on assessments and evaluations, research and reviews, training/capacity building, lecturing (e.g. PgD in Child Rights at the University of Colombo), curriculum development, project designing, proposal writing, strategic planning, rapporteuring (regional and national), process and content documentation, etc. Supporting and advocating with the government in relation to child rights governance is also a key component of my independent work. Main achievements include:

- *2016 September-December – Development of Guidelines for Child Day Care Centres – Consultancy with the **National Child Protection Authority (NCPA)**.*
- *2014 November-October 2015 – [Child Rights Resource Analysis in Sri Lanka](#) with a focus on the Southern Province – Consultancy with **Save the Children International-Sri Lanka**: analysis of the financial, material and human resources invested by the government in ensuring the rights of children together with an analysis of the child rights situation from 2012-2015, in the sectors of education, health & nutrition, child protection, ECCD and child participation. This is a research conducted with the aim of advocating with the government for optimum and meaningful resource allocation for children, and the findings have already been fed into the National Child Rights Agenda being developed by the government.*
- *2012 September-2013 January – [Capacity Assessment of the Village Child Rights Monitoring Committees \(VCRMCS\) in Eastern, Southern and Western Provinces of Sri Lanka](#) – Consultancy with **Save the Children in Sri Lanka**: the findings of the study have provided the basis for the national forum organized by the Department of Probation and Child Care Services (DPCCS) for developing operational guidelines/standards for VCRMCS.*
- *2011 June-September – [Child Centric Budget Analysis \(CCBA\) Sri Lanka](#) – Consultancy with **Save the Children in Sri Lanka**: the findings of this study resulted in a pioneering advocacy initiative on resourcing the rights of children in Sri Lanka which has resulted in impressive outcomes.*

2010 April-2014 December – THE GOOD PRACTICE GROUP (GPG), Sri Lanka

Associate

- Involved in MHPSS consultancies and voluntary initiatives as an independent psychosocial practitioner.

2009 October-2014 October – GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS) NETWORK (www.mhpss.net)

Network Host

- Involved the provision of technical support to the Regional Hosts and Membership, building community, overseeing/managing site development and technical issues as well as site content, maintaining databases and MHPSSN presence in social media, and liaising with the web developer and the management group.

2010 May-2011 March – AMICI DEI BAMBINI (Friends of Children), Sri Lanka

Counsellor/Psychosocial Worker

- Involved providing psychosocial support to children in residential care and children placed for adoption, capacity building of care-givers in children's homes and government probation officers, and advocacy with the government for promoting best practices in children's homes.

2007 April-2009 September – CONSORTIUM OF HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES (CHA), Sri Lanka

Programme Officer – Advocacy (Child Rights/Protection & IDPs)

- Involved in the designing, fund raising, implementation and monitoring of a number of advocacy campaigns and projects in partnership with government, non-government private sector organizations, with a special focus on children in conflict with the law, children needing care and protection, and

internally displaced persons. Two of the key programmes were the *Juvenile Justice Programme* involving high-level policy dialogues with government stakeholders and the provision of various services for children in conflict with the law and in residential care, and *Voice of Children* aimed at promoting child participation.

2006 November-2007 March – INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER

- Undertook various assignments independently, e.g. compilation of case studies for a women's empowerment project conducted by Dr. Pamela Pieris (Ph.D.), working as a research assistant for the Annual Review of the Action Aid International-Sri Lanka, and rapporteuring for events held by the Global Equity Gauge Alliance (GEGA) and the National Peace Council (NPC).

2006 June-2006 August – CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES (CPA), Sri Lanka Research Assistant – Peace & Conflict Unit

VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY SERVICE

2016 May-2017 April – 'EVOKING THE SPIRIT'

- This programme was implemented with the participation of 10 children from the SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka through 2.5 hour weekly interactive sessions, with the objective of understanding and fostering their spirituality, and thereby enhancing their wellbeing. Notable results were demonstrated in terms of changes in the children's behaviour, relationships, perceptions and emotional wellness.

2014 to present date – DROPS OF LIGHT (DOL) – <https://www.suwamandala.com/causes>

- This is a programme that includes a few small-scale voluntary social service initiatives to provide short to long-term support to children, families and individuals in dire socio-economic circumstances as well as to save animals. This involves the provision of housing, livelihood, educational, health and psycho-spiritual support, with the aim of empowering one individual and family at a time, to overcome limitations imposed by both self and society, and reach one's highest potential as a human being.

2008-2014 – CHILD RIGHTS ADVOCACY NETWORK (CRAN), Sri Lanka

- *Steering Committee Member and pioneering President of the Colombo District Forum (CDF) (2010-2012)* – was actively involved in the formation and development of the Network and was instrumental in initiating a number of advocacy initiatives to promote child rights and establishing relations with key governmental stakeholders and policy makers.
- *Lead – Working Committee on the Child Centric Budget Analysis (January 2012 onwards)* – This is a pioneering advocacy effort in Sri Lanka which introduced the CCBA tool and the concept of budgeting for children to the country. Key achievements: **launching of the CCBA report** under the patronage of the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs and in collaboration with the Office of the Adviser on Reconciliation to His Excellency the President; establishment of the **first parliamentary Children's Caucus in Sri Lanka**; the formation of a **regional working group on the CCBA/BfC in Asia** led by Sri Lanka and Pakistan, also comprised of Bangladesh, Nepal and Philippines; being included as a **'best practice' in the global toolkit on following up on Concluding Observations of the UNCRC Committee**, compiled by Child Rights Connect.
- *Focal Point/Country Representative – 'Supporting civil society for consistent and sustainable reduction of poverty through realization of child rights in Asia', programme conducted by the Plan Asia Regional Office (ARO).*
- *Lead Facilitator* – CRAN 3-year strategic planning process conducted in 2012.
- *Country Representative* – Pre-sessional Working Group of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, on the Sri Lankan Alternative Report on the UN CRC 2010.
- *Lead* – Cluster on Mother Migration and Alternative Care, Sri Lankan Alternative Report on the UN CRC 2010.
- Conducting trainings on Advocacy and Lobbying, Child-led Research, Child Participation, etc.

PUBLICATIONS

2016 March: [Child Rights Resource Analysis, Sri Lanka and Southern Province 2015](#)

A research report published by Save the Children International - Sri Lanka

2015 June: [An Assessment of Village Child Rights Monitoring Committees \(VCRMCs\) in the Hambantota Districts Supported by ChildFund Sri Lanka](#)

A research report published by ChildFund Sri Lanka

2013 July: [‘Resourcing Child Rights’: Child Centric Budget Analysis, Sri Lanka 2011](#)

A research report published by the Child Rights Advocacy Network (CRAN)

2013 March: [Capacity Assessment of Village Child Rights Monitoring Committees \(VCRMCs\) in Sri Lanka Supported by Save the Children](#) (published online)

2007 October: [The ‘Right to Return’: Commentary on the Return of the IDPs in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka](#)

A paper published by Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (MCRG), India; CRG Series on Policies and Practices (#15)

SELECTED INTERNATIONAL EVENTS ATTENDED

2020 23rd-25th November – 1ST INTERNATIONAL CARE LEAVERS’ CONVENTION, virtual

Organized by Kinderperspectief Netherlands, SOS Children’s Villages, Udayan Care India and the University of Hildesheim

2019 24th-29th November – ASIA CHILDREN’S SUMMIT, Bangkok, Thailand

Organized by the South Asia Initiative for Ending Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)

2019 28th October-2nd November – THE 34TH FICE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON RESIDENTIAL AND OUT-OF-HOME CARE, Tel Aviv, Israel

Organized by FICE International

2019 8th October – OPEN SESSION OF THE 19TH MEETING OF THE ASEAN COMMISSION ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN (ACWC), Brunei

Organized by ACWC

2016 18th-19th March – 2ND BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IMPROVING STANDARDS OF CARE FOR ALTERNATIVE CHILD AND YOUTH CARE: SYSTEMS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES, Noida, India

Organized by Udayan Care, India

2014 14th-17th September – 20TH ISPCAN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, Nagoya, Japan

Organized by the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)

2010 23rd-25th June – LEARNING INTO ACTION, Geneva, Switzerland

Organized by the Child Protection Working Group and the CPC Learning Network, Switzerland

2010 16th June – FORUM FOR NATIONAL CHILD RIGHTS COALITIONS, Geneva, Switzerland

Organized by the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Switzerland

2010 15th June – PRE-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (on the Sri Lankan Alternative Report on the CRC), Geneva, Switzerland

Organized by the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Switzerland

2007 1st-15th July – FELLOWSHIP ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT, Kolkata, India

Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (MCRG), India

OTHER INFORMATION

Gender: Female

Date of Birth: 26th of August 1981

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REFEREES

Academic:

- Dr. Asha ABEYASEKERA
Coordinator, Masters in Counselling and Psychosocial Support (MCP),
Faculty of Graduate Studies,
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
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Professional:

- Dr. Natasha BALENDRA
Former Chairperson (2015-2017) – National Child Protection Authority (NCPA),
Home address: 3/5, Maitland Crescent,
Colombo 07, Sri Lanka
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Email: natasha.balendra@gmail.com
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