

Module 2: District Child Protection Unit

Session 1: Introduction to DCPU and its Structure

Duration: 6:25 min

Now let's learn the responsibilities of DCPU under ICPS. DCPU has 3 key responsibilities under ICPS, namely

- Identification
- Implementation
- Monitoring and Supervision

In addition DCPU also has to perform some other Major Responsibilities under ICPS

Identification

1. Identify families at risk and CNCP through effective networking and linkages with the ICDS functionaries, SAAs, NGOs dealing with child protection issues and local bodies, viz. Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies, etc.
2. Identify and support credible voluntary organisations to implement ICPS programme components.

Implementation

- Contribute to effective implementation of child protection legislations, schemes and achievements of child protection goals laid out in the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC). In doing so, the DCPU will follow national and state priorities, rules and guidelines.
- Ensure effective implementation of JJ Act at the district/city levels by supporting creation of adequate infrastructure, viz. setting up JJBs, CWCs, Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU) in each district and homes in a cluster of districts as required.
- Ensure setting up of District, Block and Village level Child Protection Committees (CPCs) for effective implementation of programmes, as well as discharge of its functions.
- Facilitate transfer of children at all levels for either restoration to their families or placing them in long or short-term rehabilitation through sponsorship, kinship care, in country adoption, foster care, inter-country adoption and placement in institutions.
- Facilitate effective implementation of other legislations for child protection in the district, viz. Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA) 1956; Guardians and Wards Act (GAWA) 1890; Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 ; Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and Immoral Traffic Prevention Act 1956, Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act 1994, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 etc. and any other Act that comes into force for protecting child rights.

Monitoring and Supervision

- Develop parameters and tools for effective monitoring and supervision of ICPS in the district;
- Supervise and monitor all institutions/agencies providing residential facilities to children in district.

Other major responsibilities of DCPU under ICPS

- Train and build capacity of all personnel (Government and Non-government) working under child protection system to provide effective services to children.
- Organise quarterly meeting with all stakeholders at district level including Child Line Services, SAA, superintendents of homes, NGOs and members of public to review the progress and achievements of child protection activities.
- Liaison with the SCPS, State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) and DCPUs of other districts.
- Provide secretarial support to the DCPC.
- Maintain a database of all children in institutional care and non-institutional care at the district level. This Data Management System will ultimately be uploaded onto a comprehensive, integrated, live database - 'Track Child' for children in care and in need of care in the country
- Network and coordinate with all government departments to build inter-sectoral linkages on child protection issues, including Departments of Health, Education, Social Welfare, Urban Basic Services, Backward Classes and Minorities, Youth Services, Police, Judiciary, Labour, State AIDS Control Societies, among others. Network and coordinate with voluntary and civil society organizations working in the field of child rights and protection.

In the wake of Covid-19 the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed all the states to show compliance to its orders and monitor the status of child protection services. DCPU will play a key role in fulfilling this responsibility.

In times of pandemic like COVID-19 DCPU can play a key role in

- Referral to basic services
- Family tracing, reunification, prevention of family Separation, provision of alternative care when/if required.
- Psychosocial support - Roster of counsellors that can
- provide telephonic or online services to children
- Prevention and response to violence - Support CHILDLINE for emergency response
- Create awareness through social media/local media about
- reporting mechanisms for children facing violence
- Ensure Special Juvenile Police Units also have this information
- Revisit District Plans for rehabilitation phase

Supreme Court has also issued a judgement on care and protection of children during COVID-19. . You may look at the link given below for details.