

Module 2: District Child Protection Unit

Session 3: Issues and Challenges

Duration: 10:53 min

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In session 3 we are going to learn about Issues and Challenges faced by DCPU. There may be many issues and challenges such as:

- Administrative as well as implementation related challenges associated with DCPUs and its functions
- Issues and challenges related to the roles and responsibilities of DCPU functionaries
- Issues and challenges related to direct well-being of the children
- Convergence with other departments for implementation of ICPS scheme
- Lack of measures to strengthen family for the holistic development of the child
- Need for mainstreaming of ICPS with existing structures and programmes in the states
- Training of associated personnel, on roles and responsibilities as well as on sensitisation in handling the children
- Single window approach not visible
- Lack of sufficient prevention mechanism to reduce cases of CNCP and CCL
- Lack of innovation in programmes

These affect DCPU's smooth functioning towards providing care and protection to children. Creative solutions are required to overcome these challenges.

Some possible solutions to above mentioned challenges could be

- Bringing different child protection structures together and orienting and sensitising them on their roles and responsibilities and how they can work together
- Better networking and linkages with various organisations and civil society to provide support to CNCP and CCL
- Focusing on responsive parenting and family strengthening initiatives at community level

Can you think of some more such solutions?

Let's now understand a few best practices adopted across states to implement the JJ Act using existing resources. These case studies broadly cover issues and challenges and innovative steps taken to address them. They include

1. Nagaland: Aadhaar Camp for Children
2. Madhya Pradesh: CCI Upgradation and Financial Assistance for Ex Inmates of Children Homes
3. Mizoram: Convergence and Linkages with Line Departments/NGOs
4. Odisha: Resource Optimization and Convergence
5. Addressing Child Sexual Abuse in Schools Appointment and Capacity Building of Nodal Teachers in Mizoram

Nagaland: Aadhaar Camp for Children

Challenges

- Most children in CCIs do not have the Aadhaar card; thus deprived of many welfare schemes.
- Having an identity is a fundamental human right
- Article 7 of UNCRC states that “All children have the right to a legally registered name, officially recognised by the government. Children have the right to a nationality

In India: Aadhaar card is an identity proof; and mandatory to avail benefits of various government services.

Innovative steps:

- The DCPU, in collaboration with District Administration Dimapur organised an Aadhaar Camp for all the CCIs within Dimapur district.
- As many as 300 children were enrolled under the Aadhaar programme.

Madhya Pradesh: CCI Upgradation and Financial Assistance for Ex Inmates of Children Homes.

Challenges

- Stay of CNCP in institutional care is till 18 years only after this age, the state expects them to be self-reliant
- The state has a key role to play in developing this self-reliance; So that inmates of CCIs are independent and socially integrated

Innovative Steps:

- To address this challenge Madhya Pradesh introduced the Mukhya Mantri Bal Udhar Yojna to supplement the provisions of the ICPS for CNCP.
- CCIs have been upgraded to support and assist CNCP in skill up-gradation and vocational training.
- Along with this CCI are granted INR 20,000/- per child to start self-employment.

Mizoram: Convergence and Linkages with Line Departments/NGOs

Challenges:

- Despite of several provisions for the well-being of CCL and CNCP, there is a lack of awareness among the relevant service providers.
- DCPU, SCPS, Rehabilitation cum Placement Officer, Steering Committee of SAA as well as provision for the JJ Fund, which along with other activities, is reserved for awareness generation.
- NCPDR is mandated to build awareness about the issue.
- To achieve the responsibility for creating awareness distributed at different levels can be challenging to the state govt.

Innovative Steps:

- State Government of Mizoram converged and established linkages with Administrative Training Institute, Anganwadi Training Centre, District Institute of Education and Training, State Council of Educational Research and Training.

- National Institute for Orthopedically Handicapped, District Tobacco Control Society etc. are encouraged to include child-related provisions in their training sessions and invite resource persons from ICPS staff.
- This includes lectures and literature on UNCRC, JJ Act, ICPS, POCSO, Labour, Child Marriage etc.

Addressing Child Sexual Abuse in Schools; Appointment and Capacity Building of Nodal Teachers in Mizoram:

Challenges

- Many children, who are being abused or exploited, sometimes are not able to decide about reporting of the abuse/exploitation.
- In some cases though, teachers have been able to identify the changes in such children's behavior, they were clueless about ways of extending support.
- There may also be resistance from school administration to avoid addressing the issue.

Innovative Steps:

- DCPCs of a few districts of Mizoram in coordination of DEO (who is also member of DCPC) appointed Nodal Teachers in every school for protection of rights of children.
- At the district level teachers were identified and trained on child related topics like JJ Act, ICPS, child psychology etc.
- The role of Nodal Teacher has been fixed for identification of students who are being abused/exploited so that the matter can be reported and necessary steps taken for the protection of the child.

Nodal Teachers are also expected to keep a watch on children for any kind of symptoms of abuse

Odisha: Resource Optimisation and Convergence

Challenges

- Funding
- Lack of convergence between various departments and agencies which are responsible for ensuring the best interest of the child

Innovative Steps:

- In order to maximise the utilisation of available space, the CWC, JJB and the DCPU in the state coordinated with each other and started their office in the same building.
- Pooled all their physical resources (waiting area, meeting room, vehicles etc.).
- Better coordination and convergence resulted in better performance and institutional coordination helped to overcome financial constraints

Proposed Mechanism to deal with challenges and issues faced by DCPUs

This pyramid shows a comprehensive mechanism to deal with challenges. It includes CHILD as a basic unit, then family, Community, Organisations and Policy.

On right side are stakeholders at each level; on left side is the approach needed to deal with challenges.

Now see each stakeholder and the approach needed to be followed by them:

POLICY- Monitoring advocacy and lobbying is steered based on National and state-level laws by WCD/NCPCR and Ministries

ORGANISATIONS- Convergence, collaboration and capacity building is required for Police, health, education, transport, telecom, legal, media, government institutions and PRIs

COMMUNITY- Partnership, collaboration and sensitization is critical for NGOs, CSO and CWC

FAMILY- Sensitisation, awareness and counselling of Parents/caretakers is essential

CHILD- Awareness and counselling is also crucial for Children (CCL&CNCP)

Through this multi-stakeholder approach various challenges and issues of DCPU can be addressed.