

CONCEPT NOTE

Application of Community Support Centres in the process of reintegration of vulnerable children into society, especially children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection

1. BACKGROUND:

In Indian society, the communities are close-knit and work to support their fellow community members. This was showcased in District Indore of MP where community members come forward and developed community mediation centres to resolve matrimonial issues arising in their community. This support of communities can be extended to the vulnerable children and children coming in contact with the law to provide children with better future opportunities.

2. OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this initiative is to extend the benefits of the Madhya Pradesh Community Mediation Programme to the children of the communities running **Community Mediation Centres (CMCs)**. The existing structure of CMCs would engage children from the community for preventive and responsive actions. The CMCs could act as a catalyst to divert children towards education, and good health, uplift them socio-economically and act as alternate care for CICL and CNCP to support their rehabilitation process.

3. **Child:** Any person below the age of 18 years can be engaged under this initiative. Any child who belongs to a vulnerable section of the society or is a Child in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) or Child in Conflict with Law

(CICL) who needs alternate care besides institutionalisation would be engaged under the initiative.

4. Community Support Centres (CSCs) and Community Supported Volunteers (CSVs): The Community Mediation Centres run by MPSLSA would work as Community Support Centre while engaging with Children and Community Mediation Volunteers would work as Community Supported Volunteers.

5. Implementation Mechanism:

The CSCs have been working on resolving matrimonial issues arising from the community. From here, the CSCs would also engage children to provide care and protection to those who are either vulnerable or their current household conditions are not appropriate to provide children with good guidance.

The Children can come directly to the CSC or can be brought by the Childline-1098, any Civil Society organisation or any person. Also, the child welfare committee and juvenile Justice boards can send a child to CSC for community work, rehabilitation or enlisting the child for education, employment, apprenticeship and community service opportunity.

The ChildLine-1098 and DCPUs would conduct mapping exercises and identify children from the vulnerable sections living in the community and children living in street situations. The Childline-1098 and DCPU would present the child before the CWC/ JJB and post referral, present the child before the concerned CSC run by the child's community.

The CSCs would enrol children in their daily activities which would include tuition classes for children and non-formal education through teachers with the support of the community. The CSCs would organise competitions for Art, and sports to promote children in the fields. The CSCs would organise interactive sessions with the child, and their family. The CSCs would also provide professional psychosocial counselling to children, and their families and work to protect children from involving with peers with a background of anti-social activities.

Further, the CSCs would work on motivating children towards education. The CSCs would also work to provide After Care services and develop their skills to increase children's employability after they complete the age of 18 years.

The CSCs would function only for daycare and would not provide residential facilities to any child. The CSCs would refer children to CWC and JJB for residential care, as the case may be. The CSCs would share the progress report to CWC and JJB on the rehabilitation process and process of reintegration into society. Further, The CSCs would inform the CWC/JJB as the case may be, before taking up the case.

6. Stakeholders:

The initiative of engaging children living in communities with community Support centres would involve:

- Community Supported Volunteers (CSVs)
- Sponsoring Social Organization (SSO)
- District Legal Service Authority (DLSA)
- Juvenile Justice Board (JJBs)
- Child Welfare Committee(CWCs)
- District Child Protection Unit (DCPUs)

- Department of Skill Development
- Department of Education
- Department of women and child development
- UNICEF
- ChildLine -1098
- Career Counsellors
- Psychosocial experts

7. Role of Community Supported Volunteers:

The SSO and community Supported volunteers are the main key functionaries for extending support to children through CSCs. It is through selected and trained CSVs, that the children would be rehabilitated. The CSVs would act as a bridge between the JJB, CWC and society.

- The CSVs would ensure that every child that comes to the CSC must get enrolled in Formal education through community support.
- The CSV would support the children and families to get legal documents like Aadhar Card, Income Certificate, Birth Certificates, and Nivas Praman cards which are essential to register under social Protection Schemes run by the State and Central Government.
- The CSVs would ensure a psycho-social counselling facility for children and their families.
- The CSVs would provide community service opportunities for children in conflict with the law to comply with the orders of the Juvenile Justice Board u/s 18 of JJ Act, 2015.
- The CSVs would engage vulnerable children of the community for adolescent empowerment programs on child marriage, Child Sexual Abuse, and Child Labour.

- With the support of the Community, CSV would endeavour to provide employment, and apprenticeship opportunities to Vulnerable children in the society, children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection.
- The CSVs would engage children in activities at the CSC and provide career counselling to the children through experts and act as a guide and advisor to resolve queries related to career and leading a good life.
- With the support of community members, the CSVs would endeavour to establish library/reading room/book bank at CSC and develop a room for indoor activities like Chess, Carom, art & craft.
- The CSVs to coordinate with Government departments to enrol children in social beneficiary schemes run by the government.
- With the support of the community and allied departments, The CSVs would develop CSCs as a platform to identify children's talents and aptitude in the field of academics sports, athletics, performance, entertainment or art.
- CSV to create awareness among their community about programs like foster care.

8. Training of community Supported Volunteers and Stakeholders:

The CSV and members of SSO would be trained by MPSSLSA and UNICEF on Child Rights, Juvenile Delinquency, Adolescent empowerment and Juvenile Justice Act. Further, the stakeholders need to be trained on their role and responsibility in coordinating with CSCs.

9. Limitation to Role of CSC:

The community Support centre is not statutory bodies and they will not work as a Child Welfare committee or Juvenile Justice Board. The role of the CSC would be limited to providing support to the CWC and JJB in the prevention, rehabilitation and restoration process.