



CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE HANDBOOK



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Message



Over the last few years, awareness about child protection has been gradually increasing in our State. With government implementing many schemes and NGOs taking up many programmes, children now have an opportunity to experience a better childhood. However there is still a need to further increase awareness about child rights in the society. If all citizens work towards child protection, there will be no scope for any crimes against children. The Government of Telangana is striving to achieve this goal by implementing special schemes for children's protection through the Women and Child Welfare Department. Going much further than citizen's just acknowledging Child Rights, the government is now motivating and pushing them to form Child Protection Committees.

Designed to improve the functioning of Child Protection Committees, this handbook also explains rights of children and functional duties of Child Protection Committees. This booklet has taken shape with a clear intent to spread awareness about child protection among common people. I hope this effort will go a long way in further strengthening the functioning of Child Protection Committees.



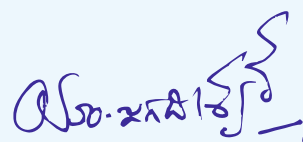
Shri Tummala Nageshwara Rao
Hon. Minister
Women and Child Welfare Dept.
Telangana

Message



Only when children live in a society that treats them as a national resource and protects their rights, will they achieve full potential of their physical and mental growth. That is why protection of children has now become a critical issue. With the same ideal as a goal, the government introduced the Integrated Child Protection Services (ICPS). Protecting children who are in vulnerable circumstances and dangerous situations is the main objective of the ICPS scheme. If ICPS is to achieve the desired results, it is essential that special committees at the field level function effectively. Hence ICPS has clearly spelt out the need for setting up Child Protection Committees.

To protect children, Child Protection Committees are being set up at village/ward level, slum level, mandal level, and district levels. The Government of Telangana wants to set up at least one Child Protection Committee in every village of the state at the earliest. As part of the same plan, to make it simple for everybody to understand the functioning of Child Protection Committees, this handbook has been conceptualised. As institutions working on Child Welfare and Child Protection for many years, after reviewing all issues at the field level, Plan India and Mahita have incorporated the most important information into this handbook. I hope this handbook will facilitate formation of many new Child Protection Committees and go a long way in creation of a child friendly environment in the state.



Shri M Jagadeeshwar, IAS
Secretary
Women and Child Welfare Dept.
Telangana.

Foreword



To protect children below 18 years, and help them grow in a friendly, secure environment, the government has introduced many stringent laws. Special mechanisms have also been put in place to ensure that these laws are effectively implemented.

Ensuring that children are not subjected harassment or violence, and to protect them is not just the responsibility of their immediate families or schools and colleges. It is a responsibility of the entire society. Recently, we have distressfully witnessed that crimes on children are perpetrated more often by their own family members than by outsiders.

Increasing awareness in society about child rights and their protection, and to emphasize that it is a responsibility of every citizen is the real need of the hour. To achieve this goal, the government has initiated formation of Child Protection Committees in every village. Now functioning in every village, these committees' mandate is to ensure that no child in the village is subjected to any form of harassment or violence. Telangana Government believes that these committees have now reached a stage when they need special training to improve their efficacy and knowhow in protecting children. This handbook was conceptualised with a belief that increased awareness about child related issues and child rights will bring about change in the society. Hence, this book needed to be simple, easily accessible, easily understood, highlight clauses in Child Rights, Child Laws, include government schemes, explain functional duties of Child Protection Committee, and prescribe activities that can improve their efficiency.

This book has been an integrated effort from Mahita -Plan India, ICPS and Women and Child Welfare Department and incorporates some very important information related with children. We do hope that it will be useful and widely utilised by everyone involved in the effort to protect children and contribute in building a bright future for them.

అజయేంద్ర...

Smt: Vijayendra Boyi, IAS

Director,

Women and Child Welfare Department

Telangana

It is 'our' responsibility !



Child Protection Committees are being formed all over the country - in villages, wards, mandals, cities, districts - everywhere; to protect child rights and to ensure that children grow up in a protected environment, ensuring that all children are in school, making sure there are no child labourers anywhere in the village, preventing child marriages, protecting children from sexual harassment, taking measures to ensure that children are not affected by violence - these are all primary duties of a Child Protection Committee.

Plan India has been working on Child Protection in 13 districts of Telangana since 2013. It has been supporting Mahita in the formation and improving functioning of Child Protection Committees at the field level. To ensure that all children in Telangana state attend school while enjoying their childhood, without being subjected to any form of violence or abuse, Plan India has been working in tandem with Government of Telangana.

Plan India believes that in addition to formation of Child Protection Committees, protection of children in a real sense will be possible only when all members in the committees are well aware of Child Rights and Child Protection Laws. It is with this intent that Plan India presents this handbook in association with Mahita. We believe that this book will be very useful to all of you who are working on resolving issues related with children at the field level. Sincere thanks to Government of Telangana, and officials at the Women and Child welfare Dept for their support and contribution in conceptualising this handbook.

Bhagyashree Denge.

Smt. Bhagyashree Denge
Executive Director
Plan India

Our Word



Mahita has been working on issues related with children's protection for over last two decades. Our efforts have been specifically focussed on bringing about changes in villages that could provide a more friendly growing environment to the children. Raising awareness about Child Rights, ending child labour, preventing violence on children, protecting children from sexual abuse - Mahita has designed and is implementing many programmes to achieve these goals at the village level.

As part of the effort, Children's Clubs and Child protection Committees have been formed and members are being trained as required. Mahita has been offering on-ground support for issues faced by children at the field level. While reviewing real situations at the village level, Mahita realised that for Child Protection Committees to work more effectively and to raise awareness about Child Rights and Protection there was a need for quality information and training. With support from Plan India, the Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) has been working in six districts of Telangana. The main goal of this programme is to work towards economic development of girls and young women by creating equal opportunities for them. This programme works through building partnerships between communities, civil society, government and private sector.

Child Rights, duties of Child Protection Committees, laws enacted by the government for children, punishments for crimes against children, and other such information that could be relevant to Child Protection Committee was researched and incorporated into this handbook. Information provided in this book will prove useful in resolving most, if not many cases related with Children

On behalf of Mahita - Plan India, I extend my sincere thanks to CRC Director, Ms. Manisha for her leading role in designing this handbook, Mr. David Raj for his support in comprehensively designing and integrating information, officials of Women and Child welfare department and the staff of ICPS.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ramesh Shekhar Reddy'.

Shri.Ramesh Shekhar Reddy
Programme Director
Mahita.

Acknowledgements

Mahita - Plan India are delighted to present this Handbook on Child Protection Committees. As part of the Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA), with support from Telangana Women and Child Development Department, Mahita- Plan India had organised a consultation session in which the Director and other top ranking officials of the Women and Child Welfare Department along with District Child Protection Unit, Integrated Child Protection Services, and Members of Child Protection Committees shared valuable information, based on which this 'Child Protection Committee Handbook' was conceptualised and designed.

We thank Shri M Jagadeeshwar, IAS, Secretary, Women and Child Welfare Department, Telangana, Smt. Vijayendra Boya, IAS, Director, Women and Child Welfare Department, Telangana, senior officials of the Women and Child Welfare Department, and members of the District Child Protection Unit/ Integrated Child Protection Services for their cooperation and support.

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Conceptualisation: Mr. Manisha Agarwal, Ms. Satish Devalla, Mr. Vishy Teky, Communication Resource Centre.

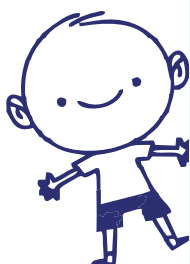
Art and Design : Mr. Abhilash Purushottaman, The Old School Creatives.

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Introduction

On Nov 20, 1989, in a historic decision, most countries of the world came together on one forum and adopted the United Nations Child Rights Convention (UNCRC) to protect all children and facilitate their comprehensive growth. India became a signatory to the treaty on December 11, 1992. Following the same principles, the government of India launched the Integrated Child Protection Services in 2009, which is being implemented in our state as well. Under this scheme, the state government is duty bound to take up activities to protect child rights, especially ones that are directly connected to their safety and security.

The laws, services, policies and schemes related with Child Protection as recommended by the UNCRC, are steadfastly being implemented by the State government. As part of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, the government issued orders that Child Protection Committees should be formed in all villages, mandals and districts of the state.

The main objective behind production of this handbook is to protect child rights and to establish a strong system in the villages that can prevent violence on children and offer them security.

Though formation of Child Protection Committees is mandatory under Integrated Child Protection Services, all citizens as individuals should strive to protect children's rights in the areas they live in. They are expected to act as a bridge between society and the government. Only then can we hope that our children in villages and towns will grow up well.

This book has been primarily designed keeping the following objectives in mind - to ensure that children are not subjected to abuse, to help in formation of Child Protection Committees, providing CPCs with required support and assistance, and to convert them into shields that protect children. This book will give you complete information about issues that children face everyday, laws enacted by the government to address those issues, and the procedure for implementation of such laws. The CPCs will have to work towards increasing awareness on these issues, and making sure that there are no violations with regards to children's security.

Functions of CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

- Creating awareness in society about Child Rights
- To bring about change in society/parents to help them provide a better life to children
- To oversee the implementation of child rights. And when required, if there is a violation of rights, to intimate the same to officials concerned.
- To create awareness about government schemes for children.
- To identify problems that children encounter, develop plans for children's security, to intimate such details and information to relevant government organisations.



Constitution of India - Children's Rights

Article 15 : Citizens should not be subjected to any form of discrimination.

Article 21 : Everybody has a Right to Live.

Article 24 : Children below 14 years shall not be engaged in hazardous activities.

Article 39E : Childhood will not be misused under any circumstances.

According to United Nations Child Rights Convention (UNCRC), all children of the world have been granted rights that are covered under 54 clauses. While the first 1-42 clauses relate with children directly, rights under clauses 43-54 are related to obligations of the governments towards children in their country. These rights have been accorded to all children of the world irrespective of caste, religion, gender or race.

All 54 rights have been further integrated into four main rights.

1.Right to Life: Every child has a right to lead a quality life. Parents and governments are obligated to provide them with basic amenities.

2.Right to Protection: Children have the right to seek protection against neglect, abuse, physical or emotional violence, be it at home or elsewhere.

3.Right to Participation: In decisions related with their present or future life, children have a right to directly or indirectly express their opinions and participate in decision making, in an age appropriate manner.

4.Right to Develop : Every child has right to develop their skills and abilities by all means. This right can be fulfilled by providing appropriate nutrition, universal education and play, that would contribute to their physical and mental growth.

All these rights are not mutually exclusive and are interdependent.



Issues Encountered by Children

Child Labour

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) ammdement Act 2016 prohibits “the engagement of children in all occupations and of adolescents in hazardous occupations and processes” wherein adolescents refers to those under 18 years; children to those under 14. of work . Under Prohibition of Child Labour Act, sending such children to work is a cognizable offence. However economically weak families consider children as an earning resource. They engage children for household chores, at shops, mechanic garages etc.





Child Marriages

Marriage for girls under 18 years and boys under 21 years is a criminal offence. Forcing them into marriage at a tender age pushes them into many physiological and psychological problems. Children at that age do not have a correct understanding of life. Having multiple children at a young age further pushes them down into depths of poverty. They cannot raise children appropriately. With serial pregnancies, girls become severely anemic and their health deteriorates. This increases the burden on the family. With no means of treatment or proper nutrition, they encounter trying circumstances.

Immoral Child Trafficking

Sending/taking/keeping children away from home, with or without parents knowledge, for work or for sexual exploitation come under immoral trafficking. Multiple reports from across the country have pointed out that immoral child trafficking is widespread in India. To arrest this phenomenon, the government brought in the Immoral Trafficking (Prohibition) Act. This can be implemented only with active cooperation from people at the ground level.



Physical and Mental Abuse

These attacks continue unabated at homes and in schools on a daily basis. Physical and verbal abuse by parents or teachers for the smallest of mistakes by children, subjecting them to severe punishments continues as a cultural and social practice even today. However, all of these acts are legally punishable offenses.



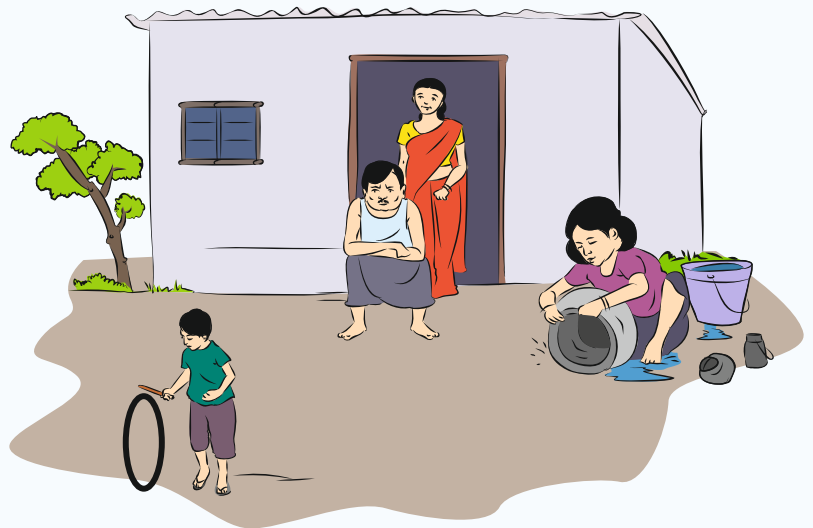
Engaging Children in Begging/Seeking Alms

At an age when children are expected to study, play or be in school, many children can be seen begging on the streets or elsewhere. Children are being forced into begging near temples, bus stands, railway stations, and at traffic junctions in cities. In some cases parents themselves force their children into begging. In other cases mafia gangs traffic children and engage them in begging. In some cases these gangs have gone to the extent of injuring children and forcing them to beg.

Discrimination against Girls

In many families, there is discrimination in the way parents bring up boys and girls. From food to education, girls always receive less than their share of everything.

Girls face discrimination in everyday situations like engaging them in all household chores, keeping them from studying, restrictions on freely expressing themselves, needless mocking and forcing them into early marriages.



Sexual Abuse and Harassment

Incidences of sexual abuse of children especially girls has been on the rise; not just from strangers but even at home and from within the family or school staff, children are becoming more and more vulnerable to sexual harassment and abuse.

Children's Partnership - Child Forums

Problems faced by children are better appreciated by children themselves. Children are able to quickly empathise with what their peers might be through. Childhood is a stage in life when, physical and mental, growth is fastest. At this stage, by bringing children together, facilitating them to discuss their problems and listening to their issues carefully, strong foundations could be laid for children's protection. Participating in discussions is fundamental right for all citizens. By participating in discussions, children have an opportunity to influence decisions that can bring about favourable changes in their lives. This issue has been specially highlighted by the United Nations Child Rights Convention. According to clause 12 of the UNCRC, in decisions that have an impact on their lives, children have a right to participate in any such discussion happening in families, schools, or communities. In schools, in addition to hearing out children's opinions, teachers and headmasters are duty bound consider their opinions while making decisions. In villages, to identify their problems and explore solutions, children should come together to form Child Forums. In such forums, there is every possibility that they could find a way out of their problems in the village.



What are Child Forums?

To protect Child Rights, Child Forums are to be formed in every village. Children between 6-10 years will be grouped under one forum, while children between 11-18 years will be grouped under another. Every forum should, including boys, girls and children with disabilities, and have at least 15-20 members in each group. Appropriate number of groups should be formed to cover all children in the village. Increasing awareness about child rights, these groups should be encouraged to work towards realising those rights. Such forums provide children with opportunities to play creative roles in matters related to their development and protection.

Duties of Child Forums

- Members of the Child Forums should meet once every month.
- They should discuss problems being faced by all children in school and at the village level in general.
- Information about children dropping out of school should be shared with Child Protection Committee. Information about marriages of girls below 18 years, or violence against children anywhere in the village should be shared CPC members.

Child Forum Members who are in the Child Protection Committee should attend all meetings without fail. Problems that children face in the village should be brought to the notice of Committee members and work towards resolution of those issues.

What Is A Child Protection Committee (CPC)

CPC is a group formed with some members from village/mandal/ward/slum/town or districts. The committee's primary responsibility is to prevent any kind of violence, harassment, abuse on children and to work towards making children's lives happy. Integrated Child Protection Services (ICPS) has made formation of such committees mandatory in all villages and towns.



Need for Child Protection Committee

Children, on their own, cannot protect themselves from harassment, abuse, violence and neglect. They might not even be at a stage to realise that they could be victims of such abuse. But adults living in the area have a better understanding of specific local circumstances and potential dangers that children might face. In cases of abuse or crimes perpetrated on children, local residents will be able to learn about it faster than police. Not just that, local residents can identify potential places of abuse, or potential people who could abuse and prevent children from being exposed to them in time. However, as individuals, citizens are bound by certain restrictions and limitations when protecting children. If a group of individuals can formally organise themselves into a committee for the entire village, everybody would adhere to their voice. It is with this intention that Child Protection Committees are being formed in every village.

These Child Protection Committees work towards protecting rights of children and resolving children's issues. The CPCs main responsibilities include ensuring that all children go to school, making sure that children are not subjected to any kind of violence or abuse, preventing child marriages, preventing child labour and resolving other problems that children might face in their locality.

Individuals who want to be members of the CPC need to have complete understanding of child rights and a strong desire to offer a better life to children. They should be able to look at all issues from children's perspective and find solutions that are most suitable to children. They should attend all committee meetings without fail. Each committee should have at least 15 members.

The CPCs work at three levels.

1. Village/Ward/Slum/town Child Protection Committee
2. Mandal Child Protection Committee
3. District Child Protection Committee

Village Child Protection Committee

This committee works under the leadership of the village Sarpanch. The committee is formed with officers, individuals and children living in the village. It is mandatory that there is such a committee in every village. The primary duty of this Child Protection Committee is to convert their village into a child friendly village - that means preventing child marriages in the village, ensuring that all children go to school, making sure there is no child labour and no violence of any kind on children. The CPC will have to ensure that opinions expressed by children are valued and decisions are made keeping in mind these opinions. Whenever an issue related with children crops in the village, this Child Protection Committee should immediately respond and try to resolve it. If required, issues should be brought to officials' notice. Members to the village Child Protection Committee are chosen in the following way.



Village Child Protection Committee Members

Members	Number	Status
Village Sarpanch	1	Chairperson
Anganwadi Teacher	1	Convenor
Asha Worker A N M	1	Member
Teacher from village school	1	Member
Children's parents	1	Member
Child Forum Members	2	Member
Leaders from Youth Association	1	Member
Members from Women's Groups	1	Member
NGO	1	Member
Police official from Village	1	Member
Revenue Officer from Village	1	Member
Village Panchayat Secretary	1	Member
School Management Committee Secretary	1	Member
Religious Heads	1	Member

* Parents who are aware of children's problems, and who have a desire to find solutions for children's problems should be selected.

** Efforts should be made to rope in religious heads in the village (depending on availability)

(Note: Ward/Slum CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE members list is in annexure)

Mandal Child Protection Committee

The main function of the Mandal Child Protection Committee is to coordinate functioning of all Village Child Protection Committees in the mandal. It works for the security and protection of all children in the Mandal. This committee provides assistance and training to Village Child Protection Committees in preparing plans, increasing awareness about issues, and resolving issues. Mandal CPCs will have to take up and resolve issues that Village CPCs are unable to resolve at their end. Overseeing the work of Village CPCs, Mandal CPCs offer them suggestions and instructions for more effective functioning.

Mandal Child Protection Committee Members

Members	Number	Status
Mandal Praja Parishad President	1	Chairperson
Mandal Parishad Development Officer	1	Secretary
CPDO (ICDS)	1	Convenor
Mandal Education Officer	1	Member
Village Child Protection Committee Chairmans	2 (rotational basis)	Member
Childline representative	2	Member
NGO representatives	1	Member
Mandal Medical Officer	1	Member
Sub Inspector/Station House Officer	1	Member
Assistant Labour Officer	1	Member
Children from CPCC	1 boy + 1 girl (rotational basis)	Member
President of Mandal Mahila Samkhya	1	Member
District Child Protection Division Representative	1	Member
Youth Association	1	Member

Note: CPC Chairmans of all villages in the Mandal should ensure that children get to represent themselves in Mandal Protection committee on a rotational basis. This will ensure that issues from all villages are brought to the notice of the Mandal level committee.

What is Division/Ward Child Protection Committee

Just like the Child Protection Committee in the villages, similar committees need to be formed in towns and cities. These have to be formed in wards and hence are called Ward Child Protection Committees. It is the duty of the members to ensure that children in their wards are not subjected to violence, abuse and harassment and remain protected at all times.

Division/Ward Child Protection Committee Members

Members	Number	Status
Corporator or Councillor	1	Chairperson
Supervisor (ICDS)	1	Convenor
ANM	1	Member
Ward School Teacher	1	Member
Children's Parents	2	Member
Children's Club members	2 ^{1boy + 1girl} <small>(rotational this is the constitution of the girls and boys amongst the children's representation)</small>	Member
Youth Association Leaders	1	Member
Member from Womens groups	1	Member
NGOs	1	Member
Sub Inspector	1	Member
School Management Committee (SMC) Chairman	1	Member
Religious Heads	1	Member

* Parents who are aware about children's problems, who are determined to find solutions and are willing to make efforts should be chosen.

**Religious Heads from the wards (depending on availability) should be included in this committee.



Need for Slum Child Protection Committee

There is a high probability of children being harassed or abused in the slums of urban cities. Children from slums are highly vulnerable to be sent as Child labour too. Child trafficking gangs actively monitor and seek out children from these slums. That is why it becomes so much more important to form CPCs in slum areas of urban cities.

Slum Child Protection Committee Members

Members	Number	Status
Area Sabha Member	1	Chairperson
Anganwadi Teacher	1	Convenor
Slum School	1	Member
Teacher	2	Member
Children's Parents	2	Member
Children's Club members	2 <small>1boy + 1girl (rotational basis)</small>	Member
Youth Association Leaders	1	Member
Member from Women's groups	1	Member
NGOs	1	Member
Sub Inspector	1	Member
School Management Committee (SMC) Chairman	1	Member
Religious Heads	1	Member

* Parents who are aware about children's problems, and are determined to find solutions and are willing to put in efforts should be chosen.

**Religious heads from the slums (depending on availability) should be included in this committee

What is City (Urban) Child Protection Committee

The City Child Protection Committees have been envisaged to monitor and support the functioning of slum CPCs. City/town Mayor will function as the Chairperson. Monitoring the functioning of Ward/Slum CPCs and offering them support and assistance in protecting the rights of children are their main functions.

City (Urban) Child Protection Committee Members

Members	Number	Status
City Mayor	1	Chairperson
City Municipal Commissioner	1	Convenor
District Welfare Officer (ICDS)	1	Member
District Education Officer	2	Member
Childline 1098 District Coordinator	2	Member
District Medical and Health Officer	1	Member
District Labour department Deputy commissioner	1	Member
Police Commissioner	1	Member
District Judicial Services Secretary	1	Member
District Mahila Samakhya President	1	Member
Joint Commissioner (UCD)	1	Member
District Child Protection Officer	1	Member

District Child Protection Committee

The District Child Protection Committee enables the effective functioning of Integrated Child Protection Services (ICPS) at the district level. The primary function of the District Child Protection Committee is to coordinate the functioning of all Mandal CPCs in the district. Identifying the Mandal level/Village level CPCs which are unable to function according to their mandate, the District CPC offers appropriate training and improves their functioning. It helps the Mandal CPCs in developing plans and budgets. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of District CPC to prevent child marriages, child labour, any kind of violence and abuse of children and devise action plans to achieve the same. It encourages the Mandal CPCs to work in that direction.

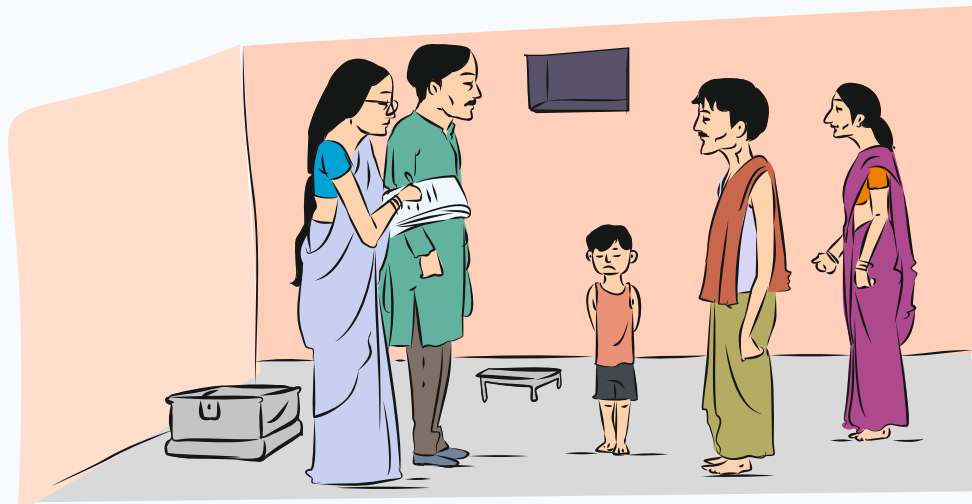
District Child Protection Committee Members

Members	Number	Status
Zilla Parishad Chairperson	1	Chairperson
District Collector	1	Secretary
District welfare Officer (ICDS)	1	Member
District Child Protection Officer (DCPO)	1	Convenor
District Education Officer	1	Member
Chairpersons of Mandal Child Protection Committees	2 (Rotational Basis)	Member
Childline District Coordinators	1	Member
NGO representatives	1	Member
District Medical Officer	1	Member
District SP	1	Member
District Judicial Services representative	1	Member
Labour Department Asst. Commissioner	1	Member
President of Mandal Mahila Samakhya	1	Member

Note: Members of Mandal Child Protection Committees should be changed on a rotational basis. This will ensure that issues from all villages are brought to the notice of the District level committee.



Activities to be taken up by Village Child Protection Committee



- Collect the list of all children in the village based on their age.
- Prepare a report on the circumstances of children and the potential problems they might face.
- Create awareness among people in the village about protection of children.
- Identify any kind of harassment/abuse of children, review it, prevent it and report it to the mandal committee and other officials concerned.
- Prepare contingency plans in case of emergencies.
- Keeping a close watch on children who could potentially drop out of school due to family circumstances or families where there could be potential for child marriages.
- Ensure that all children above six years go to school.
- Identify children who have dropped out of school and ensure that they join back.
- Inspecting facilities in Anganwadi and village school. If not up to the mark, then work together with School Management Committee and officials to improve facilities.
- Work towards preventing all child marriages in the village. If you become aware that a child marriage is being planned, should work with officials to stop it.
- Ensure that children are not engaged in household chores, farm related work or any other form of paid work.
- Explain to parents and employers about the harm that child marriages and child labour causes children and bring about attitude change.
- Ensure that children are not subjected to physical or verbal abuse by teachers in school.
- Ensure that all births in the village are registered.
- Discuss the problems identified by children's groups and look for solutions.
- Identify the government departments to be approached for specific problems. (for example for child marriages revenue department and CMPOs, Child Welfare Dept and the police; for facilities at school education department officials will need to be intimated) (information related to this is provided at the end of this book)
- Improve awareness about laws related to Child Rights.
- Work towards converting the village into a child friendly zone.
- Ensure that children's issues are discussed in every Gram Sabha.
- Coordinate all activities with Mandal and District Child Protection Committees.
- For any violations on children, immediately contact Childline - 1098 and Police Helpline -100, DCPO and report it on phone.
- Also inform the office of District Child Protection Officer through phone.

When there are any incidents of sexual abuse of children, immediately seek local police help and inform 'Bharosa Helpline Center No- 040-27852520 and She Teams Whatsapp No. 94906 16555, and 181.



Child Protection Committee Meetings

The Child Protection Committee should have a meeting once every month. All members should attend the meeting without fail. (ensure that there is $\frac{2}{3}$ quorum)

Preparations to be done by Child Protection Committee before the meeting:

- Prepare a list of issues (agenda) to be discussed in the meeting.
- Collect complete information about the issues to be discussed in the meeting.
- Publicise the meeting place, date and time well in advance.
- Parents of affected children should be present in the meeting without fail.
- Parents of other affected children in the village should also be present in the meeting.
- Along with members, officials also need to be given information.
- Problems faced by children in the village should be identified and should work towards resolving them
- Problems identified in resolving earlier issues and ways to overcome them should be discussed and decide upon them
- Potential problems for children in the village and precautions that could be taken should be discussed in the meeting
- Should take up problems identified by children's group in the village and efforts should be made to resolve them
- Emergency meetings should be held to discuss ways to protect children and followed up with action.(For eg: When there is information about a child marriage in the village)
- Manage the register to record issues discussed and decisions made. (sample attached)

Common Violations Related With Children- Actions That Can Be Taken

To provide complete protection to children, the Child Protection Committee needs to be alert and efficient at all times. Creating awareness about laws related to child rights enacted by the government is the responsibility of this committee. The committee needs to work collectively to achieve this goal. Keeping in mind circumstances and attitudes of people in villages, the committee should design its awareness programmes.

Child Marriages

Child Marriages are frequently recurring phenomenon in villages. Though aware that such child marriages are illegal, many parents who consider daughters as a burden, tend to get them married at a very young age. Ensuring that such marriages are prevented in time is a responsibility of the Child Protection Committees. If a list of all children in the village is prepared and all of them are regularly enquired upon, it would be easier to prevent such child marriages.



What should the CPC do?

Immediately upon receiving information about a child marriage, the committee should call an emergency meeting and deliberate on the possible interventions that could prevent it. Specific information about the child marriage should be immediately shared with Childline, 1098, ICDS, Revenue and Police officials. All members of the CPC should collectively go and physically stop the marriage.

Child Labour

The most common problem in our villages is engagement of children for labour work. Some parents believe that sending their children to work for wages, could bring in some additional income to the family. Creating awareness, convincing them about benefits of education, and protecting children from being sent for paid work is an important responsibility of the CPC. If farmers and shopkeepers in villages can be persuaded not to engage child labour, the problem could be contained to a great extent. If some children don't attend school for too long, a mechanism should be evolved to make sure that information about them reaches committee members at the earliest. This would help in tracing whereabouts of the children and prompt arrangements could be made to send them back to school.

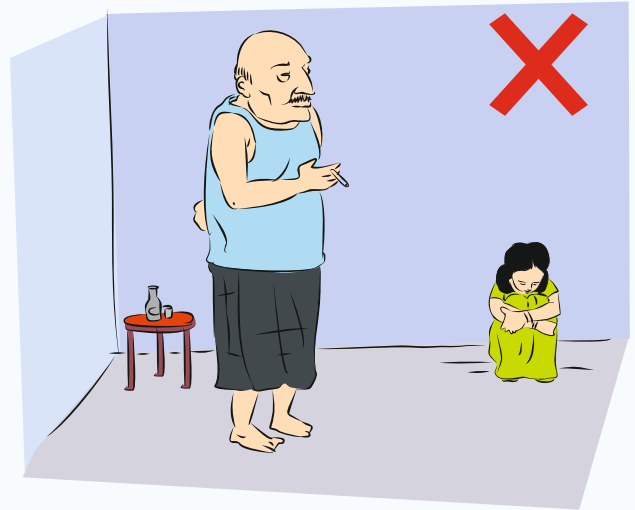
What should the CPC do?

When the CPC receives information that children are being engaged in work, firstly the Police, Labour Department and Panchayati Raj officials should be informed and taken to the place where the children are employed. CPC members should ensure that a case is registered against the employers and follow through with the process of children being sent back and re-admitted into school.



Sexual Harassment

In recent times, incidences of sexual harassment are being reported from all over. Children are frequently falling prey to sexual abuse from family members, school staff, or others from the village. Lack of sexual awareness among children is clearly the cause in most of these incidents. It is the responsibility of the Child Protection Committee to build awareness in children about concepts of 'good touch' and 'bad touch'. Children should be oriented to immediately report any kind of adult misbehaviour. Building awareness among parents will also help in preventing sexual harassment incidents.



What should the CPC do?

Whenever a sexual abuse incident is reported or comes to light, immediately a police complaint should be lodged. A case should be filed and the perpetrator should be immediately arrested. Meanwhile, it is absolutely important to keep names and identities of sexual abuse victims confidential.

Immoral Child Trafficking

With not enough resources to take care of their children, many poor families are resorting to selling their children to child traffickers. There have also been incidents of children being kidnapped for immoral trafficking. A majority of these children have been girls. Brokers and middlemen move these children either to brothel houses, or send them as domestic workers in cities, or turn them into beggars. Besides losing out on childhood and their right to education, children's sexuality and labour is being stolen from them. Preventing such immoral trafficking and protecting children is also the responsibility of CPC.

What should the CPC do?

CPCs should work towards increasing awareness in the village about immoral trafficking and its dangers. CPC should be watchful of strangers and new families coming into the village. Information should be regularly collected about families who have migrated out for work. If any child goes missing from the village, police should be immediately informed.



Corporal Punishment in school

Teachers physically hurting children for not being up to the mark, disobedience, not completing homework, shaming them to the extent of causing trauma, insulting them verbally are all crimes punishable by law. In many cases, teachers resort to punishing children by asking them to stand without clothes. Punishments like these have the counter effect of instilling fear of school in children. It demotivates a child from learning anything in school. This is completely against spirit of Right to Education.

What should the CPC do?

The scars and negative impact that physical and mental punishments cause to children should be convincingly explained in villages. Mainly, teachers in schools should be sensitised not to use punishments of any kind on children in any circumstances. In case a child is punished, all other children should be orientated in

advance to complain to the Village Child Protection Committee. If the committee comes to know that child/children were punished in school, the district education officer should be immediately intimated.



Discrimination and neglect of children

In some families, it is traditional to favour boys over girls. Considering girls as a burden on family, they are relegated to household chores. They are not given proper clothes or food. They are not allowed to go out and play. However boys would enjoy all benefits in such families. They are allowed all freedoms. Such a treatment is a clear discrimination against the girl child. Girls should be treated equal with boys in all matters.

In some families, parents don't spend any time with their children. They do not have the time or patience to hear out their children and are irritated at all times. All these reflect a neglect and discrimination against children. Subjecting children to such behaviour is a crime.

What should the CPC do?

CPC should strive to build awareness in the village about discriminations against a girl child. It should clearly communicate that such discrimination is a punishable crime under law. Awareness should be created in the village that no child should ever be discriminated against on the basis of their caste, religion, or class. In case there is such a discrimination, including that of from parents, children should be oriented to complain to any member of the CPC.

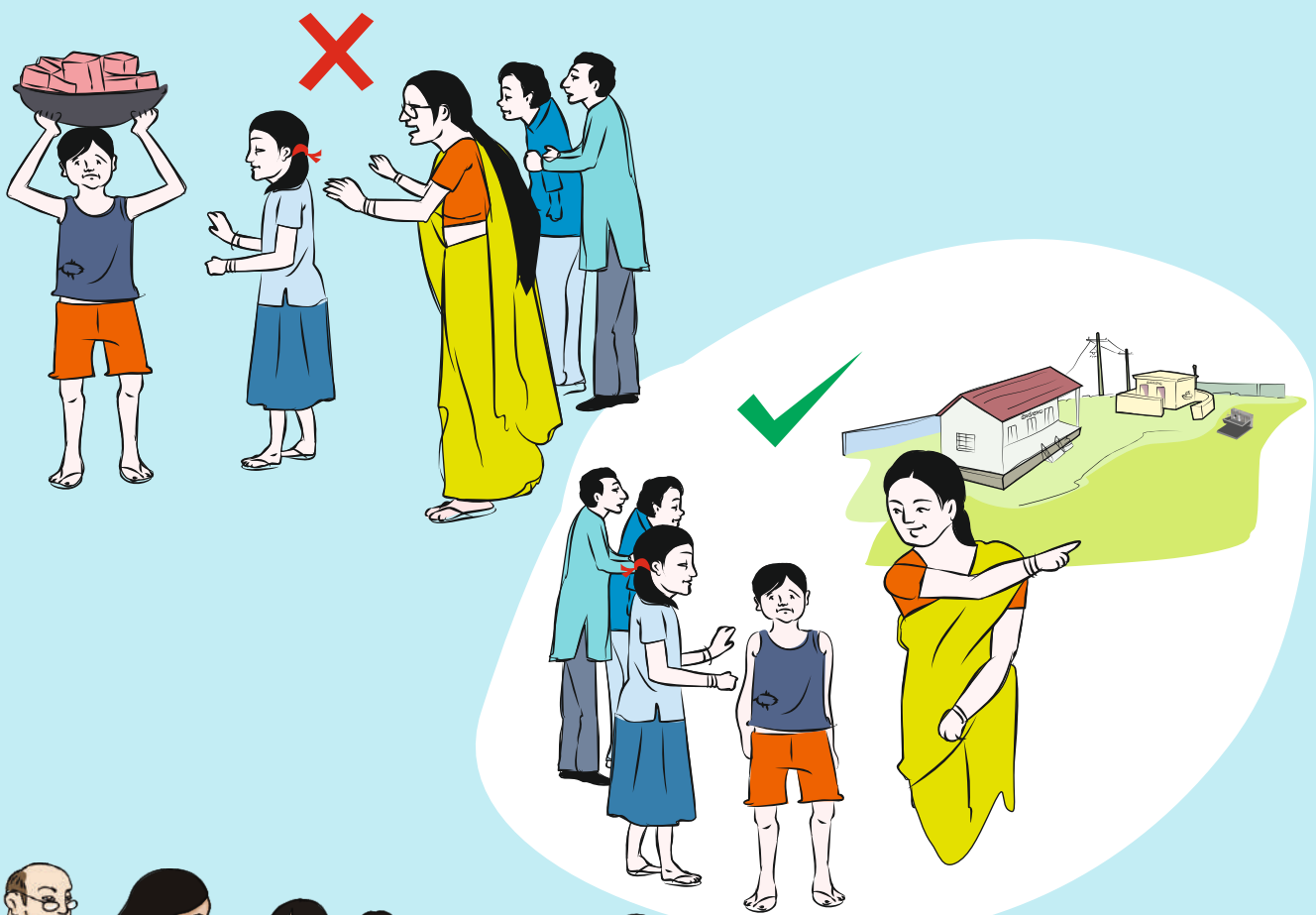


Children who drop out of school

Some children drop out of school either because of family circumstances or because of lack of facilities in school. Some parents forcibly make children discontinue school. There is a high probability of such children who have dropped out from school to become child workers. The CPC should work towards changing the circumstances that push children into the work stream.

What should the CPC do?

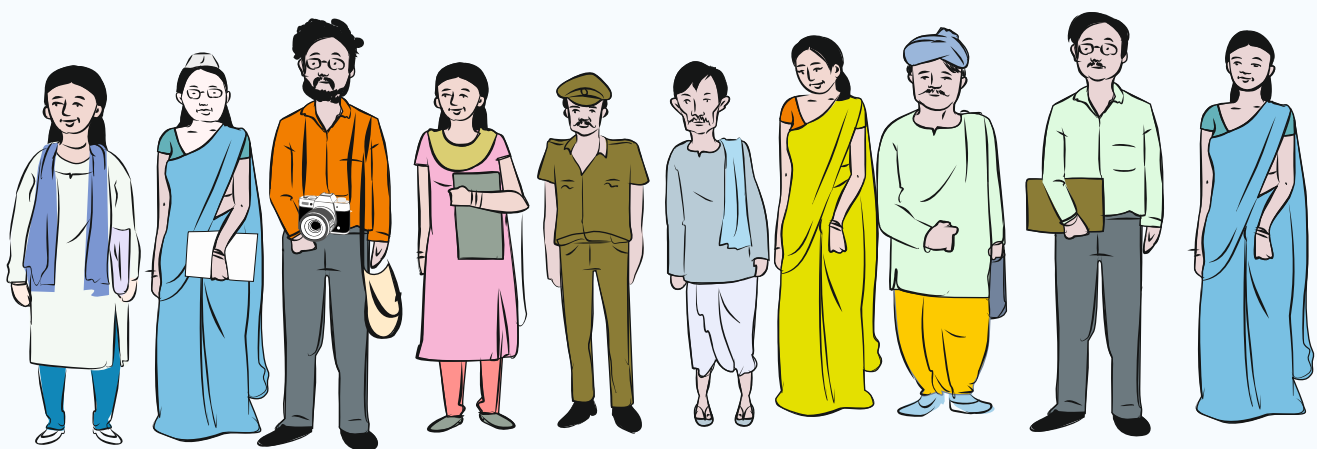
CPC should work towards building awareness among elders of the village about benefits of sending children to school. Educating them about the Right to Education, it should be emphasised that children between 6-14 years should compulsorily be in school. Children who have dropped out should be identified and readmitted into schools and should be monitored. Parents should be counselled to send their children to school. Information should be regularly sought from the School Management Committee. Members should regularly conduct inspections in schools to ensure that all requirements and facilities prescribed under the Right to Education are being made available in schools at all times.



Initiatives by district level CPCs that can improve working of village and mandal level CPCs

Lives of children in villages are better where CPCs are active and alert. To ensure that CPCs remain enthusiastic, district level CPCs need to take up some special initiatives.

- Meetings for the Village and Mandal CPCs need to be regularly conducted, issues regularly discussed, and solutions demonstrated.
- Increasing awareness about Child Rights and Laws among all committee members.
- Identifying the best performing village CPC and giving them recognition/awards.
- Sharing the work and best practices of best performing village CPCs with others.
- Sharing case studies of CPCs success stories with others and ensuring their coverage in media.
- Organising awareness programmes in villages about Child Rights by inviting legal experts and officials for talks.
- Issuing identity cards for all members.



Qualities of Model CPCs

For CPCs to be enthusiastic and active, they need to be strengthened with support, appropriate training and constant motivation. The following achievements have been listed for all CPCs to work effectively for children, to assess their functioning, motivate them, and to demonstrate characteristics of model CPCs. Committees that are able to achieve these milestones in their respective geographical areas, should be recognised and awarded at district level and state level, and certificates recognising their contribution should be conferred upon them.

- All children between 6-14 years in their region should be attending school.
- Children in their area should not be engaged in any commercial business or trade.
- No children should be found begging.
- There should be no child marriages anywhere in their area.
- There should be no homeless children or children living on the streets in their area .
- There should no incidences of any physical or emotional attacks or violence on children
- There should be no incidents of sexual abuse on children.
- Children should not be subjected to physical or mental punishments in schools.
- Boys and Girls should be treated equally.
- All children should be healthy.
- Everybody should be aware of Child Rights.
- Girls should live in a safe environment. Even during travel, they should be provided protection.
- Meetings should be held regularly without fail.
- Problems and issues should be promptly attended to.
- There should be no malnourished children.
- Meeting minutes should be noted in the register without fail.

Child Protection Committee Code of Conduct

DO'S	DON'T'S
Be friendly with children	Never Harass/abuse a child physically or emotionally
Identify problems being faced by children	Should not behave inappropriately with children. Should not sexually harass them
Being fully aware about child rights and practicing them	Should not use children for personal errands
Being aware about laws related with children	Should not let children perform jobs meant for adults
Should react immediately when there is a problem for children	Do not support or assist child marriages
Continue to put in efforts till the children's problem is resolved	Should not discriminate children on the basis of caste, religion, gender or class
Should patiently hear opinions of children and fully understand them.	Should not show bias towards relatives in matters of child protection
Keep identities of harassment victims confidential.	Should not violate any Child Rights
Organise and attend meetings without fail	Should not use committee for personal benefit
Should patiently hear out problems being expressed by children	Should not take out children alone when meetings are going on
Should keep important phone numbers related with children's protection handy	Should not spend too much time alone with kids
Should note highlights of all meetings	Should not take pictures of/with children without their permission



Indicators for declaration as Child Friendly Village/Ward

1)	Achieve 100% coverage in administering disease preventing vaccinations, feeding mother's milk within one hour of child's birth.
2)	Achieve 100% implementation of Right to Free and Compulsory Education.
3)	Achieve 100% enrolment of children in Early Childhood Care and Education Program (ECCE).
4)	Achieve 100% registration of all child births.
5)	Achieve 100% registration of all marriages.
6)	Taking actions to prevention of Child Marriages.
7)	Taking actions to prevent Child Labour.
8)	Ensuring that no children engage in begging.
9)	Ensuring that the Village/Ward Child Protection Committees work efficiently.
10)	Preparing at least 10-15 Peer Educators in the village.
11)	Organising Children's Panchayat in the village, dedicating two days in a year for Children's Panchayat and ensuring that they are organised on those very days.





Children's Laws

Child Protection Committee members should increase their knowledge and awareness about the rights enshrined in the Constitution of India specifically for children. Whenever there is a problem, knowledge of these laws could help define it in legal terms. When there are instances of the police or government officials not responding, these laws could be explained to them for the purpose of protecting children.

Law	Sections	Protection from	Term of Punishment	Complaint to be submitted to
Child Marriages Prevention Act -2006		Child Marriage	2 years rigorous imprisonment and Rs.1 lakh fine	Local Police Officer or Child Marriages Prevention Officer, or District Collector
Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act -1956	5,6,7	Sale of Children, Illegal movement, protection against sexual assault	Upto 7 years rigorous imprisonment, life imprisonment (depending on the seriousness of the case)	Local Police Officer or Judge, or Child Protection Committees
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015	74	Revealing names of children through media	6 months imprisonment and 2 lakhs fine	Local Police Officer or Judge
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015	75	Violence, harassment, and neglect of children by parent/guardians, abetting violence, harassment of children	3 years imprisonment, Rs. 1 lakh fine.	Local Police Officer or Judge

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015	76	1.Engaging Children in begging 2. Amputation of children's bodies to engage them in begging	1. 5 years imprisonment, Rs. 1 Lakh fine. 2. Upto 10 years imprisonment, upto Rs 5 lakhs fine	Local Police Officer or First Class Court Magistrate or children's Court
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015	77	Supplying alcohol or intoxicants to children	Upto 7 years rigorous imprisonment, Rs.1 Lakh fine	Local Police Officer or children's Court
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015	78	Engaging Children in sale of alcohol or intoxicants	Upto 7 years rigorous imprisonment, Rs.1 Lakh fine	Local Police Officer or children's Court
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015	79	Engaging Children in Bonded Labour	3 years imprisonment, Rs.1 Lakh fine	Local Police Officer or Childline or Labour department official
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015	80	Adoption of children without following legal procedure	Suspension of agency registration and accreditation for upto 1 year	Local Police Officer or First Class Court Magistrate or Children's Court
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015	81	Purchase and sale of children by an individual	Upto 5 years imprisonment, Rs. 5 Lakhs fine.	Local Police Officer or First Class Court Magistrate or children's Court
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015	82	Punishment in educational institutions, protection homes in the name of discipline	Upto 3 months imprisonment and fine.	Local Police Officer or Children's Court

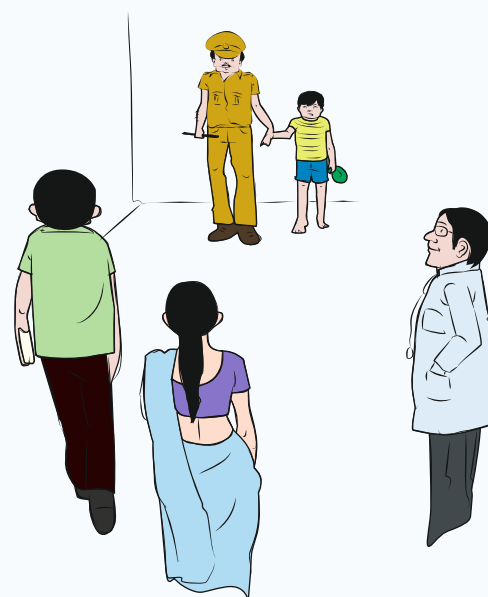
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015	83	Engaging Children in Terrorist Organisations	Upto 7 years rigorous imprisonment, Rs.5 Lakhs fine	Local Police Officer or Children's Court
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015	84	Kidnapping and Abduction of Children	According to IPC 359-369	Local Police Officer
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015	85	Crimes against disabled persons	Double the above mentioned punishment	Local Police Officer or Children's Court
Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO -2012)	3 and 4	Sex with children	Upto 7 years imprisonment, and fine	Local Police Officer or Special Juvenile Police Station
Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO -2012)	5 and 6	Government official indulging in sex with children, Sexual Assault on mentally disabled children	Upto 10 years imprisonment and fine	Local Police Officer or Special Juvenile Police Station
Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO -2012)	7 and 8	Inappropriate behaviour with children with sexual intent	3-5 years imprisonment with fine	Local Police Officer or Special Juvenile Police Station
Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO -2012)	9 and 10	Government officials (Police, defence personnel etc) on duty indulging in sexual assault, indulging in sexual assault by threatening with weapons, parading children naked	5-7 years imprisonment with fine	Local Police Officer or Special Juvenile Police Station
Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO -2012)	11 and 12	Showing pornographic material to children, showing them private parts, harassing them sexually	3 years imprisonment with fine	Local Police Officer or Special Juvenile Police Station

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO -2012)	13,14,15	Using children for production of pornographic material	Depending on the seriousness simple to rigorous imprisonment	Local Police Officer or Special Juvenile Police Station
Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO -2012)	16,17,18	Inciting sexual assault or rape on children	Depending on the seriousness of crime, half term of person convicted of crime.	Local Police Officer or Special Juvenile Police Station
Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 2016		Engaging Children below 14 years in labour, Engaging Children below 14-18 years in hazardous occupations	6 months to 2 years imprisonment and fine upto Rs.50,000	Local Police or Labour Department Officials
Children's Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009		Punishing, torturing children severely, not admitting children into school	6 months to 2 years imprisonment and fine upto Rs.50,000	Mandal or District Education Officer

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

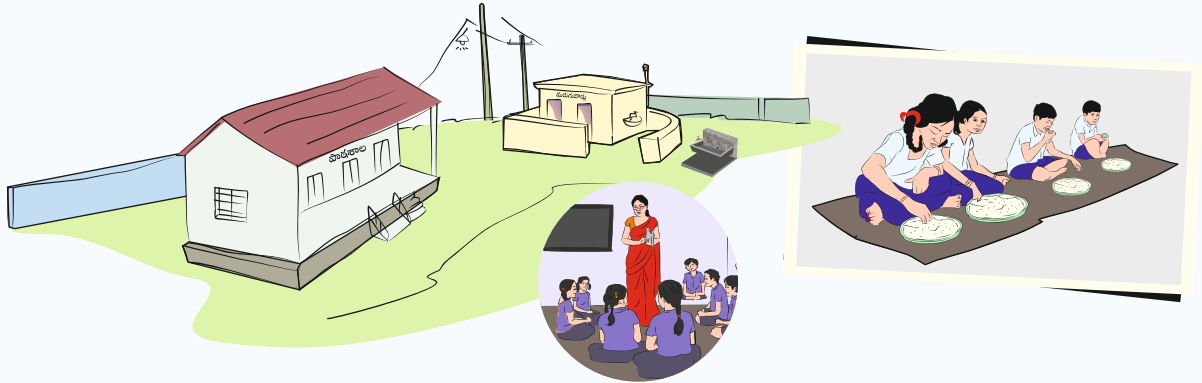
The law came into force from January 15, 2016. This act was brought under implementation after correcting loopholes in the earlier laws.

- Under this law, a Juvenile Justice Board and Child Welfare committee should be mandatorily set up in each of the districts in India. There should be atleast one women in either of these bodies.
- According to the new law, there are special clauses for children below 15 years who resort to crimes, and separate clauses for children between 16-18 years. Depending on the gravity of crime, after taking the accused's state of mind into consideration, an opportunity has been created for the Juvenile Justice Board to transfer such cases to Children's Court
- There is a clause in this Act that if a child resorts to a crime while the investigation is going on or after the investigation is complete, in the interim, they should be kept in a protected place till they complete 21 years of age. The children's court would then assess the mental state of the child. If convinced that there is a change in the attitude, thinking or behavior of the child, they would be released. If not convinced about their change, they would be sent to prison to complete the rest of their sentence.
- Crimes against children have been included in the scope of the new law. Punishments for sale and purchase of children, adoption through illegal means, physical punishments in child protection centers, crimes against disabled children, abduction of children, immoral trafficking etc will be finalized under this law.
- All organizations working for protection of children should register themselves under this act compulsorily.



Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act (2009)

The Constitution of India has guaranteed free and compulsory education for all children between 6-14 years. Under this act, the government is duty bound to establish schools with all facilities in all habitations. The midday meal scheme needs to be implemented without fail in all schools. All books and uniforms should be supplied by the government. Even in private schools 25% seats should be given to economically backward students without charging any fees. The government would compensate this amount to the schools. Children should not be subjected any form of punishment in schools.



Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act (2016)

Under this law, no child under the age of 14 years should be engaged for any kind of labour. Children between 15-18 years should not be engaged in hazardous work. In the earlier law, it was illegal only to employ children for hazardous jobs. But after amendment in 2014, if children are employed for any kind of work, violators could face imprisonment from 6 months to upto 2 years and a fine of Rs.50,000. Only in family owned organisations, where work is not hazardous, children may be engaged in work only after returning from school or during vacations.

Child Marriages (Prohibition) Act (2006)

According to this law, no marriage is legal before a boy completes 21 years and a girl completes 18 years. If such a marriage is performed in violation of rules, then parents of the bride and bridegroom along with all others who attend the wedding ceremony could face upto 2 years rigorous imprisonment, be fined upto Rs. 1 lakh or both. In case the bridegroom is a major and the bride is minor, he could also face the same punishment.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act (2012)

This law has been introduced to protect children from sexual harassment. The Parliament of India passed this act on May 22, 2012 and came into implementation on Children's Day the same year, November 14, 2012. Under this law both boys and girls get equal protection. According to this law:

- Every single case of sexual harassment against a child should be brought to the notice of Children's Welfare Committee within 24 hours.
- When recording statements of children subjected to sexual harassment, police should be in civil clothing. This will help ease the pressure and stress on children.
- The statement should be recorded by the police only at a place preferred by the child and in the presence of somebody they trust.
- If diagnostic tests are required, for forensic evidence purposes, it should be carried out only by a lady doctor and in the presence of a person that the minor trusts.



For these cases, special courts have been set up to expedite the enquiry and to maintain confidentiality. Some important features.

- When recording evidence, care should be taken to avoid all contact of the accused with the victim.
- When the investigation or enquiry is underway, identity of the minor should never be revealed.
- It is not necessary for the minor to repeat her statement in court. A video submission should be enough. The enquiry should be completed within a year of case being registered.
- The defence can ask their questions only through the Judge. Minor victims should not be scared with intimidating questions by lawyers.
- Minors who are victims of sexual harassment, are entitled to compensation for medical treatment and rehabilitation.

Punishments under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012

1. Penetrative Sexual Assault

If a person(s) sexually assaults/rapes a minor, they could face imprisonment from 7 years to a maximum of life term along with a hefty fine.

2. Aggravated Penetrative Sexual Assault

If family members of a minor, relatives, police officers or others responsible for their protection resort to sexual assault, they could face from a minimum of 10 years imprisonment to a maximum of life term rigorous imprisonment along with a fine.

3. Non Penetrative Sexual Assault

Though there is no intercourse, touching private parts of a minor with sexual intent, behaving inappropriately with children could invite a punishment of minimum 3 to 5 years imprisonment along with a fine.

4. Aggravated Non Penetrative Sexual assault

If family members of a minor, relatives, police officers or others responsible for their protection touch children with a sexual intent or behave inappropriately they would invite a punishment of minimum 5-7 years of imprisonment along with a fine.

5. Sexual Harassment

Pressurising /coercing a minor to participate in sex, passing sexual comments, harassing on phone, sending emails could invite a punishment of upto 3 years imprisonment.

6. Pornographic content with Children

Using children in production and distribution of pornographic material in either print, electronic, computerized or any other technology can be punishable with 5 years imprisonment and a fine. If its a repeat offence, the the punishment could be imprisonment of seven years with fine.

7. Not registering a report

Not accepting or not registering cases of sexual harassment and assault on children is punishable with imprisonment of 6 months or fine or both. Not reporting the issue after receiving information will be considered a crime.

Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA -1956)

Moving children for employment, for selling them at brothel houses at another place is a crime. To prevent this crime, in 1956, the government introduced the Women and Girls Immoral Traffic Prevention Act. Under the Act, moving children under 18 years (boys and girls) for immoral trafficking is a crime. Offenders could face a jail term of minimum 7 years.



Childline 1098 is a free national level - 24 hours emergency phone and outreach service for children who are in need of security and protection.

The Childline project is being supported by the Union Ministry for Women and Child Welfare, State Governments, associated government departments, NGOs and corporate entities.

Children or adults who feel responsible for children's safety and security may call 1098 in case they need assistance with any of the following services:

- Missing Children
- Children Facing Harassment
- Runaway Children
- Immoral Trafficking of Children
- Child Workers/LAbour
- Children Displaced by Natural Calamities.
- Children Being Forced into Child Marriages.

Important Phone Numbers

Annexure

Model Register

Name of the Child Protection Committee:

Place:

Date:

Serial No.	Details of Discussions	Signatures of Members

Last Word

From villages to cities, Child Protection Committees have been formed to put an end to all harassments and assaults on children and to protect rights of children. The more alert and enthusiastic the functioning of these committees, better are the chances of children living a better childhood.

We hope you all will do your best to improve the functioning of Child Protection Committees, and transform all villages into Child Friendly Villages.

Thank You





CHILD PROTECTION IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY

