

**REPORT OF DELIBERATION ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRES BY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE HELD ON 09.07.2023,
AT HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH, BENCH INDORE**

On 09.07.2023, a deliberation was organised by the Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Madhya Pradesh with District Functionaries of Indore, representatives of the Community Mediation Centres (CMCs) at the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Bench Indore. The meeting was held in the presence of Hon'ble Shri Justice Sujoy Paul Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee & Judge, High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Hon'ble Shri Sushrut A. Dharmadhikari, Admin. Judge, High Court of Madhya Pradesh Bench Indore, Hon'ble Shri Justice Vivek Rusia, Chairperson, Mediation Monitoring Sub-Committee & Judge, High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Bench Indore and Ms Advaita Marathe, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF Bhopal.

Mr Samresh Singh, Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Madhya Pradesh tendered the opening remarks and introduced the agenda of implementing Community Support Centres (CSCs) in district Indore as a pilot program. Also, the Secretary shared a presentation with the participants on the roles and responsibilities of Community Support Centres (CSCs) and Community Support Volunteers towards vulnerable children of their communities.

Further, Hon'ble Shri Justice Sujoy Paul, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee shared the challenges and hardships of vulnerable children and addressed the participants on the need of developing Community Support Centres (CSCs) for vulnerable children. The Lordship acknowledged the involvement of communities in mediation has brought great success in resolving matrimonial cases. Similarly, the communities must be engaged to support vulnerable children of their community. The communities can develop Community Support Centres as a safe place to safeguard vulnerable children with preventive actions and provide necessary support in children's rehabilitation and restoration process. The CSCs can be supported by the retired professionals of the community like i.e. Judges, Teachers, Doctors, Ex-servicemen, and Police Officers. The CSCs can have interactive activities along with libraries and reading rooms for children.

Furthermore, Hon'ble Shri Justice Vivek Rusia, Chairperson, Mediation Monitoring Sub-Committee addressed the participants on the importance of engaging communities to support vulnerable children. The

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Lordship added that the community support centres would help in guiding vulnerable children to build a better future.

Adding to the deliberation, UNICEF, Bhopal assured their support in rolling out and implementing the community support centres in Indore. Also, agreed to provide technical support in training Community Support Volunteers on issues of child protection.

Dr Mohd Shamim, Retired District Judge shared that the communities had organized a preparatory meeting regarding establishing community support centres. He added that the communities have agreed to work on the initiatives to support vulnerable children. Subsequently, he proposed that committees be formed to address the issues related to children i.e. Education, Health, Sports, Rehabilitation, Skill Development etc.

In the plenary session suggestions and questions were invited from the participants. The following is the list of the suggestions received during the session:

- The scope of CSCs can be widened to cover migrating children, children who have never been admitted to school and children engaged in labour. The CSCs can also consider providing night schools for children engaged in labour.
- The schools run by the community also have children who belong to vulnerable sections of the society. The communities engage with those children from the school level itself.
- The CSC can also be engaged in the identification of hotspots. The groups identifying and working in hotspots must work in coordination with the Juvenile Justice Boards.
- Vulnerable children in aftercare programs can also be engaged in CSC.
- Area-wise list of CSC and CSVs can be circulated to the police department and even the police department can refer children to the CSC.
- The Department of Women and Child Development should provide a list of government social protection schemes to the CSC and the

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eligibility criteria. The department must also support the children recommended by the CSC as per the criteria of the schemes.

- The CSC must focus on providing skill development training to children to increase their employable skills and explore industries to provide employment opportunities for the children.
- The vulnerable children may not always be willing to reach out to the CSC, therefore the CSCs must conduct outreach programs to the hotspots identified for vulnerable children.
- The CSCs must also focus on the nutritional needs of the children engaged with CSCs.
- The CSCs must also coordinate with district administration and work on de-addiction programs for children.

The relevant suggestions would be incorporated into the program and responsibilities of community support centres.



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