

District Child Protection Unit (DCPU)

The Child Protection Scheme is expected to significantly contribute to the realization of Government/State responsibility for creating a system that will efficiently and effectively protect children. It is based on cardinal principles of “protection of child rights” and “best interest of the child”. Hence, the DCPS objectives are: to contribute to the improvements in the well being of children in difficult circumstances, as well as to the reduction of vulnerabilities to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children.

Functions of DCPU include the following:

- Contribute to effective implementation of child protection legislations, schemes and achievement of child protection goals laid out in the National Plan of Action for Children 2005.
- Ensure an individual plan for every child in need of care and protection and regularly review the same.
- Identify families at risk and children in need of care and protection through effective networking and linkages.
- Create district specific data base for children in difficult circumstances and manage the database of all children in institutional care and non institutional care.
- Map all child related service providers and services at district for creating a resource directory.
- Identify and support credible voluntary organizations to implement programme components of the ICPS.
- Support the family based non institutional services
- Ensure effective implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and its Amendment Act, 2006 and setting up of Child Protection Committees at every level for effective implementation of programmes
- Facilitate transfer of children at all levels for either restoration to their families or placing the child in long or short term rehabilitation.
- Facilitate effective implementation of other legislations for child protection in the district.
- Network and coordinate with all Government departments, Voluntary and Civil society organizations to build inter sectoral linkages on child protection issues.

- Training and build capacity of all personnel working in child protection programmes at all levels.
- Organize regular meetings with stakeholders to review progress and achievement of child protection activities.
- Liaison with SCPS, SARA and DCPU of other districts.
- Develop parameters and tools for effective monitoring and supervision of ICPS in the district.
- Encourage voluntary youth participation in child protection programs at district, block and community levels.

Responsibilities of DCPU:

- Overall implementation of the child protection policies and programmes in the district level.
- Monitoring and supervision of all institutions/agencies/NGOS/projects , ensuring implementation of minimum standards of care and reporting to SCPS
- Ensuring effective institutional care / services at district level for all children in need of care and protection.
- To identify families and children at risk to prevent destitution of children and arrange necessary support services like counselling, health care, education, vocational guidance etc.
- Carry out a situational analysis of children in difficult circumstances, collect and compile data on different dimensions of the child protection problems.
- Carry out a resource mapping exercise and develop a District Child Protection Plan and a Resource directory
- Setting up and managing of child tracking system.
- Support CWC in the process of inquiry and restoration of children.
- Ensure registration of all organizations/ institutions under the Juvenile Justice Act2000 and its Amendment Act, 2006.
- Regular training and capacity building.
- Regular reporting.
- 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 for children in care and in need of care in the country- the 'TrackChild'.

CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Amendment Act, 2006 makes it mandatory to establish one Child Welfare Committee in each district as the final authority to dispose of cases for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection and to provide for their basic needs and protection of human rights. As per the JJ Act, the CWC should hold its meetings in the premises of a Children's Home. A CWC shall meet at least thrice a week and the minimum duration of a sitting should be of 4 hours. The Children's Home where the CWC is holding its proceedings shall provide support of counsellor and peon on those days they are sitting. DCPU will also provide legal and counselling support where necessary.

JUVENILE JUSTICE BOARD

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Amendment Act, 2006 makes it mandatory to have one Juvenile Justice Board in each district to deal with matters relating to juveniles in conflict with law. As per the JJ Act, the JJB should hold its meetings in the premises of An Observation Home. JJB shall meet on all working days of a week and the minimum duration of a sitting should be of 5 hours. The Observation Home where the JJB is holding its proceedings shall provide support of counsellor and peon to the JJB on those days when they are sitting. DCPU will also provide legal and counselling support where necessary.

STATE JUVENILE POLICE UNIT

The JJ Act 2000, provides for setting up Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU) in every district and city. All the police officers designated as juvenile welfare officers are members of SJPU. ICPS shall provide for 2 social workers in each SJPU for supporting the unit. Of the two, one shall be a woman and another one is man.