Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Department of women development and Child Welfare Government of Andhra Pradesh. We take great pleasure in releasing our 1st news letter samrakshana and we are happy to inform you that every quarter we would like to bring before you in a nutshell to share our efforts and get suggestions for productive environment for overall protection of children in Andhra Pradesh. Department has initiated new developments in our projects, primarily in 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. Organized Capacity Building programs and we have flagged off training programs for District Child Protection Units as part of our mainstreaming program with ICPS.

The ICPS provides preventive, statutory, care and rehabilitation services to vulnerable children including those from potentially vulnerable families and families at risk, children of socially excluded groups like migrant families, families living in extreme poverty, SCs, STs & OBCs families subjected to or affected by discrimination, minorities, children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, orphans, child drug abusers, children of substance abusers, child beggars, trafficked or sexually exploited children, children of prisoners, street & working children. For effective implementation of ICPS scheme, Government of A.P. issued orders vide G.O. Ms NO.22, Dt. 31-8-2009, of WD CW & DW Dept., formulating A.P. Society for Protection & Empowerment of Women and Children. The society will act as nodal agency for evaluating and evolving statutory enactment, policies, programme and strategy for the protection & empowerment of woman and children. It builds partnership with different Government & Non-Governmental organizations, providing institutional and non-institutional protection services for woman & children.

Further we would like to conclude by congratulating all our staff members involved to bring this News Letter.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue, please do send us your feedback and recommendations for improvement of the programme.

With warm regards

Commissioner/CEO

Principal Secretary
Introduction

The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is an centrally sponsored scheme aimed at building a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances, as well as other vulnerable children, through Government-Civil Society Partnership

About ICPS

Government of A.P. issued order, vide G.O. Ms NO.22, Dt. 31-8-2009, of WD CW & DW Dept., formulating A.P. Society for Protection & Empowerment of Women and Children and the same was launched by Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on 5th May, 2010. The main objectives of establishment of A.P. Society for Protection & Empowerment of Woman & Children to facilitate and ensure effective protection and empowerment of Woman and Children by synergizing the services chain of Govt. & Non - Govt. and private sector organizations, expert institutions & concerned individuals.

ICPS: Objectives

ICPS brings together multiple existing child protection schemes of the Ministry under one comprehensive umbrella, and integrates additional interventions for protecting children and pre-venting harm. ICPS, there-fore, would institutionalize essential services and strengthen structures, enhance capacities at all levels, create database and knowledge base for child protection services, strengthen child protection at family and community level, ensure appropriate intersectoral response at all levels.

ICPS INITIATIVES & ACHIEVEMENTS

A.P Society for Protection and empowerment of Women and Children have been registered on 07.09.2009 and Launched by Hon’ble Chief Minister on 05.05.2010. District Child Protection Societies have been formed in all the districts under the chairmanship of District Collector & Magistrate.

SPSU, SCPS and SARA have been set up at state level and DCPU setup at district level in all 23 districts and staff have been recruited.

Induction training was provided for staff of state structure and also to DCPUs of 22 districts except Prakasham District.

SAAs are setup in all 23 districts.

Statutory structure CWCs, JJBs constituted vide GO Ms.No.8 and GO Ms.No.9, dated; 20/1/2011
Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989. It entered into force 2 September 1990, in accordance with article 49. The child rights and welfare concerns have been addressed in a number of International Conventions and Standards on child protection including the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Government of India ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1992. The Convention prescribes standards to be adhered to by all State parties in securing the best interest of the child, it emphasizes social reintegration of child victims, without resorting to judicial proceedings. The UNCRC outlines the fundamental rights of children, including the right to be protected from economic exploitation and harmful work, from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, and from physical or mental violence, as well as ensuring that children will not be separated from their family against their will.

Importance of Children's Day

Children are like precious gems. Understand the significance of children's day which is celebrated on 14th November in India. Children are adorable. They are like divine gifts that parents get from the almighty. Their eyes are full of innocence. They smile when they receive love and admiration, they cry when it is their first day at school away from their parents, they giggle when they mingle with their buddies, and they signify nothing but the pure and faithful love. They truly symbolize god. 14th November is celebrated as children's day in all over India. 14th November is also the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of independent India. Childhood memories are sweetest of all. They can be savored for a lifetime. Children's day celebration is fun for the little ones but it is important for the parents too. Every parent must understand the importance of the children's day. Parents should be well aware about the little desires of their angels.

Why celebrate Children’s Day?

In India, every year, November 14th is celebrated as Children's Day and is also the birthday of India’s first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, also known as Chachaji. As a tribute to him and his love for the children, this day is celebrated as Children’s Day. He worked passionately towards the welfare of children and was keen about the education and development of children in India.

A day celebrated to honour all children in the world as well as the epitome persona who showed great love and worked passionately towards the welfare of children. A day where every child can unleash himself/herself as a child.
Points of awareness:

The supreme law of Indian (constitution) guarantees that all people under the age of 18 have children’s rights

- A child has the right to be cared for by his/her parents and family.
- A child has the right to consume healthy food.
- A child has the right to health care.
- A child has the right to be protected and to feel safe.
- A child has the right to education.
- If a child has a disability, he/she has the right to special care.

Celebration in Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh State government is organising the celebration on November 14, the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was the country’s first Prime Minister and who is fondly known to children as ‘Chacha Nehru’.

Situation Analysis

As per the ICPS Guidelines each district needs to conduct situation analysis & mapping on issues related to children and develop child protection plan to address the issues identified. The District Needs Assessment Reports received from all the DCPUs the issues analyzed and needs assessed through Situation analysis are mentioned as under and there is an urgent need to address these issues.

- Child Marriages
- Child labour
- Children infected and affected with HIV /AIDS
- Children of Prisoners
- Rehabilitation of Mentally Challenged children
- Street and Homeless /Orphan children
- Out of School Children
- Children of Sex workers
- Juveniles (Children in Conflict with law)
- Children with special needs(Handicapped, Mentally ill health)
- Children without family care (Abandoned /surrendered /Orphans) etc.

The issue of child protection is a complex subject and needs a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach. Children have manifold needs starting from health, Nutrition, Care, Protection, Development, Education, Love, affection and recreation. Some children, such as those affected by HIV/AIDS or disabilities, have special needs that should be taken care of. Apart from these, children either in conflict or contact with the Law have additional needs that require interventions from the Police, Judiciary, Panchayat Raj institutions, urban local bodies and local administration.
Child Marriages

The Child marriages are rampant in Andhra Pradesh compared to other southern states in India. A.P is the third in India according to 2005-06 data. The state has the dubious distinction of being first in South India with 49% followed by Karnataka with 29.6%, Tamilnadu 19.5% and Kerala 11.8%. Andhra Pradesh also accounts for the least age at marriage as 12 years, which is the lowest in entire India.

Initiations to prevent Child Marriages

GO.MS.No.13 Dated: 19.03.2012 of Dept. WCD&SC(WP)
D.O.Lr.No.1213/ICPS-H/PM/2013, Dt 08.10 .2013

Strategies to Prevent child marriages

Aim: To prevent the Child Marriages in all the 23 Districts.

Objectives:

1. Identify the high prevalence villages of child mar-riages as per the district situation analysis.
2. Map high risk mandals and villages in the district map
3. Identify district specific strategies as per the socio, cultural issues of our district

Strategy 1. Formation and strengthening of Mandal & Village level child protection committees in identified mandal / villages.

Strategy 2. Convergence meeting with all govt. departments and NGOs including child marriages probation officers.

Strategy 3. Identification of families with child marriages with the help of the stake holders in the villages.

Strategy 4. Awareness campaigns with IEC material.

Strategy 5. Promotion of children support groups at village level.

Strategy 6. Use of Existing Self Help Groups and Youth Sanghams, CBOs to promote anti child marriage pressure groups within the community for surveillance against child marriage.

Celebration of International Girl Child Day
11th October 2013

International Day of the Girl Child is an International Observance day declared by the United Nations. October 11, 2012 was the first day of the Girl. The observation supports more opportunity for girls and increases awareness of inequality faced by girls worldwide based upon their gender. This inequality includes areas such as access to education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care and protection from discrimination, violence and un free child marriage.

The International Girl Child Day to recognize girls’ rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. For its second observance, this year’s Day will focus on “Innovating for Girls Education”.

The fulfillment of girl’s right to education is first and foremost an obligation and moral imperative. There is also overwhelming evidence that girl’s education especially at the secondary level is a powerful transformative force for societies and girl’s themselves. It is the one consistent positive determinant of practically every desired development outcome, from reductions in morality and fertility, to poverty reduction and equitable growth, to social norm change and democratization.

A special drive has conducted on “Awareness through campaign mode on sale/abandoned/relinquished/sex selected abortions of girl child” to focus on girl child abandonment, decline of child sex ratio, discrimination and other child related issues and to promote on legal adaption on the occasion of INTERNATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY, i.e., 11th October 2013 by the Department.

In this regard, conducted 6 day special drive on “Save our Girl Child” in all 23 Districts of A.P on the following issues.

- Declining sex ratio in Mandal / District
- Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 (PNDT ACT)
- Promotion on Legal Adoptions (Guide lines on Adoption)
- Importance of GIRL Child
- Stigma (menace of dowry, fear of loss of face in local community, fear of dependence of the girl on the family, for life….)
- Implementation of Bangaru Thalli Scheme

The International Girl Child Day 2013 will provide a platform to highlight examples of ongoing work and achievements, as well as raise awareness of the importance of innovation in advancing girl’s education and promoting learning and empowerment.
ADOPTION

Adoption undoubtedly offers an important avenue for the care and protection of an abandoned, destitute or neglected child in a family setting and provides an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding for the realization of his / her talents and potentials. It carries with it all the emotional, physical and psychological security necessary for the proper development of the child and also serves as the most reliable means of preventing situations associated with the abuse, exploitation and social maladjustment of abandoned, destitute and neglected children.

Purpose:

➢ The main purpose of adoption is to reintegration into the family of the destitute and abandoned children.

Sisuvihars & Sishugrehas:

The Department is promoting adoption through establishment of 2 Sisuvihars, One at Hyderabad and another is in Chittoor. Under Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) 23 Sishugrehas are functioning in 23 Districts in the State and promoting In Country Adoptions.

The abandoned infants and orphans below six years of age are provided all facilities such as Food, Shelter, Medical facility and Protection. Children 2217 are given for Adoption to the Families from 2002-2013.
CHILDLINE

CHILDLINE aims at responding to the emergency needs of every child in need of care and protection throughout the country, ensuring that there is an integrated effort between the government, non-government organizations, academic organizations, bilateral agencies, corporate and the community in protecting the rights of children.

The CHILDLINE service, which has been developed and managed by CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF), is a 24 hour, toll free phone outreach service linking children in need of help and protection to organizations run by government departments as well as those run by civil society agencies. Children or concerned adults dial the number 1098 and are connected to the CHILDLINE service in their city.

Support organisations that provided the outreach service in intervention and assisted in creating awareness at locations where children in distress were most likely to be found.

CHILDLINE Operate in 82 cities in India

CHILDLINE PROJECT AREAS IN SOUTH

- Tamil Nadu – 10
- Kerala – 09
- Andhra Pradesh – 04
- Karnataka – 03
- Andaman – 01

CHILDLINE Programs and activities:

- Responding to calls on the national toll free number 1098 and provision to rescue and offer emergency outreach services for children in need of care and protection;
- Coordinating rescue and other outreach services with the help of relevant local departments like police, administration, labour, health, railways and others;
- Ensuring proper documentation of all children rescued to facilitate their rehabilitation and restoration, where necessary;
- Producing children before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for ensuring care and protection;
- Supporting the CWC in the long term rehabilitation of children, where required;
- Supporting a national network for the tracking of missing children;
- Providing data related to children rescued and rehabilitated to for compilation of a national comprehensive database of child protection;
- Creating awareness and ensuring access to the 1098 Child helpline (CHILDLINE) number
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Make a Child Smile today

"Integrated Child Protection Scheme"

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