Sir/Madam,


The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) is an autonomous organization working under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. The Institute is engaged in training, research and evaluation in the twin field of Women and Child Development. The Institute’s Headquarters is located at New Delhi with four Regional Centers at Lucknow, Bangalore, Guwahati, and Indore.

The Southern Regional Centre of the Institute is organizing a “Sensitization programme on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012” from 12th-13th March, 2018 at its premises. The main objectives of the programme will be to sensitize the participants on locus and manifestation of gender based violence and rights of children; apprise the participants of the salient features of the ‘Protection of Children from Sexual Offences’ (POCSO) Act and its amendment 2015; and orient them about the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in implementing the Act. The Programme Design is enclosed for kind reference.

With the reference cited above may I request you to depute Ten (10) Police Officers who are normally assigned investigation of cases as Investigating Officers (IO’s) relating to children, especially under POCSO Act. The Institute will arrange nominal free board and lodging for all outstation participants at its Hostel located on campus. The list of the deputed participants may be sent to the Institute at the earliest by E-mail/Courier latest by 28th February 2018. The Participants may draw TADA from their respective departments. The officials deputed should be conversant in English. Relatives and friends of participants cannot be accommodated in the hostel.

Looking forward to an early reply.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Regional Director

Encl: a/a
Sensitization programme on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012
12th – 13th March, 2018

Programme Design

Caring and nurturing of children entails commitment, concentration and efforts in order that they grow into healthy citizens of the country. The State owes to itself, the responsibility for care, nurture and growth of its citizens. The State has mandate to proactively promote the well-being of its citizens by adopting measures for the welfare of its citizens. Children, who constitute almost 34 per cent of total population of the country, are an important entity for the State. The Preamble of Constitution of India declares "... JUSTICE, social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity ...". The agenda is set in the Directive Principles of State Policy and rights of all citizens are guaranteed as Fundamental Rights.

Women and children face innumerable vulnerability. Coupled with social stigma and biases, these demographic groups struggle on a daily basis to cope and survive. The spectrum of vulnerabilities includes those perpetuated on the basis of gender, ascribed social roles or sheer and scant respect for rights of the individual. In any given situation, children risk and face injury, stress, trauma and the resultant scar which may be a traumatic experience or a disability. Children are a national asset. Proactive planning and provision of services to children is an investment for the future of the country. Children have rights and we as adults have duties and responsibilities. Thus, child care and protection is a priority area for the Government. Recognising the importance, the Government enacted the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 and Its Rules 2016 to highlight child rights and rights-based approach. Following the enactment, the Government launched the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) in 2009 (now known as Child Protection services) to provide structural, schematic and infrastructural support to child protection. The Juvenile Justice legislation recognized the vulnerability of children amply and made elaborate provisions for ensuring a protective and caring environment under close supervision mechanism. The Act also departed from the judicial processes in place for adults and prescribed specialised procedures in order to address the best interest of children in a consultative regime, with participation from a multitude of stakeholders including children to arrive at practical and meaningful solutions to the vulnerability of children.

The premise of adult jurisprudence emphasizes on punitive action and a reformative option for the individual to reflect and repent. The premise, on the other hand, in case of children, as enshrined in the statutes is to protect children, who have strayed to counsel them and turn-around in order to gain understanding of the need to progress by providing ample opportunities to develop and advance into adult roles. Thus, the approach is contrasted between adults and children, in that, while, for the former, it is reformation, for the latter, it is a fresh start. This premise forms the basis for our work with children.
Protection of Children from Sexual Offences

Sexual offences are a violation of human rights. They are condemnable, reprehensible and repugnant to what we stand for—human dignity and rights of individuals. They are acts of perversion, perpetuated with feelings of hatred, intended to hurt, brutal and unwilling and unsolicited gratification of personal needs. Child sexual abuse can result in both short term and long term harm, including psychopathology in later life. Physical and social effects including depression, post traumatic stress disorder, poor self esteem, anxiety disorders, general psychological distress and disorder are instilled in them. Not all victims of child abuse and neglected child experience behaviour consequence. Studies have found abused and neglected children to experience problem such as delinquency, teen pregnancy, drug use and mental health problem, etc.

Sexual offences including rape, hitherto, were dealt under the IPC and under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 and rules 2016 but exclusively to deal with such sexual offences against children; the Govt. of India has brought in special law — The Protection of children from sexual offences Act, 2012. The Act has come into force with effect from 14th November, 2012 along with Rules framed there under.

The Act declares in the Preamble that, "it is imperative that the law operates in a manner that the best interest and well being of the child are regarded as being of paramount importance at every stage, to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child". The objective of the POCSO Act is to protect children from (a) sexual assault, (b) sexual harassment and (c) Pornography. The Act is gender-neutral. The Act identifies six types of sexual offences and prescribes appropriate punishments for the same. The six types of sexual offences are:

- Penetrative Sexual Assault (Sec. 3)
- Aggravated Penetrative Sexual Assault (Sec. 5)
- Sexual Assault (Sec. 7)
- Aggravated Sexual Assault (Sec. 9)
- Sexual Harassment (Sec. 11)
- Using child for Pornographic Purposes (Sec. 13)

Major stakeholders for implementing the Act are the Police / Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), judiciary, District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) under the JJ Act, Probation Officers, Counsellors, Child Care Institutions (CCIs) personnel, interpreters / translators, where involved, the medical fraternity, the community, family and relatives of the victim child and the child himself.
The Act also calls for effective role of different stakeholders in its implementation. Each stakeholder has a unique and crucial role to play at different stages of dispensing justice to the victims. The said Act casts the police in the role of child protectors during the investigative process. Thus, the police personnel receiving a report of sexual abuse of a child are given the responsibility of making urgent arrangements for the care and protection of the child, such as obtaining emergency medical treatment for the child and placing the child in a shelter home, with orders of the CWC, should the need arise. The police are also required to bring the matter to the attention of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) within 24 hours of receiving the report, so the CWC may then proceed where required to make further arrangements for the safety and security of the child and pass further such orders, as may be required for the care and protection of the child.

Viewing the essentials, a Sensitization Programme on “POCSO Act and Rules 2012” is being organized by National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, Regional Centre, Bangalore from 12 – 13th March, 2018.

Objectives
- The main objectives of the training would be to:
  - orient the participants to the gender based violence and rights of children;
  - apprise the participants of the salient features of the 'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences' (POCSO) Act and its amendment 2015; and
  - orient them about the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in implementing the Act.

Contents
- The contents of the sensitization Programme would broadly include Salient Features of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012; Role and Responsibilities of different stakeholders in implementing the Act etc.

Participants
- About 30 participants comprising of police personnel who are assigned POCSO as cases Investigation Officer (IO) would attend the training programme.

Resource Persons
- The resource persons for the programme would include Institute Faculty/Resource Persons dealing with POCSO Act 2012.

Methodology
- The participants would be exposed to deliberations based mainly on participatory methods which may include lecture cum discussions etc.

Venue and Duration
- The duration of the programme will be two days. It will be conducted at the premises of the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), Regional Centre Bangalore from 12th-13th of February, 2018.
Award of Certificate

The participants will be awarded a certificate of participation on conclusion of the programme.

Travel, Board and Lodging

- The nominated officers will need to draw their TA/DA from their respective departments.
- The Institute will arrange free nominal board and lodging for all outstation participants at its Hostel located in the premises of the Institute.

General

The following general information may please be noted.

i. Due to limited hostel accommodation, the Institute will not be in a position to extend the facility of board and lodging to the relatives of the participants.
ii. The accommodation will be available only for the duration of the program and a day before and after the programme.
iii. The participants are advised to make return reservation before leaving their respective places.
iv. Persons suffering from any serious health problem or contagious ailment or in advanced stage of pregnancy may kindly not be deputed for the programme.
v. Any participant reporting late to the program or leaving it before its conclusion will not be entitled to Certificate.
vi. Participants will be required to present their valid identity proof for entering into the Institute (Identify card issued by Government and / or PAN card, Election ID card, Driving license, Aadhar card etc.)

All communications may please be addressed to:

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Or

Mrs. Aliya Tayyaba
Programme Incharge
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E-mail: aliyapccdb@gmail.com