**Concept note**

**Workshop on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 for Counsellors and Care Takers**

**Child Resource Centre**

**Harish Chandra Mathur Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration**

***Date: 16th May. 2019***

**Introduction**

Sexual abuses on children are a big blot on society at large as it shook’s the human consciousness of the society and retard the normal healthy growth of children. It leads to grave physical and psychological effects on the body and mind of a child and dismantles the normal growth of a child. It does not leave only physical injuries on the body but also leaves an everlasting scar on the child’s mind at a very nascent age. POCSO ACT has been birthed out of the very need to enact a specific legislation to tackle with the increasing sexual abuse against children in form of abuses like rape, pornography, various forms of penetration and criminiliases acts of immodesty against children too.

Child rights, like human rights, come from the idea that all people have fundamental rights that they are born with, and these rights are inalienable and inviolable. They cannot be taken away because of a person's gender, age, religion, race, ethnicity, or other factors. It is recognized that special protection must be given to children to ensure full, happy, and healthy development without fear of harm or exploitation.

The prevention of child sexual abuse, protection of victims, justice delivery, and rehabilitation of victims are not isolated issues. The achievement of these objectives requires a co-ordinate response of all the key players, which include the police, prosecution, Courts, medical institutions, psychologists and counsellors, as well as institutions that provide social services to the children. The protection of children from violence and abuse thus requires an integrated and coordinated approach. Needless to say, the identification and understanding of the roles of each of these professionals is crucial to avoid duplication and promote effective convergence.

Well being and security of the country’s children is integral to any vision for its progress and development. One of the issues damaging this vision for the country’s future generations is the evil of abuse among children. Number of cases related to different types of abuses among children is increasing every day. There is a need to address these issues and empower this age group to protect them from abuses. Hence this one day training program is planned to train the Counsellors and Care Takers of Child Care Institutions and trainers to impart their knowledge and skill to protect the children, their peers.

In India, there is reluctance and cultural shying from discussing matters related to sex and sexuality, particularly with children. Adults find it difficult and embarrassing to talk about the subject with children because often they themselves have not received and have no idea how to have ‘the talk’. In the absence of teaching and appropriate knowledge, ignorance and myths around sexuality pervade, thus leaving children, especially adolescents, uninformed and at risk. The taboos lead to a culture of shame and silence around any issue related to sexuality, including child sexual abuse, which is shrouded in silence and often goes unreported.

A day long training programme covers key subject of relevance to the roles and responsibilities of care takers and counsellors underlying the necessity and relevance of legal framework and the schematic content of POCSO for child sexual abuse. The programme is a mix of theoretical constructs, context of child rights, legislations for child protection, roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders prescribed under the Act.

**Objectives of the Programme –**

The main objectives of the Workshop are to: -

1. To enhance understanding on current scenario of Sexual Abuse of Children in India and State.
2. To impart awareness to Counsellors and Care Takers of CCIs on POCSO Act 2012, and their role on how to protect from abuse.
3. To train the participants to protect from abuse – Preventive and Safety measures
4. To develop key skills on dealing with the children of Sexual Abuse.
5. To develop understanding on key issues, challenges and role of various stakeholders in implementation of relevant legislations

Keeping in line with the key mandate the Child Resource Centre with support from Department for Child Rights, Rajasthan (DCR) and UNICEF Rajasthan has initiated trainings for different stakeholders in Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and on the vital issues related to child protection and development. Taking forward this initiative CRC has planned a one day workshop for key Stakeholders on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 on 16th May, 2019.

**Methodology**

* Training techniques in the programme schedule include panel discussion/open house discussion, group work/role play/mock sessions, etc.
* The pre and post assessment of knowledge of participants is a hallmark of the programme.
* Interactive lectures and skill development activities are included.
* Group Work
* Power – point presentations

**Participants –** 65 Participants from:

* Counsellors
* Care Takers

**Areas of Discussion : -**

1. Developing Skills of care takers and counsellors in identifying, managing, rehabilitate and restore children with emotional and behavioral difficulties.
2. Significance of Documentation on ICP and Counseling Report of the Children.
3. Strategies to address the emotional cascade and behavioral difficulties.
4. Do’s and Don’ts for Counselors and Care Takers
5. Privacy and Confidentiality
6. Relevant Legal Provision and its implication.

**Duration:** 1 day

**Timings:** 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM

**Venue:** HCM RIPA, JLN Marg Jaipur

*Note: Participants must also understand the importance of utilizing all available resources, official programs, networking and interventions for the well being of children as well as victims of abuses.*

**Capacity Building Programme for Counsellors and Care Takers on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012**

***Date: 16th May. 2019***

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**Programme Schedule**

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| Thursday, 16-05-2019 | | |
| TIME | **SESSION** | **FACILITATOR** |
| 09.30 AM – 09:45 AM | Registration | Child Resource Centre |
| 09:45 AM -10:00 AM | Welcome & Introduction of Participants  Sharing of expectations | Ms. Deepal Solanki,  Technical Expert, Child Resource Centre,  HCM RIPA |
| 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM | Understanding Counseling and its different Approaches Vis-à-vis Child Victims of Sexual Abuse   * Impact of Trauma and Abuse on Children * Communicating to Children about Sexuality * Understanding sexuality among adolescent * Essential Steps in Counseling Child Victims of Sexual Abuse | Dr. Pradnya Deshpande  Clinical Psychologist |
| 11:15 AM – 11:30AM | **Tea** | |
| 11: 30 AM – 1:00 PM | Overview of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Rules, 2012 | Ms. Preeti Agrawal  Former JJB Member  Adv. District & Session Court |
| 1:00 PM- 1:45 PM | **Lunch** | |
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| 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | Key Skills for Counsellors and Care Takers -   * + Basic Skills and Characteristic of Counsellors and Care Takers (givers)   + Identifying psychological problems in the children   + Individual Care Plan and Child Protection Plan | Dr. Pradnya Deshpande  Clinical Psychologist |
| 3:15PM – 3: 30PM | **Tea** | |
| 3:30 PM – 4:30PM | * + - Role of Care Takers (House Mother and House Father) and Counsellors in dealing with cases under POCSO Act     - Q& A - Key challenges | Ms. Shaheena Parveen,  Director, Taabar |
| 4:30 PM – 05:45 PM | Support & Rehabilitation Services to Victims of Sexual Offences | Ms. Shaheena Parveen  Director, Taabar |
| 5:45 PM - 06:00 PM | Concluding remarks and Vote of Thanks | Child Resource Centre |