

## Module 1: Introduction to Children’s Rights and Protection Laws

### Session 4.3: Delivery structure of ICPS.

Duration: 15:15 min

Let us look at the delivery structure of ICPS. ICPS works at National, State and District level. At the National level, it is under the Ministry of Woman & Child Development. Other organisations that are part of ICPS at the national level are Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA), Central Project Support Unit (CPSU), NIPCCD and CHIIDLINE India Foundation

- At the State Level:
- **State Child Protection Society (SCPS):** in every State/UT is the fundamental unit for the implementation of the scheme. The State Project Support Unit (SPSU) will be set in every State where the ICPS is launched in order to support CPSU in ensuring effective implementation of the ICPS.
- **State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA)** - In order to support CARA in promoting in-country adoption and regulating inter-country adoption, ICPS provides for establishing of a State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) in every State/UT as a unit under the SCPS, to coordinate, monitor and develop the work of adoption and render secretarial and administrative assistance to the State Adoption Advisory Committee (SAAC).
- **The State Child Protection Committee (SCPC):** under the chairpersonship of Principal Secretary/ Secretary SCPC shall monitor the implementation of ICPS on the basis of the state specific indicators.
- At state level there is also **State Adoption Advisory Committee (SAAC).**

At the District Level:

- District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), in each district as a fundamental unit for the implementation of the scheme.
- District Child Protection Committee (DCPC) under the overall administrative control and supervision of the District Magistrate shall monitor the implementation of ICPS on the basis of district-specific indicators.
- Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA), shall identify vulnerable families and children for foster care support and prepare the Individual Care Plan of the child and recommend the case to the CWC for issuing appropriate order.
- Sponsorship & Foster Care Approval Committee.

With this, we come to an end of the session of child protection services. We shall now look at some of the indicators of Child protection services roll out in India.

### Statutory Support Services under CPS

It has been reported by the State Governments/UT Administrations that so far 723 CWCs and 702 JJBs have been set up across the country.

## Institutional Care Services under the CPS

Let's now understand the Institutional Care Services under the CPS.

As per information provided by Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), 5940 CCIs have been entered on Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System (CARINGS) by the respective State & UTs out of which 5364 CCIs have been linked to Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs) as on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.<sup>1</sup>

### Beneficiaries covered through Institutional Care

As per the reports submitted by the States/UTs, **65496 children** living in 1525 Institutional Care (Homes), 6852 children living in 263 Open Shelters and 3476 children living in 354 Specialized Adoption Agencies have benefited **under CPS scheme during 2019-2020**<sup>2</sup>

### Child Helpline

Child Helpline (1098) is a component of the Scheme linking the child to the child protection system directly and assisting thereafter in availing the services thereunder.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been running the 24x7 Child Helpline in collaboration with civil society organisations (CSOs). The service is being provided by CIF – a Mother NGO, in partnership with other CSOs across the country.

In order to ensure transparency and accountability in delivering CPS, the NGO partners are registered on NITI Aayog and have been boarded on PFMS portal (Public Financial Management System).

As on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2020, CHILDLINE services are available to children across 579 cities and districts, covering over 78% of the Indian landscape. This is made possible through a well-integrated network of 1035 partner organisations and 131 Child Help Desks operating at railway stations.

CHILDLINE operates centralised call centres from 6 regional locations.<sup>3</sup>

The Government of India has published the information regarding CHILDLINE (1098) – 24x7 Helpline for children and POCSO E-box on the back side of the front cover of all the course books from class 6<sup>th</sup> to class 12<sup>th</sup>.

Between April, 2019 to December, 2019 more than 53 lakhs calls received at 1098, out of which, more than 2.55 lakh calls were for direct intervention. This direct intervention includes more than 27,000 children assisted at Railway Stations by Child help Desks.

### Child Help Desks at Railway Stations

The MWCD has framed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be implemented with the help of Railways for rescue and rehabilitation of runaway, abandoned, kidnapped or trafficked children. Child Help Desks are set up at various railway stations for rescue and rehabilitation of children. Child Help

<sup>1</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1579361>

<sup>2</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1602395>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.childlineindia.org/a/about/childline-india>

Desk is functional at 118 Railway Stations as on 31st December, 2019. (MWCD Annual report 2019-2020)

### **Covid -19 Interventions of CHILDLINE**

You might know, there was an increasing number of calls to CHILDLINE in the wake of COVID-19 lockdown.

- Since March 20th, CHILDLINE 1098, the emergency helpline for children in distress, has answered nearly **10.85 lakh calls**.
- A total of **61,927 interventions** have been carried out during 20<sup>th</sup> March to 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 across, averaging around 950 interventions daily.
- COVID-19 lockdown has also deeply impacted many vulnerable groups such as migrant workers, daily wage workers, etc
- Nearly 70% of the interventions that have been carried out since the lockdown began, called for CHILDLINE to provide COVID-19-related assistance to children and their families, primarily to extend support with respect to emergency relief, food, and transportation

### **Inspection and Monitoring of CCIs**

As you know, Inspection and Monitoring of CCIs is one of the critical element under JJ Act.

In order to ensure protection of children living in CCIs, the Ministry has pursued with State/ UT Governments to conduct inspections and maintain the institutions in accordance with the vision of the JJ Model Rules, 2016.

The Ministry has also advised State Governments to conduct background check of agencies managing CCIs and also ensure police verification of the staff.

The States/UTs were advised to take action for the welfare of children, in case of any eventuality while living in CCIs; and the Ministry has consistently pursued with the States/ UTs to ensure registration of all CCIs under the JJ Act.

So far more than 8,200 CCIs across the country have been registered under the JJ Act. . During 2018, 4849 Institutions were inspected and 539 Institutions were closed on account of non-compliance of provisions of JJ Act as found by inspection committees during inspections.<sup>4</sup>

### **Non-Institutional Care Services**

During 2018-19, emphasis has also been given to strengthen non-institutional support services including foster care, sponsorship and adoption.

As on 30th November, 2018 more than 6,000 children have benefitted through sponsorship component of the Scheme. Also, around 1,900 children have been placed for 'In-country adoption' and 365 children have been placed for 'Inter Country Adoption' as on 30th November, 2018.

Around 4000 children have been adopted through CARA's agencies every year.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1579361>

There were 3374 in-country adoptions in 2018-2019.<sup>5</sup>

### **Celebration of Hausala 2018**

Let's now understand the efforts being taken for promoting the rights of CNCP and CCL. HAUSLA is one such initiative by the MWCD.

HAUSLA is a unique all India cultural and sports festival hosted by Ministry, exclusively for the children in need of care and protection residing in Child Care Institutions (CCIs).

The MWCD organised HAUSLA, 2019, the third edition of the yearly program from 19-21<sup>st</sup> December, 2019. The event was organised around the theme of 'child safety' to inspire children of CCIs so that they can reach the national stage for expressing their capabilities.

It also aimed to understand the views of children regarding their safety in various situations.

The three day event in 2019 saw the participation of more than 800 children from 177 Child Care Institutions across the nation.

Various activities were organised during the three day festival, which included Painting, Debate, Chess and Scrabble. Through the activity of Abhiviyakti, the children were given an opportunity to express their views/opinions through Drama, Dance, Song, Recitation or Mime.

Besides this, active participation of children was also seen in the Sports Meet organised at Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi. (MWCD Annual Report 2019-20)

### **Khoya-Paya Portal**

Another Initiative under CPS was Khoya-Paya Portal.

Khoya-Paya, a citizen based portal, has been launched in June, 2015, in order to bring citizen participation for protecting children, which enables posting of information of missing or sighted children.

So far more than 9,962 users have been registered on the portal during 2018-19. Besides, more than 1,10,000 cases of missing or sighted children have been published on the portal.

A total of 8,045 Citizens/Parents have downloaded the Mobile App; 6,352 cases have been closed. Besides, the site received a total of 4, 52,662 hits. (MWCD Annual Report 2019-20)

### **E-Box for Children who have suffered Sexual Abuse**

We all know that the children are often unable to complain about sexual abuse for various reasons. In order to provide them with a safe and anonymous mode of making a complaint, an internet based facility, POCSO e-Box, has been provided at NCPCR website where the child or anyone on his/her behalf can file a complaint with minimal details.

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<sup>5</sup> [http://cara.nic.in/resource/adoption\\_Statistics.html](http://cara.nic.in/resource/adoption_Statistics.html)

POCSO e-Box receives complaints from other mediums such as e-mail, POCSO e-button etc. As soon as the complaint is filed, a trained counsellor immediately contacts the child and provides assistance to the child.

The counsellor also registers a formal complaint on behalf of the child wherever warranted.

A total number of 3,213 hits have been received on helpline number since the launch of POCSO e-Box, i.e., from 26th August, 2016 till 20th December, 2018. It includes 135 cases under the POCSO, 2012 Act.

### **Draft Child Protection Policy, 2018**

You are aware of various existing policies that highlight the significance of protection and promotion of child rights. Considering the need for a specific policy for child protection, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has framed the draft Child Protection Policy 2018. The policy draws upon the safeguards provided under the Constitution of India, various child-centric legislations, international treaties as well as other existing policies for the protection and well-being of children.

It aims at providing a safe and conducive environment for all children through the prevention and response to child abuse, exploitation and neglect.

It provides a framework for all institutions, and organisations (including corporate and media houses), government or private sector to understand their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding/protecting children and promoting the welfare of children; individually and collectively.

With this brief introduction and orientation on understanding who is a child, what are child rights, why children need separate rights, what is child protection and what are various laws in India that support child protection, we come to an end to this introductory session. This module will also help those trainers/professionals who are new to the field of child protection form basic understanding of child protection systems in India and terminology used for the same. In the coming modules, you shall know more in depth about roles and responsibilities and structures of various child protection systems.