



Save the Children®




# CHILD Protection



Every Child Safe and Secure





Save the Children works in 120 countries globally and across 17 states in India for children's rights

Save the Children is India's leading independent child rights organization which is working in 17 states to make a difference in the lives of the most socially-excluded children of India. Our work in the areas of Child Education, Health & Nutrition, Child Protection and Humanitarian Response & Disaster Risk Reduction has benefitted lakhs of children in India. We reached over 8.5 lakh children through our programmes.



Child  
Protection  
Guide





**Save the Children®**

Save the Children works for Children's rights. We deliver immediate and lasting improvements to children lives worldwide.

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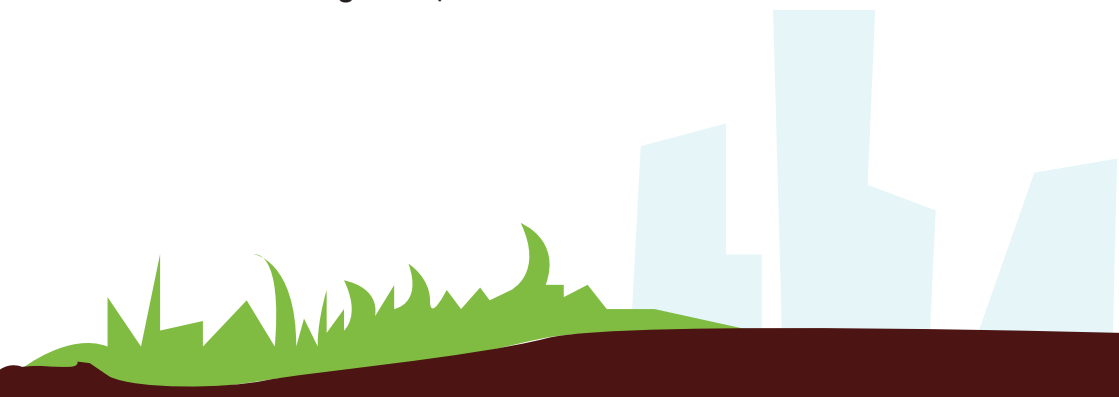
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# Who this guidebook is intended for?

The guidebook can be used by any care giver who comes in contact with children on a daily basis and who have the primary or secondary responsibility of taking care of the children. Parents, teachers, anganwadi workers, child care institutions, hospitals can use this guidebook to help a child who is in need of care and protection.

This guidebook can also be used by those who meet a child by accident who is in need of protection immediately. They can follow the steps mentioned in the guidebook that can be followed to help the child in need.

Paragraph about the child protection systems with an objective of creating a safe and safe environment of children, the state has established systems at center and district level which one can go to for providing protection of children. These systems contains various bodies, units, schemes and law which create a safety net for children.





# FOREWORD

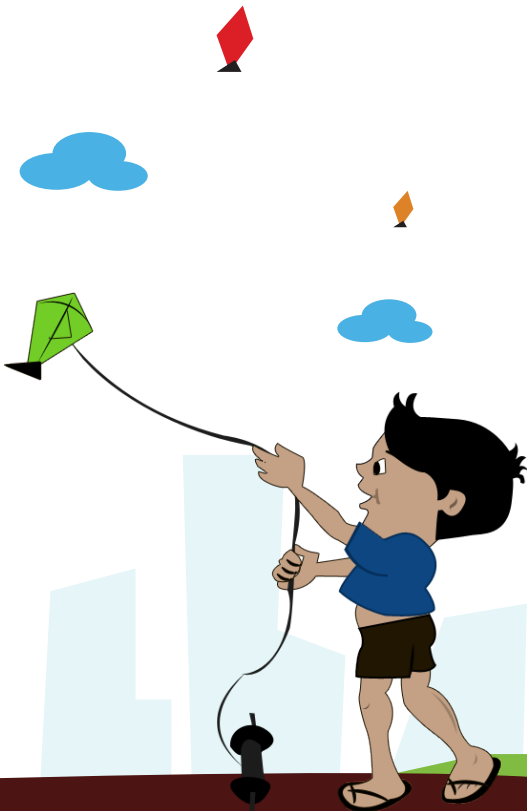
Child Abuse is a reality and it is up to the adults (citizens, caregivers, parents etc) to ensure that children are protected from harm and abuse.

This guide on child protection is an easy reference on the actions required if a child is found in need for protection. It lays out steps for citizens and care providers on how to reach out to an abused child. It is expected that this guide will help create an enabling environment for children so that they feel safe and protected.

This guide contains information which is practical and doable for all adults and concerned citizens and is based on Save the Children's experience in addressing issues of Child Protection

*"World will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything",* so said Albert Einstein. So please join us in the endeavor to make our homes, institutions, towns, cities and villages safe for all children

Sandhya Krishnan  
State Programme Manager,  
Maharashtra



# What is Child Protection?

## Introduction:

All children can be vulnerable by virtue of their young age and evolving capacities. They can be 'open to' harm, injury, violence, and abuse. Due to different circumstances and/or factors children can also be vulnerable to adverse influences and 'at risk' behavior. Marginalization further exacerbates vulnerability. In development settings like India, the burden of risk and vulnerability falls disproportionately on children. Risks include family separation, displacement, attack, sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking, disability, HIV and AIDS, and child labour, among many others. Children's exposure to multiple, accumulating risks, shatters children's rights, impedes children's healthy development and well-being, and causes enormous suffering. Children are also vulnerable due to chronic poverty and inability to meet basic needs together with structures of social exclusion and

poor governance. Across contexts, children face systemic protection threats that arise at family, community, and societal levels.

Impact of child vulnerability and marginalization can be short term or long term depending on the extent, nature and severity, and other factors. The damage can also be permanent. The impact can be on the physical, emotional, social, psychological and mental health and well being of the child.

The State and society has the crucial responsibility and legal obligation to reach out to chil-



dren to ensure that every child is able to access resources, grow up in safety, and amidst caring and nurturing adults.

### Child Protection is:

Any measure or initiative that addresses or prevents children from situations of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. It refers to protecting children from or against any perceived or real danger/risk. It helps to reduce their vulnerability in harmful situations. It also means protecting children against social, psychological and emotional insecurity and distress.

Child Protection must ensure that no child falls out of the social security and safety net and those who do, receive necessary care and protection to be brought back into the safety net.

While protection is a right of every child, some children like street children, children with disabilities, children of commercial sex work-

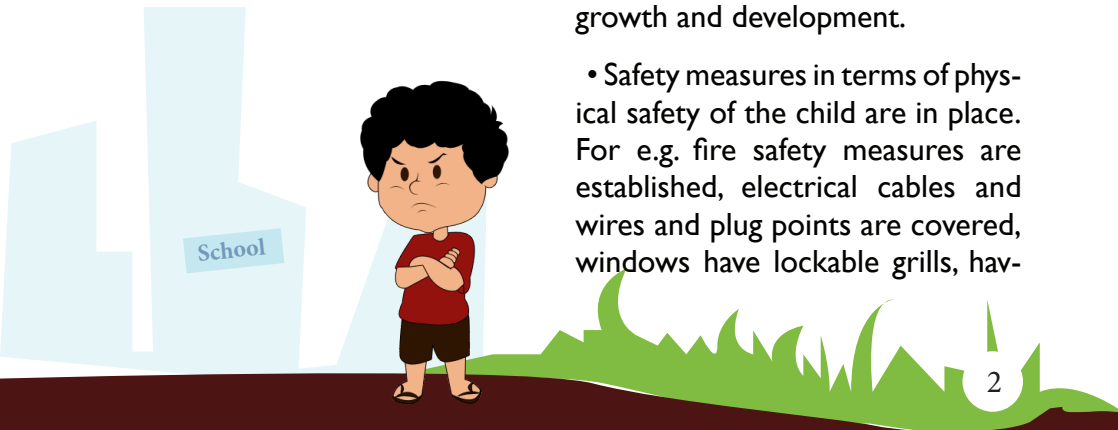
ers, child labourers etc. are more vulnerable than others and need special attention.

Child Protection is relevant for all settings-home, school, neighbourhood, community, and institutional/residential care.

### A Child is safe and protected when

- A child is loved, cared for and looked after: Healthy emotional bonds with parents and strong relationships can have a lifelong impact on a child's safety. Child safety is ensured to large extent when a child can speak to parents without having any inhibitions or doubts and when a child is accepted and respected by his/her parents and family.
- A child is nurtured when a child gets required food and nourishment, health facilities and education, when a child gets healthy and peaceful environment, when a child gets opportunities for his/her growth and development.

- Safety measures in terms of physical safety of the child are in place. For e.g. fire safety measures are established, electrical cables and wires and plug points are covered, windows have lockable grills, hav-





ing compound walls and security guards for big structures like societies and schools, safety measures are in place in elevators, drainage gutters are covered/closed, wells and bore wells are covered etc. Additionally human supervision and monitoring is ensured.

- A child is not abused physically, emotionally and sexually.

- When a child knows how to protect himself or herself. When parents or society build a child's confidence by providing exposure, knowledge and information about personal safety. When a child knows whom and where to approach in case of emergencies related to their safety.

- When a child has faith in the structures, systems and people who are responsible for providing protection to children. When such structures and systems are set-up and are functional.

### A Child is unsafe when.....

1. A child is neglected, not loved or cared for, has no one to talk to. Even the thought of being deprived of love and care can make children feel unsafe.

2. A child is discriminated in terms of gender, ability, intelligence, colour, looks, language, race, national-

ity, religion or in any other form.

3. A child is physically abused. OR witnesses physical abuse and violence.

4. A child is mentally tortured, harassed. OR when child lives in a situation which is stressful. OR witnesses mental torture-abuse-harassment.

5. A child experiences OR witnesses substance abuse.

6. A child experiences OR witnesses verbal abuse.

7. A child is sexually abused. OR witnesses sexual abuse.

8. A child is exploited or cheated.

As a society we are responsible to ensure that every child in our family, locality, community, region, state and nation is safe and feels safe.

### Child Protection Framework

Child Protection framework consists of various duty bearers such as departments of the governments, schools, civil society who all have roles to play to ensure that a child is protected and in case required violator be brought to justice and care be provided to the child. Child protection is more than treatment a preventive action. This

framework is not a single ministry or single government department but it is interlinking functions of all ministries and sectors. Important Ministries and Government/ Non Government departments responsible for child safety can be:

- **Ministry of Women and Child Welfare, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment:** Including Integrated Child Protection Scheme at National, State and District levels; Juvenile Justice System including structures like Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards, Special Juvenile Police Unit, Childline, Shelter Homes, Children Homes, Adoption Centers etc. (Information of these structures and systems is given in the next chapter)

- **Police and Legal System:** Police Stations, Child Welfare Officer at Police Station, Railway Police, Cyber Crime Branches, Special Juvenile Police Unit. Ensuring road safety and vehicle safety on road by traffic police system.

- **Judicial System:** Priority disposal of cases involving child safety and abuse. Sensitive handling of judicial procedures. Ensuring justice.

- **Education System (including Municipal, Zilla Parishad, Aided, Private and Tribal Residential Schools):** Ensuring child safety in each school. Setting up structures and systems for child protection at school levels.

- **Health System:** Ensuring child safety in terms of priority treatment, during treatment, during after care, reporting abuse if any and networking with government and non government organizations for any support needed for child safety.

- **Transport System:** Ensuring child safety measures and monitoring child's safety especially in the public transport vehicles.

- **Labour Departments:** Ensuring child safety and wellbeing in settings where children are allowed to work under Child labour laws,



Ensuring rescue and rehabilitation of children working in the prohibited settings, Ensuring that owners and other responsible adults are booked under the crimes.

- **Telecommunication system:** Ensuring that child helplines, all police and emergency help lines are functional. Reporting crimes if any.

- **Cyber Safety System:** Ensuring that children are not victimized while using any cyber slights and services. Ensuring that proper guidelines and safeguards are in place in terms of any matter/material which is harmful to children.

- **Media:** To create awareness and public opinion for child protection and safety. Also to ensure responsible reporting, follow-up.

- **Civil Society:** Such as social and religious groups, women self help groups, youth groups to serve as watch dogs and to provide support needed. These structures can also play major role in creating awareness and public opinion for child safety.

- **NGO Networks:** To provide any support needed in terms of awareness creation, rehabilitation, counseling, treatment, legal aid, sponsorship etc.

- **Legislatures and Elected Representatives:** Making laws/policies and ensuring proper enforcement to safeguard children from any violence, abuse or neglect. Giving priority to children’s issues in terms of planning and budgeting.

*Child protection framework has three major roles: a. Prevention b. Intervention c. Rehabilitation. Each role is performed by various systems and stake holders and each role has its own importance and relevance. These roles and responsibilities can be summarized in the following table.*

Stake Holders	Prevention	Intervention	Rehabilitation
Family	<p>Ensure that your house is physically safe for e.g. locks and safety checks, power point covers, out-of-reach cupboards for dangerous chemicals, medicines, fertilizers etc.</p> <p>Ensuring that family is nurturing and caring and that child is loved. Ensuring peaceful-happy environment. Family provides all the basic needs including food, health, nutrition and recreation.</p>	<p>Provide immediate assistance in terms of medical assistance, care and counseling.</p> <p>Accepting child and letting child know that he/she is not at fault.</p> <p>Ensuring that violators are punished, for which contacting CWC/child protection committees/DCPU/police/child line.</p> <p>Educating child about child protection.</p>	<p>Helping child overcome trauma.</p> <p>Providing additional support, love and care in order to rebuild child’s confidence.</p> <p>Helping child to move ahead without keeping any mental scars.</p>

Stake Holders	Prevention	Intervention	Rehabilitation
Family	<p>Child does not experience or witness abuse, violence in the family.</p> <p>Educating children about child protection.</p>		
Community/ Neighbourhood	<p>Creating safe places for children to play, walk, and move around.</p> <p>Creating structures for children's safety like compound walls, covered electric cables, covered drainage system, covered wells-bore wells security guards etc.</p> <p>Keeping eye on children.</p>	<p>Helping any child who needs protection and care. If possible, removing child from risky situations.</p> <p>Provide immediate assistance in terms of medical assistance, care and counseling.</p> <p>Calling parents.</p> <p>Contacting police, CWC, Childline, ward child protection committees, DCPU.</p> <p>Helping legal systems to punish violators.</p>	<p>Providing required support to families to help child.</p> <p>Ensuring that child is not stigmatizing or discriminated.</p> <p>Helping child to live normal life.</p>
Schools (Private, Aided, Government, Tribal Ashram, Residential boarding schools)	<p>Establishing safety measures in the school such as: Security guard, safe washrooms, safe buildings, safe play spaces, safe laboratories, having first-aid box, fire extinguishers, compound walls etc.</p> <p>Having trained and sensitized staff with respect to child protection and care.</p> <p>Ensuring that children are not physically and emotionally abused in the school especially in terms of punishments and discrimination based on scholastic achievements.</p> <p>Having redress system/ proper communication system in place such as complained boxes or teacher's/children's representatives who can be contacted.</p> <p>Educating children about their rights and about their protection.</p> <p>Establishing child protection committees including teachers, children and parents</p>	<p>Providing immediate relief in terms of medical help, counseling and care. If possible, remove child from risk situations.</p> <p>Contacting Parents</p> <p>Contacting police, CWC, childline, CPC, DCPU-DCPO</p> <p>Ensure that child is not stigmatized and discriminated.</p> <p>Educate children about child protection.</p> <p>Helping legal systems to punish violators.</p> <p>Reflecting on the causes and developing preventive guidelines.</p>	<p>Helping child overcome trauma.</p> <p>Providing additional support, love and care in order to rebuild child's confidence.</p> <p>Helping child to move ahead without keeping any mental scars.</p>

Stake Holders	Prevention	Intervention	Rehabilitation
Schools (Private, Aided, Government, Tribal Ashram, Residential boarding schools)	for school. Ensuring that exam and curriculum related stress is handled at school levels.		
Society/ Elected representatives/ Legislatures/ Financial Institutions/ Private Companies	Creating Safe places for children Sensitizing people about child protection, safety Ensuring that laws, policies, structures and systems are created to protect children. Ensuring safety measures in relation to children Ensuring that children will be protected on priority basis in case of emergencies. Allocating adequate funds for child protection to all the departments and NGOs.	Ensuring that legal and protection systems work efficiently to rescue and help child in need. Ensuring that child is not stigmatized and/or discriminated. Ensuring that violators are punished. Reflecting on the causes and developing preventive guidelines.	Providing required support to legal systems and families to help child.
Government	Implementing laws, Policies Establishing procedures and protocols Creating awareness about child protection Creating structures for child protection Establishing systems like police, child welfare systems, children's homes to provide protection and care to children. Monitoring all systems and structures.	Ensuring that legal and protection systems work efficiently to rescue and help child in need. Ensuring that violators are punished. Reflecting on the causes and developing preventive guidelines.	Forming and executing long term care plan for child. Helping families to help child. Helping families in legal follow-up if any. In case required, providing for institutional care.
Media	Creating Awareness and Sensitization of children, parents, community, government, legislatures and people's representatives. Creating public opinion for child protection. Creating pressure for law enforcement in terms of ensuring justice and establishing preventive measures in the society.	Responsible coverage Ensuring support for all stake holders. Ensuring that all the stake holders are working in co-ordination to support victim and to ensure justice. Ensuring that violators are punished.	Creating public pool for required support for rehabilitation.

## Important Indian Laws to safeguard Child Protection:

A. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000

B. Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act (POCSO) 2012

C. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

D. Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986

E. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009

F. Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1986

G. Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 2004

H. Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995

## What is Child Abuse? How to identify Abuse?

Child Abuse can be defined as harming (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually), ill-treatment, abuse, neglect or deprivation of any child.

It is not always easy to recognise that a child is being hurt or is at risk, Some form of protection issues are visible and obvious such as a child begging on the street or child labour or physical abuse at home or substance abuse etc. In such circumstances, a child may or may not speak to you about the abuse but since it is obvious, you can immediately help the child. Steps to follow for helping such children are given in the following pages.

Some protection issues tend to go undetected such as neglect, sexual abuse or emotional abuse which can be just as damaging, if not more, as physical abuse. Because of



ignorance and dependency on the abusers, children often are unable to express that they are abused. As adults, it is our responsibility to observe child behaviour and encourage them to speak up. Following are indicators (signs, symptoms or clues) that when found, either on their own or in various combinations, can point to possible abuse, neglect or violence. These indicators do not necessarily prove that a child has been harmed. They alert us to the possibility of abuse having occurred and therefore that the concerned child may require help or protection. Sometimes these indicators can result from life events that do not involve abuse, such as divorce, accidental injury, the arrival of a new sibling etc.

### Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse occurs when a child's emotional, psychological or social well-being and sense of worth is continually battered. It can include a pattern of criticizing, rejecting, discriminating, degrading, ignoring, isolating, corrupting, exploiting and terrorizing a child. It may result from exposure to family violence or involvement in illegal or anti-social activities. Emotional abuse is almost always present when other forms of abuse occur.

The effects of this form of abuse are not always immediate or visible. The long-lasting effects of emotional abuse may only become evident as a child becomes older and begins to show difficult or disturbing behaviours or symptoms.

### Physical indicators in a child :

- Bed-wetting or bed soiling that has no medical cause
- Frequent psychosomatic complaints (eg. Headaches, nausea, abdominal pains)
- Has not attained significant developmental milestones

Indicators in a child's behavior:

- Suffers from severe developmental gaps
- Severe symptoms of depression, anxiety, withdrawal or aggression



- Severe symptoms of self destructive behaviour – self harming, suicide attempts, engaging in drug or alcohol abuse

- Displays attention seeking behaviours or displays extreme inhibition in play

- When at play, behaviour may model or copy negative behaviour and language used at home

### Indicators in adult behaviour:

- Constantly labels the child or publicly humiliates the child

- Continually threatens the child with physical harm or forces the child to witness physical harm inflicted on a loved one

- Has unrealistic expectations of the child

### Neglect

Neglect is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs. Neglect may be: Physical - failure to provide necessary basic needs of food, shelter or clothing etc. Medical - failure to seek, obtain or follow through with medical care for the child or Abandonment - leaving a child in any situation without arranging necessary care for them and with no intention of returning. It can also be neglectful supervision and/or refusal to assume parental responsibility.

### Behavioural indicators in a Child:

- Be developmentally delayed
- Be sick or tired most of the time
- Inadequately supervised or left alone for unacceptable periods of time
- Malnourished: Underweight
- Improper care or lack of hygiene

### Behavioural indicators in a Child:

- Demonstrates severe lack of attachment to other adults
- Poor school attendance or school performance
- Poor social skills
- Is very demanding of affection or attention
- Has no understanding of basic hygiene





## Behavioural indicators in an Adult:

- Fails to provide for the child's basic needs, such as housing, nutrition, medical and psychological care
- Welts or bite marks, major fractures of the long bones or skull, to its most extreme form, the death of a child.
- Fails to enroll a child in school
- Leaves the child home alone
- Is overwhelmed with own problems and puts own needs ahead of the child's needs

## Physical Abuse

Physical abuse can be caused from

punching, beating, kicking, shaking, biting, burning or throwing the child. Physical abuse may also result from excessive or inappropriate discipline or violence within the family. Injuries to a child may vary in severity and range from minor bruising, burns, welts or bite marks, major fractures of the long bones or skull, to its most extreme form, the death of a child.

## Physical indicators in a Child:

- Unexplained bruises, welts, cuts, abrasions, Unexplained burns, Unexplained fractures
- Injuries to areas of the body that is usually protected /covered.
- Delay in seeking medical attention for a child

## Behavioural indicators in a Child:

- Is wary of adults or of a particular individual
- Is violent to animals or other children
- Tries to hide bruises or other injuries
- May be extremely aggressive or extremely withdrawn
- Cannot recall how the injuries occurred or gives inconsistent explanations



## Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse includes acts where an adult uses a child for a sexual purpose. While it may involve a stranger, most sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone the child knows and trusts. It includes, any touching for sexual purpose, fondling of breasts, buttocks, genitals, oral sex, sexual intercourse, an adult exposing themselves to the child, or seeking to have a child touch them for a sexual purpose. It also includes voyeurism, photographing children inappropriately, involving the child in pornographic activities or prostitution or using the internet and phone to initiate sexual conversations with children.

## Physical indicators in a child :

- Torn, stained or bloody under-clothing
- Bruises, lacerations, redness, swelling or bleeding in genital, vaginal or anal area
- Blood in urine or faeces
- Unusual or excessive itching or pain in the genital or anal area
- Difficulty in sitting and/or walking
- Signs of sexually transmitted disease

## Indicators in a child's behaviour:

- Age-inappropriate sexual play with toys, self, others
- Sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge
- Nightmares, sleeping problems
- Becoming withdrawn or very clingy
- Becoming unusually secretive
- Sudden unexplained personality changes, mood swings and seeming insecure
- Regressing to younger behaviours, e.g. bedwetting
- Fear of certain places or persons e.g. bedroom or bathroom, friend-uncle



- Eating disorders
- Outburst of anger
- Self-harm (cutting, burning or other harmful activities)

#### Indicators in adult behaviour:

- Insist on physical affection such as kissing, hugging or wrestling even when the child clearly does not want it.
- Are overly interested in the sexual development of a child or teenager.
- Insist on time alone with a child with no interruptions.
- Spend most of their spare time with children and have little interest in spending time with people their own age.
- Regularly offer to baby-sit chil-

dren for free or take children on overnight outings alone.

- Buy children expensive gifts or give them money for no apparent reason.
- Frequently walk in on children/teenagers in the bathroom.
- Treat a particular child as a favourite, making them feel 'special' compared with others in the family.
- Pick on a particular child.

Sometimes child sexual abuse is in the form of one child (generally older) abusing another child (generally younger). It is important here to note that older child in this context is also a possible victim of some kind of abuse and needs



protection in most of such cases. We can help both the children to rebuild their lives to rebuild their lives if we are alert to the early warning signs that something is going wrong. Indicators in the behavior of abuser are:

- Seeks out the company of younger children and spends an unusual amount of time in their company
- Takes younger children to 'secret' places or hideaways or plays 'special' games with them (e.g. doctor and patient, removing clothing etc.) especially games unusual to their age

- Insists on hugging or kissing a child when the child does not want to
- Tells you they do not want to be alone with a child or becomes anxious when a particular child comes to visit
- Frequently uses aggressive or sexual language about adults or children
- Shows sexual material to younger children
- Makes sexually abusive telephone calls
- Shares alcohol or drugs with younger children or teens
- Views child pornography on the internet or elsewhere
- Exposes his or her genitals to younger children
- Forces sex on another adolescent or child

### Exploitation:

Child exploitation is the act of using child for profit labour sexual gratification or for some other personal or financial advantages. A Child's exploitation is visible in the form of physical, emotional and sometimes even in terms of sexual abuse.



# What can I do?

We often see children begging on the road or being physically abused in the community or sometimes come across missing child or street child who seems unwell. We have simple but an important role to play in such situations. Always put child first (give priority over all other important work), do not ignore the situation. Take following steps to help child in need:

## If it's an Emergency:

If it's an emergency and you suspect a child is at serious risk, or a crime against a child has been committed then

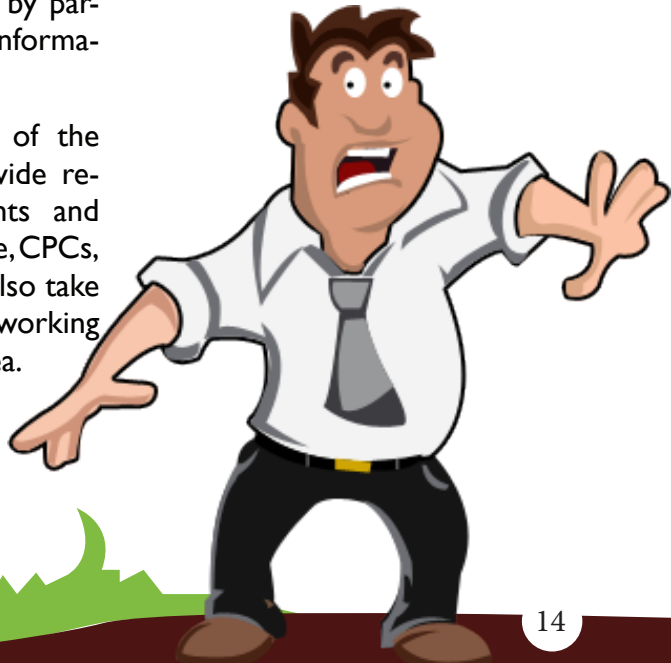
**Step-1:** Immediately contact parents if child is not abused by parents and if child can give information of his/her parents,

**Step-2:** Contact any one of the following agencies to provide required support to parents and child: DCPU, SJPU, Childline, CPCs, Police or CWC. You can also take help from credible NGOs working on Child Rights in your area.

**Step-3:** Provide emergency support such as medical aid, clothing, food and transportation to safe places. Make sure that you handover this child to responsible adults from above mentioned list only.

**Step-4:** Help authorities with whatever information and evidence you have as regards abuse of the child to make sure that the abuser is punished. If possible give written information.

**Caution:** You need not be complainant in the case if you do not want to. Do not hesitate to support because of the fear of time requirement for the legal procedures POCSCO says in case of sexual offense it is mandatory reporting.



Step-5: Maintain privacy to ensure that the name of the child is not disclosed to media or public in any ways.

### When it's not an Emergency:

A lot of the time it may not be obvious that a child is at risk, you may need to rely on a hunch or feeling uncomfortable about a situation. Don't wait until you are certain, always put a child first. Taking action to protect a child doesn't always mean extreme measures. There are lots of things you can do which may help to prevent abuse even occurring or stop it very early.

1. Do something personally to help: It is not easy at any time to get involved, especially when your concerns are with family or friends.

By lending a hand or a listening ear at an early stage you may prevent something more serious:

- Learn to recognize the signs
- Provide a listening ear
- Offer help
- Give helpful information
- Explain that violence is not OK

2. Look for community systemic support for the family: If you feel that you cannot personally help, you can contact Childline (1098) to talk over your concerns confidentially with a trained social worker. They will give you advice on what to do. There are also many other organisations (annexure I) that support children and families You can contact any of them.

3. Contact CWC.: If a child needs support and help in terms of rescue, rehabilitation, shelter, education, counseling, legal aid, protection, transfer to place of residence or safety; foster care then contact DCPU or CWC or Child Welfare officer at Police Station

When you are in authority position where child protection is at stake, it is your primary responsibility to provide support needed and to report authorities. In fact under Sec.



21 Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act (POCSO), if you do not report sexual abuse of the child (which is known to you) then you can also be booked under the law.

### To Prevent Child Abuse:

- Create Safe places for children in community, neighbourhood and society: Safe places for children are those where children feel secure and protected. They are nurtured, looked after and cared for.
- Create Structures and Systems where children can express their feelings and emotions freely without any inhibitions.
- Create Structures and Systems to ensure safety and to ensure that children are supervised.
- Educate children about safety measures. Provide information about the emergency contact numbers.
- Create awareness: About child protection systems and networks. Keep this information handy.
- Build network of concern individuals and groups to help children. Develop support systems for children.

- Build public opinion for child protection so that child protection will get priority in planning and budgeting.

### How to prepare children for protection?

- Teach the child his/her name, address and basic contact details: The Child should also know basic landmarks of his/her home. This should be done for all the children irrespective of their age (excluding children who are not yet ready to talk) and ability. Special children should be taught special ways to communicate his/her basic contact details. For e.g. they can write, can draw pictures, indicate their



location with the help of pictures/sounds/gestures etc.

- Give children information about safe places and people to seek help from or to go to for help if needed. Make a list of safe people and places in your locality. For e.g. grandparents, social workers, teachers, child care centers etc. This can be termed as 'Child's Safety Net.'

- Teach children dangers involved in : Playing or experimenting with fire, Playing or experimenting with electric gadgets and power connections/wires, Playing in water, Playing on roads, Handling knives or other harmful items, Teach electric appliance safety

- Teach basic safety rules in natural or manmade calamities such as earth quake, fire, floods, bomb

blast, terrorist attacks, violent fights, war etc.

- Teach Road Safety rules: How and from where to cross, who can support if lost, not to talk to strangers, teach children not to eat anything given by stranger. Talk to children about dangers of eating food that is given by strangers.

- Teach internet Safety rules: Which are safe sights, which are inappropriate and unsafe sights, which information should be disclosed-to whom on net.

- Teach travel Safety Rules: How to board into buses, trains, taxis etc. Not to talk to strangers, Not to eat anything given by strangers, who to contact in case needed.

- Teach about good touch and bad touch and that no one is allowed to touch your body against your will.

- Teach your child to say NO. If anything makes him/her uncomfortable, he/she should not do it.

- Teach your child to shout for help.

- At the appropriate age give sex education.

- At the appropriate age give information about ill-effects of smoking, drugs, gutaka, tobacco etc.





- Teach the child that he/she should never keep secrets from parents, never go anywhere with a stranger without parents knowledge.

- Keep time for children and assure them that they can talk about ANYTHING and EVERYTHING with you.

- Give fundamental strategies such as :

- a. Run Away to Safe Places/People if you find that there is risk

- b. Shout for help and keep shouting unless someone helps

- c. Contact parents, emergency help-line numbers, Childline (1098)

- d. Contact Police

- e. You can also teach basic self defense to older children.



## ANNEXURE I.A : Child Protection Systems at National and State Levels

**Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS):** is a scheme of the GOI, bringing all initiatives taken for child protection (CP) under one umbrella so far. Under the scheme each State has established State Child Protection Society (SCPS) at State and District Child Protection Units (DCPU) at District levels.

**National and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights: (NCPCR and SCPCR):** are established as per the provisions of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, to protect, promote and defend child rights.

**State Secretary, Women and Child Welfare and Commissioner Women and Child Welfare Maharashtra State:** Are overall responsible for ensuring smooth functioning of all the structures and systems providing child protection at state level.

## ANNEXURE I.B : Child Protection Systems and Services at District Level

**District Child Protection Unit (DCPU):** Responsible for effective implementation of all child protection policies and programmes at district levels. District child Protection Officer functions as head of the DCPU.

**District Child Welfare Committee (CWC):** As per the JJ Act section-29, CWCs are set up in every district. The CWC has the powers of a judicial magistrate of the first class. A child can be brought before the committee any citizen or by the child himself/herself. CWC has authority to handle cases for care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of the children and to provide for their basic needs and human rights.

**District Juvenile Justice Board (JJB):** JJBs are set up in every district. The JJB has the powers of a judicial magistrate of the first class. A child can be brought before the committee by the police or person from special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU). JJB has the authority of socio-legal rehabilitation of the children.

**District and Ward level Child Protection Committees:** Under ICPS, these Committees are established at district and ward level in city.

**Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU):** As per JJ Act Section: 63, SJPU are constituted to co-ordinate and function as watch dog for providing legal protection against all kinds of cruelty, abuse and exploitation of children. Every police station has designated Child Welfare Officer. He/she is sensitized and equipped to handle cases and issues related to child protection.

**Childline:** is India's first 24-hour, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance. Adult or a child can dial 1098, the toll free number to access emergency needs as well as long-term care and rehabilitation.

**NGOs:** There are many NGOs who provide specific services to children such as Shelter, Care, treatment, rehabilitation, education, foster care, counseling etc.

# VIOLENCE IS NOT OK RESPECT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

- ✓ **DO** learn about your rights. You have a right to be protected against:
  - . People hitting you and hurting your body
  - . People abusing you sexually
  - . People saying hurtful things to you
  - . People treating you badly because of your caste, colour, religion, disability or for any other reason
- ✓ **DO** share worries with a person you know and trust - a parent, relative, teacher or friend
- ✓ **DO** support your friend, who is being treated badly and encourage them to seek help
- ✓ **DO** respect the rights of other children
- ✓ **DO** work together with your friends and teachers to make your school a safe, child-friendly place to learn and play
- ✓ **DO** join with other children to help your families and communities to learn about children's rights
- ✗ **DON'T** keep frightening and troublesome secrets inside yourself. Ask for help from someone you know and trust
- ✗ **DON'T** ever go off with adults you don't know - whatever they may promise you
- ✗ **DON'T** bully or be unkind to other children - they have the same rights as you to be protected



[www.savethechildren.in](http://www.savethechildren.in)

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