

Focus group Discussion DRCSC project area

Centre for Knowledge Ideas and Development Studies (KnIDS) undertook a project of Terre des Hommes Suisse, India (TdH Suisse) to do a base line study for 2021-24 to assess the progress made by the Partners in India in imparting education to underprivileged children and also in implementing context relevant education and child rights-oriented education. DRCSC being one such partner has their project area in Tyangra, Kolkata, where this study was conducted on 12th November 2021.

The methodology adopted for this study involved Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with the beneficiaries of the projects classified under Children, Youth and Adults. 43 participants were present spread across the three categories. Children- 15 (10 male, 5 female); Youth-12 (8 male, 4 Female) ; Adult-16 (all female participants).

It was reported that the DRCSC never conducted any sensitisation training on CRC/Human rights & SDGs before. However participants had a fair knowledge and understanding of the basics of CRC & Human rights. Participants were vocal, participative and attentive, through-out the entire discussion.

The child participants in the group discussion were enthusiastic, vocal , friendly and participative. Although they haven't had any formal training on issues of Child rights and/or human rights, 60% of male children & 20% of the female child participants responded positively when asked if they are aware of the existence of child rights and human rights. Only 40% of the male children along with 20% of female children could identify situations where rights were violated or not respected. 26.6 % were aware of potential risks of violence in their environments. It was however heartening to see 100% of the participants were comfortable and willing to share their knowledge on Child rights awareness with their friends.

The youth participants, though not being taught the specifics of the UN conventions on child rights, showed awareness of the concept of 'Rights'. The female participants were more vocal on issues like gender discrimination, threats emanating from their environment and the necessities of becoming financially independent. Class awareness was also showcased on the participants' behalf. Both male and female participants showcased a healthy

sense of commune and spoke in length on the necessity of togetherness. This was on display when one female participant was visually hesitant to speak - on account of her being a school dropout- but was encouraged by her peers and post that she spoke at length on her ambitions and her current professional situation.

All adult participants were the mothers' of the students at the centre. It was revealed that the participants had never been exposed to any such courses/ training related to Child Rights or Human Rights. Other than the rights to livelihood, the level of their understanding about Child Rights is not very clear. They understand the basics of cleanliness and sanitation only as sustainable development but not as stipulated Human Rights like access to clean drinking water, clean environment. However it was interesting to see that they were aware of gender inequality and are able to identify situations of gender discrimination; 75% of participants responded when asked about gender issues and gender discrimination. They also pointed out problems they face due to water logging during monsoon season; and that they have to travel a long way to fetch drinking water. Local authorities have not been of much help when they have raised these issues.

In conclusion it can be said that though the children and the youth group have immense potential, they are in need of regular training on basic rights. This will lead them to identify their rights and enable access to resources. Concomitantly they will learn to address their needs. It was observable that the mothers of the participating children in the adult group require more sensitization on issues of basic rights.

Annexure: Graphical summary of FGD Responses

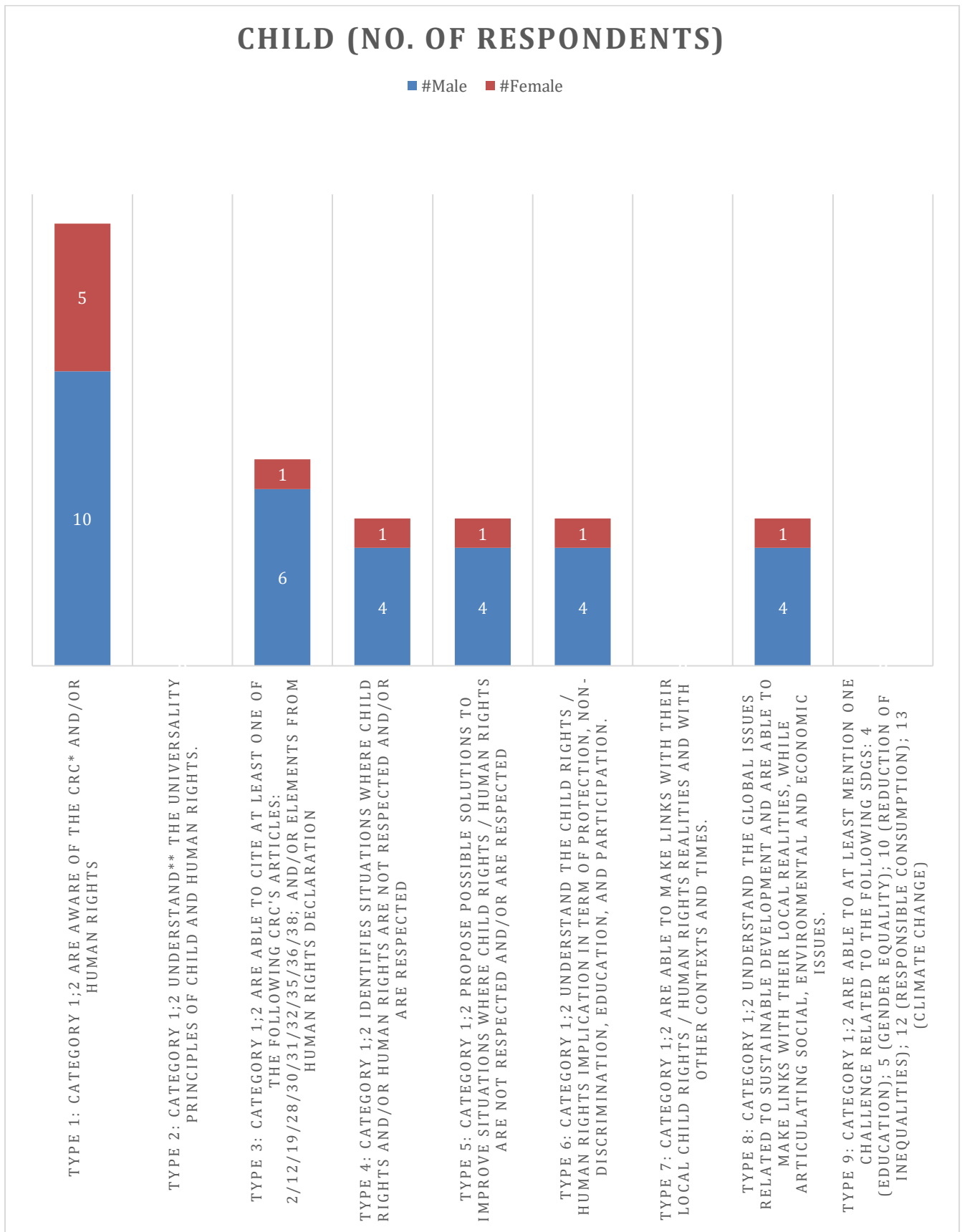


Fig. 1: Children's (category 1, 2) responses from the Focus group discussion

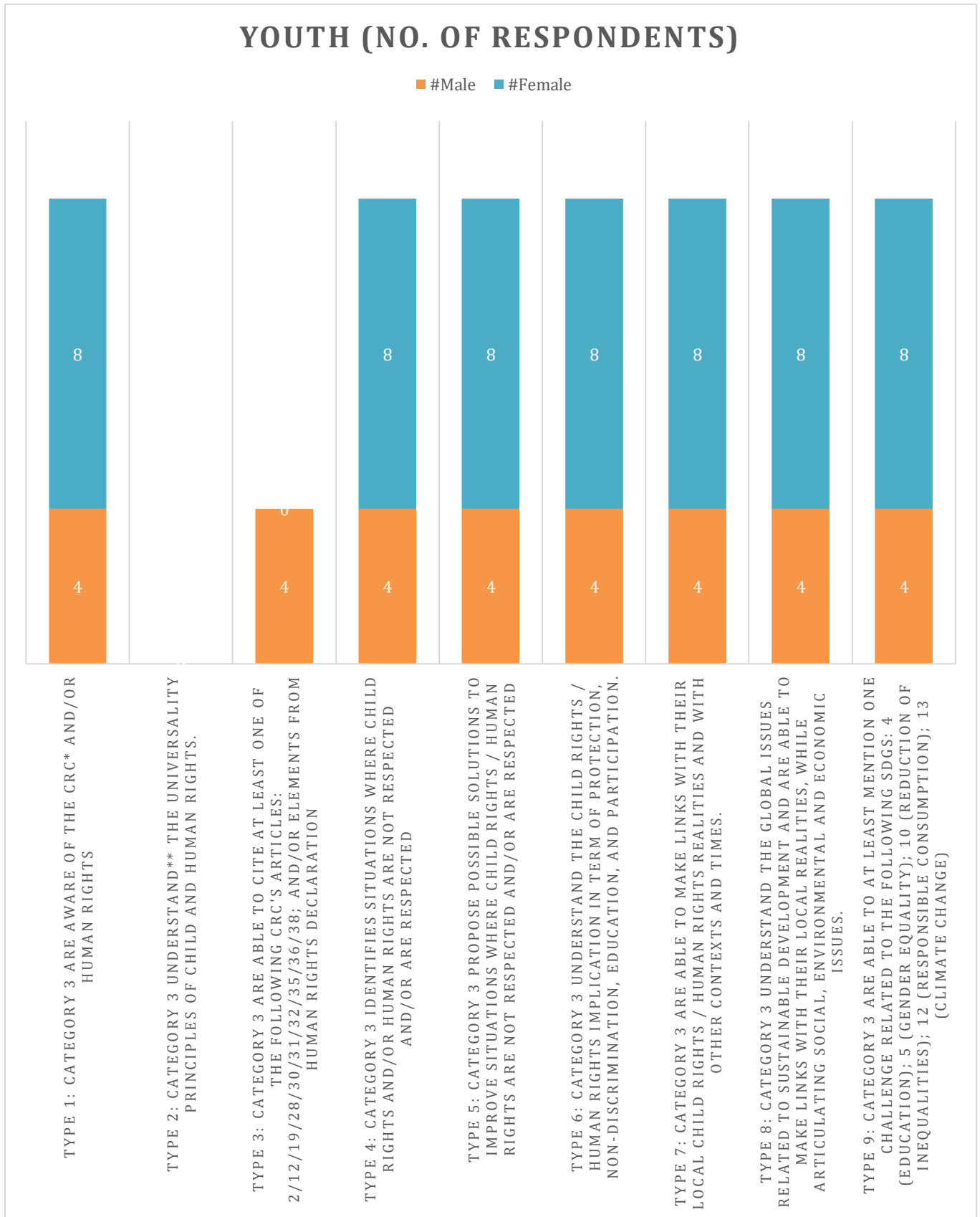


Fig. 2: Youth's (category 3) responses from Focus group discussion

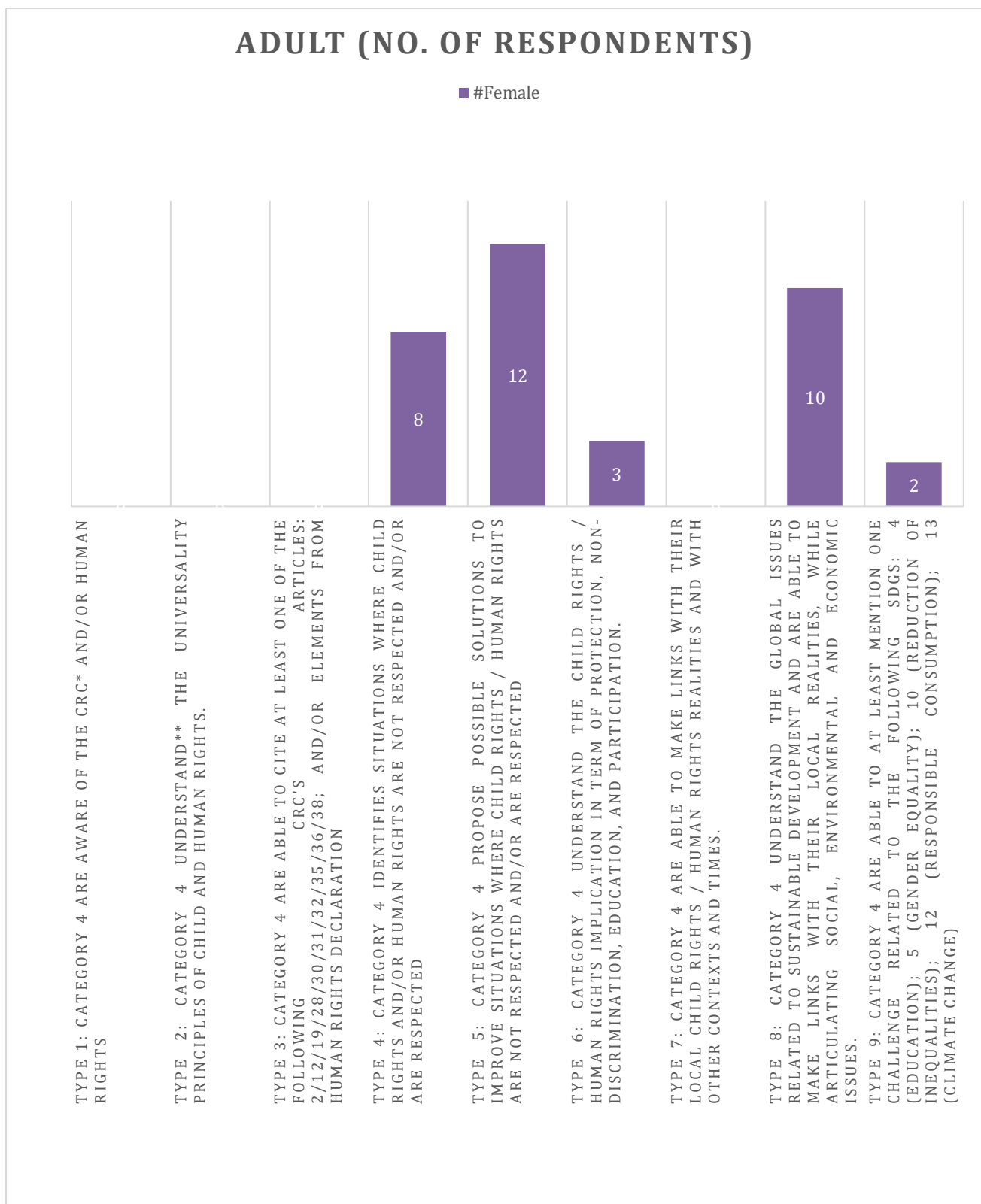


Fig. 3: Adult's (category 4) responses from focus group discussion



Fig.4: Children Group & Youth Group responses to gender discrimination and gender based violence issues

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