

**MODEL PROTOCOL ON BALASURAKSHA
(IMPLEMENTATION OF SHAFEEQ COMMITTEE REPORT
RECOMMENDATIONS)**

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Introduction

Problem Statement

The 2011 census shows that 10.4% of 333.38 lakh of Kerala's population are children. Kerala accounted for 4.4% of all the recorded number of crimes against children and in terms of rate of total cognizable crimes ranks 9th in India. To protect children and nurture them is fundamental duty of every society. To achieve this, concerted actions of various departments and agencies are planned in following ways to prevent abuse of children effectively.

In the Kerala context nature of Child Abuse could be mainly categorized as follows:

1. Physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, exploitation, or negligent treatment of a child constitutes Child Abuse. It is any behaviour directed towards a child that endangers the child's physical or emotional development. Child Abuse is a serious problem impacting the victim's physical and mental health and development throughout life. The types of Child Abuse are given below:
 - a) Physical abuse: Physical abuse is any non accidental injury to a child caused by beatings, shaking, burns, human bites, strangulation etc. with resulting bruises, fractures, scars, burns, internal injuries etc. The term 'battered child syndrome' characterises the clinical manifestations of serious physical abuses of children. Corporal punishment of children at home, school and other institutions is a serious issue which is often taken for granted by the society.
 - b) Psychological neglect: This is a consistent failure of a parent or caretaker to provide a child with appropriate support, attention, and affection.
 - c) Psychological abuse: This is a chronic pattern of behaviour such as belittling, humiliating or ridiculing a child. It is also manifested in allowing the child to witness violence or severe abuse between parents or threatening the child with violence. It also includes emotional abuse, which is seen as the failure of a parent or caregiver to provide an appropriate and supportive environment to the child. This may lead to an adverse effect on the emotional health and development of a child, and may impair the child's self worth. Such acts include denigration, ridicule, threat and intimidation, discrimination, rejection or other non-physical forms of hostile treatment.
 - d) Neglect: This is the failure of a parent, guardian or caretaker to provide for the development of a child in the areas of health, education, emotional development, nutrition etc. when reasonable resources are available.
 - e) Child sexual abuse: This is the exploitation of a child for sexual gratification and includes intercourse, child prostitution, child pornography, fondling, voyeurism etc.
 - f) Using children's vulnerability or psychological problems by pushing them to use psychotropic substances and alcohol: In Kerala, it is often reported that number of children who are using narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and alcohol are increasing. And these are sold to children in school surroundings.

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN

Mapping available resources:

There are many projects and programmes meant for children being implemented by various departments. The interventions recommended below need to be mapped to identify existing mechanisms, strengthening them, additional funds infrastructure required, gaps, trends and weaknesses and additional steps required. This mapping has to be done by Social Justice Department within two months.

The following intersectoral interventions can be undertaken for prevention, protection and rehabilitation from abuse giving utmost priority to safeguard children and also for ensuring justice to them.

Prevention of Child Abuse

1. Child Abuse is preventable. It is therefore imperative that all steps are taken to prevent all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or exploitation, including sexual abuse of the child. In this context, prevention of child abuse would mean:
 - a) Implementing measures to prevent violence against children
 - b) Identifying cases and intervening early
 - c) Providing care and protection to the victim
 - d) Preventing reoccurrence of abuse.
2. Preventing child abuse would require attention and focus at different levels of prevention. Based on the nature of the target population, prevention interventions can be divided into three, namely:
 - a) **Primary or universal prevention:** targeting the general public in an effort to stop the abuse before it occurs;
 - b) **Secondary prevention:** focusing on vulnerable or at-risk families; and
 - c) **Tertiary prevention** aimed at victims to reduce the impact and to prevent its recurrence.
3. The perpetrators of child abuse may include parents/family members, teachers, care givers, acquaintances and strangers. Violence against children by adults within the family is one of the least visible forms of child abuse as it occurs in the privacy of the domestic domain. Abused children may themselves be at increased risk in later life of either perpetrating or becoming the victims of violence. In order to prevent child abuse, policies and programmes that address risk and protective factors need to be formulated. It is also necessary to gather information through community-based surveillance and monitoring.
4. The present emphasis is more on intervening after the child abuse has occurred. However, it will be more effective to shift emphasis to prevent child abuse occurring in the first place. Prevention strategies should seek to create a supportive environment that empowers parents to raise children in safe, loving and nurturing homes.

The guiding principles of a prevention programme are

- (i) best interests of the child**
- (ii) safety**
- (iii) empowerment of the child**
- (iv) family responsibility**
- (v) citizen responsibility and zero tolerance to child abuse**

The major components of an effective child abuse prevention programme includes identification of vulnerable families and those affected by other forms of vulnerability, students at risk, and front line agents for intervention.

A. PRIMARY OR UNIVERSAL PREVENTION

All children have a right to childhood free from all manner of sexual abuse and exploitation. Therefore there is a need to promote (a) stable and nurturing relationships in their homes and (b) an environment that supports healthy development, relationships and sexuality with a view to minimising the risk of future perpetration of child sexual abuse and exploitation. There is also a need to build on the foundation of existing legal provisions to develop a prevention- focused policy and action plan to stop, to demand for and to prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation. The most effective strategy is to increase public awareness of effective child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention strategies.

Prevention of child sexual abuse will be focused on three levels. Firstly with families, those in authority and adults who have a duty of care towards children to develop good child protection practice in working with children. Second level in schools, where children will be provided education about healthy relationships and safety precautions. And tertiary area relates to sharing of information and devoting resources between agencies having child care responsibilities.

Preventive Measures

- Frame messages in ways that increase understanding of prevention strategies that help avoid the problems, and motivate actions leading to attitudinal changes needed to support prevention
- Disseminate well-developed messages through mass and social media
- Enhance awareness of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act)
- Strengthen school counseling support
- Develop parent support network and train them to deal with the problem
- Campaign against alcoholism and substance abuse
- Implement effective education programmes that promotes healthy relationships and sexuality
- Identify and minimise the factors that fuel the demand for child to be sexually abused

- Training and sensitising teachers in gender perspective
- Increase awareness about the malaise of child sexual abuse leading to powerful community action in countering demand for children to be sexually abused.
- Develop capacity of Kudumbashree CDS system as it can play a key role in helping community see how demand for sexual abuse increases when people are treated as sexual objects and commodities.
- Step up the efforts to prevent trafficking of children and initiate effective prosecution against perpetrators.
- Increase the range and number of individuals and organizations involved in the movement including private sector and business houses eg. Tourism industry, plantation and other enterprises where child labour and other forms of exploitation are often reported and effectively use civil society network in taking the message of preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation
- Prevent on-line child sexual exploitation - Awareness creation on the need to protect children from sexual exploitation on the internet. School-based prevention programmes to inform students and parents about risks associated with virtual relationships and on-line social networking frequently employed by sexual offenders. This will empower the children and enhance their resilience to harm.

I. Strategies

a) Mass awareness campaigns:

Awareness generation programmes can draw public attention to the problem and motivate changes in norms, practices and behaviors harmful to children. Programme for preventing child abuse should include effective advocacy including legal rights of children to live in a abuse free world, Information Education Campaign (IEC) and awareness creation. For the IEC campaign to be effective, it is necessary to identify the causes and risk factors that increase risk of child abuse or the barriers to deliver effective child protection services.

There is a need to design an IEC package advocating

- (a) zero tolerance to violence against children
- (b) use of positive forms of disciplining at home and school and
- (c) changes in the cultural practices that are harmful to children.

PTAs could become an effective vehicle for orientation for parents as modern living conditions is placing increased stress on them. And teachers training programmes should be designed to handle children with stress on gender and adolescent psychology.

Moreover Sec. 43 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) mandates the State to take measures for public awareness about the provisions of the Act. The respective section read as follows:

Sec. 43 Public awareness about the Act- The Central Government and every State Government, shall take all measures to ensure that-

- a)** The provisions of this Act are given wide publicity through media including the television, radio, and the print media at regular intervals to make the general

public, children as well as their parents and guardians aware of the provisions of this Act;

- b) The officers of the Central Government and the State Governments and other concerned persons (including the police officers) are imparted periodic training on the matters relating to the implementation of the provisions of the Act.

Responsibility - All line departments: **Time Line** - 2014 -2015

POCSO Cell of KeSCPCR will develop and circulate FAQ's in Malayalam and English, meant for general public to understand the POCSO Act in simple terms.

Time Line :- April - June, 2014.

b. Media Plan

Media play a significant role in influencing people's attitude. Therefore media can play a crucial role in increasing public awareness of ways of preventing child abuse. Media plan can be prepared to provide information to parents and the community at large through a variety of media, including newspapers, television, radio, theatre and social media. Audio visual tools such as ad-films, short films on prevention of child abuse can be made with celebrities and public personalities with a view to showing them in air ports, railway stations; bus stands theatres, schools and colleges. Action shall be taken to display public messages in both print and visual form in bus stations, railway stations and public places on combating violence against children. Subject discussions on TV and radio can also be held periodically

Responsibility - SJD and PRD –**Time Line** -1 year

POCSO Cell of KeSCPCR will Commission short films, advertisements for promoting awareness on POCSO Act.

Time line:--April - August, 2014

c) Trainings for children:

The programme should be age-appropriate and designed to train children on child rights, sexuality, possibility of online sexual exploitation and gender, safety and protection skills, to avoid potentially abusive situations, to provide them with skills to identify predatory and suspicious behaviour and to protect themselves from abusive situations. Children should be taught to distinguish appropriate touching from inappropriate touching. Children shall have access to quality psycho-social counselling services. Also children need be made aware of help lines institutions dealing with children, basic laws on children etc. Focus should also be given to make children aware of their duties, roles and responsibilities towards the society. KeSCPCR has taken the initiative of making the education department to print messages on child rights on some text book covers this year. This can be extended to all the re-prints. CBSE can also be requested to do the same.

- Special Assembly sessions in schools - to be conducted for 30 minutes atleast once in two months in all schools (Unaided, CBSC, ICSC etc.) to create awareness among children. Pledge (the Pledge devised by KeSCPCR against

abuse during the campaign “Abuse Free world for children” is an example) to be taken by children. Organisations like Child Line to address students regularly.

Responsibility – General Education Department, Regional Heads of respective streams of study.

POCSO cell of KeSCPCR will develop and circulate IEC material on the POCSO Act for children/students in Malayalam,

Time Line :- April – September- 2014.

Responsibility - General Education Department

B. SECONDARY PREVENTION AND GATE KEEPING:

- 1) Though children from all families cutting across class, caste, family characteristics are susceptible to violence; most often it is seen that children from following categories of families are more prone to violence. Identifying these families and doing some gate keeping may help to prevent the children from being abused.

Box 1: Typical vulnerable families include those such as:

- a) Single parent families
- b) Families having step parent
- c) Family of a differently abled child
- d) Families with history of domestic violence
- e) Families with an alcoholic parent more usually father of the child
- f) Families with a parent suffering from untreated mental illness, having criminal background
- g) Families suffering from other forms of vulnerability such as:
 - i. Severe economic deprivation.
 - ii. Siblings prone to criminal and delinquent behaviour.
 - iii. Children being forced into child labor or domestic work, leading solitary lives away from their families, deprived of meaningful education and training opportunities and are easy victims of child abuse by employers.
 - iv. Street Children and Children of Migrant Labor: The children belonging to families migrating to the State in search of jobs especially those who are having no night shelter.

Direct Spotting of High Risk Children

- Child gloomy / withdrawn in class
- Child showing variant behavior
- Child with declining scholastic performance
- Drop outs

2) Front line agencies for identification

For any meaningful identification of vulnerable children, there are two important critical success factors. The first is the proper assigning of the role of identifying a child who

could potentially be vulnerable to abuse. This has to be assigned to individuals or institutions that have a reasonable frequency of interaction with the child or a greater chance of observing the child. The second factor would be how effectively these agents are empowered and equipped to fulfill the roles assigned to them.

Need for Intersectoral approach : Effective measures to safeguard children include those promoting their welfare. They cannot be seen in isolation from the wide range of services and programmes now available to meet the needs of children. For those children who are likely to suffer harm, **collaboration** or inter departmental actions are essential to safeguard their welfare and to bring perpetrators or likely perpetrators before the justice delivery system for ensuring justice to children.

Natural choices of first line agents for identification of vulnerable (or at risk) families, detection of cases of child abuse, referral of such cases to the appropriate legal, medical and counseling forum would be among others:

- i. Principal and Teachers in the School, particularly the class teacher, nodal teacher and the physical education teacher
- ii. School Counsellor
- iii. ORC Group in the School
- iv. Anganwadi Worker and Helper in the locality
- v. JPHN and ASHA
- vi. Kudumbashree workers
- vii. Child Line
- viii. Special Juvenile Police Units
- ix. Ward Member/Councilors
- x. Nirbahaya –Kerala volunteers of the Police department
- xi. Janamaitri Police Personnel
- xii. Health Professionals
- xiii. Non Governmental Organizations/Social workers.

Each of the above functionaries should be assigned a specific role in identification of the potentially vulnerable child and initial steps to pre-empt abuse. In case the functionary finds signs that indicate that a child has been subjected to abuse, the functionary should be empowered to adopt the relevant line of intervention. It is necessary to observe and respond to early warning signs.

Role - Various Departments especially SJD, General Education, Health, Home, LSGD

Time Line - On going activity.

CAPACITY BUIDLING FOR FRONTLINE AGENTS

For frontline agents to be able to identify potential indicators of abuse or neglect they should be trained to develop necessary skills to work with functionaries of other departments and agencies and to work with families in stressful conditions.

- **Preparation of Training module**

A standard training module with focus on child rights, child protection issues, legal provisions, child care systems and processes etc need to be prepared for capacity development of teachers.

Role 1. A common training module with contents of above nature will be developed by KILA in collaboration with Department of Community Medicine, Thiruvananthapuram Medical College.

Time Line - June-July, 2014

Role 2. KeSCPCR will develop **Training module for Police & Health Professionals** on the issue of sexual abuse with particular reference to POCSO Act, 2012.

Time line June-July, 2014.

<p><i>Training calendar to be prepared by respective departments and training to be started by August, 2014.</i></p>
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IDENTIFICATION OF VULNERABLE FAMILIES

1. Identification of vulnerable families:-

The identification of vulnerable families will be done by front line agents. A list of such families along with necessary data related to the nature of vulnerability will be prepared.

This list will be handed over to the ward level child protection units (WLCPU) and they in turn make it available to the concerned agencies like Schools, CWC, JPHN, Childline, SJPU etc. as per the nature of requirement needed based on the vulnerability and services required. The WLCPU will have to entrust the list of vulnerable children to the concerned agencies within one week from receiving the same. The agencies entrusted with the list will take action immediately considering the gravity of vulnerability and submit a monthly action taken report to the WLCPU. The agencies involved in the process of identification and service delivery will have to take utmost care to maintain the confidentiality of data regarding the family.

- a. Through Crime mapping by Kudumbasree:** A Panchayat managed, Kudumbashree driven and community based prevention programme shall be initiated for sensitising communities to the problem of child abuse and fostering community engagement in preventing it. As part of this initiative Kudumbashree shall develop capacities of CDS/ADS system in identifying danger zones and vulnerable areas through participatory techniques and document these areas so that community is able to identify potential perpetrators and victims as well as develop community based safety networks.

Role of Ward Member/Counselor:- Assist vetting the list of vulnerable families prepared through crime mapping by Kudumbasree and ensure concerted action for the prevention abuse and rehabilitation of victims and family.

- b. House visit by Anganwady Workers (AWWr), Junior Public Health Nurses (JPHN) /ASHA Workers :-** Identify at risk children and families **through House visit programme**; and inform about potentially vulnerable children to the ICDS supervisor. The AWWs shall use the platform of monthly mothers meeting programmes and adolescent club programmes effectively to serve the purpose.

Responsibility-SJD, Health, LSGD

Time line - The process of preparing list will be completed by the end of December, 2014.
This list will be updated once in six months

- c. Preparation of list of students `at risk` through schools :-** Each head of school will prepare a list a `at risk` children studying in their schools with the help of class teacher and school counselor. The head of school is responsible to provide immediate help to the students who require urgent attention with the help of concerned agencies. The head of institution can utilize the fund vested with the District Social Justice Officer (DSJO), who will act immediately on receipt of request for the same. The head of institution is responsible to prepare an individual care plan to the at risk children with the help of school counselor within a week from the receipt of list and to monitor its implementation. The department of health, social justice, LSG etc. will immediately respond to the requirements of the head of school for the preparation and effective implementation of the individual care plan.

Responsibility – General Education

Time line – Before 31st July 2014

2. Gate keeping of `at risk` children - roles of different front line agents

1. Nodal Teacher

Every school should have a designated teacher who will be designated as the nodal intervention person to assist the Principal/Headmaster. The Nodal teacher should work in close contact with the class teachers. The Nodal teacher should be selected on the basis of his/her aptitude for offering counseling service to children. He/she should always maintain a list of counselors as well as the names of the members of the CWC and a list of their telephone numbers. Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Sub Committees should be formed in all Schools to monitor and check child abuse cases. They should maintain active contacts with the nearest CHILDLINE. The Nodal Teacher may also be designated as the CHILDLINE volunteer.

Time line – 15th June

2. Class Teachers

Primary lines of detection of child abuse cases can be done by the class teachers alone. They should interact with each and every student in the class and should have a close contact with the parents. The meaningful intervention of vulnerable children should start with the class teacher. Class teacher should collect basic personal and family details of each student in prescribed format. Out of the details collected, students which are vulnerable or high risk to abuse should be noted specially and class teacher should keep them under close observation. If a class teacher finds indifference in the behavior of a student under the category of vulnerable group, he/she should consult with the nodal teacher and report it to the head of institution.

Time line – Before 31st July

- **Absenteeism :**

- i. The class teacher should inform the absence of the student to the parent within one hour after taking the attendance in the morning.
- ii. Special classes should be arranged in the school on holidays only after prior information to the parents.
- iii. Any matter of misconduct should be informed to the parent directly by the teachers under proper acknowledgement. Expulsion from the class should not be a method of disciplinary action.

3. Principal/Head Master :- The Principal / Head Master of the institution should keep a Register of students, class wise, who would fall in families at risk. It is the responsibility of the Head of the Institution along with nodal Teacher and other teachers to prepare and monitor the care plan aimed to remove vulnerability of at risk children as contemplated above.

Section 21(1) of the POCSO Act - 2012 requires mandatory reporting of cases of child sexual abuse by the Head of the Institution to the Police. If he fails to record such offence he shall be punished with imprisonment of either description which may extend to six months or with fine or with both.

4. School counselor:

Kerala Social Justice Department has appointed 500 Counsellors throughout the State under psycho the Social Programmes to attend the students who are in need of counseling. At present the number of counselors is very low compared to the number of schools. And it is the need of the hour to appoint counselors in all the Government and Aided Schools including in mixed schools and schools for boys. The Unaided schools should also be encouraged to appoint to counselors in their schools. The Social Justice Department had issued an order vide G.O. No. (Rt) 29/2013/SJD dated 01/02/2013 to revamp the present psycho Social programme in order to facilitate the availability of the Psycho Social services to people. Proper implementation of the above order will ensure services of Psycho Social Services in all schools in the State.

- The counsellor has to be in constant touch with the class teacher and assist in the preparation of the list of vulnerable children, individual care plan and to monitor its execution. The counselors should liaison with the family and immediate neighborhood of the 'at risk' children and facilitate recuperation/ resilience. The counselor will also be responsible to converge the services in best possible way to achieve the desired results envisaged in the individual care plan.

5. ORC/Mentor support: -

This new initiative of the Social Justice Department which aims at bringing together all stakeholders in and around each educational institution as a social defense mechanism for the protection of children is yet to be implemented in all districts. Mentors under the programme shall assist in the identification of at risk children and assist in enhancing the self-confidence and self-esteem. They can also act as counselors and be of help to achieve the milestones fixed in the individual care plan.

6. PTAs /AWWr's/Asha/JPHN/ Ayalkuttams and Balasabhas:-

Disseminate knowledge regarding the symptoms of abuse, neglect, potential perpetrators, prevention techniques, available resources to combat abuse etc. using the platform of mothers meeting ,adolescent clubs or whatever available platforms. There is a need to educate parents about child development and to improve their skills in managing their children. It is possible to prevent violence through the development of safe, stable and nurturing relationship between parents and their children. Focus of this programme will be on high risk families or those where abuse has already occurred. The strategy is to change attitudes, beliefs and behaviours as also to strengthen protective factors. Protective factors include (a) parental resilience (b) social connections (c) knowledge of child development (d) support in times of need and (e) social and emotional competence of the child.

7. Kerala Mahila Samakhya and other NGOs:-

Kerala Mahila Samakhya , an empowerment project of the Government of India is operational now in 8 districts of Kerala. The organisation has created 'Vanitha Sabha' and 'Adolescent Clubs' in considerable number of identified blocks. Since the initiative works on a gender based approach, more focussed campaign on preventing abuse and gate keeping can be initiated by Samakhya.

Time line -2014-2015

8. Non Government and other Civil Society Organisations

Residential Associations and similar other agencies should be involved for propagating the right of every child to live in an abuse free world.

The Social Justice Department has already identified 101 NGO's in Kerala to work as "Service Providers" as per the provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Agencies are given Rs.10,000/- per year to propagate provisions of the Act. Since children are also badly affected by domestic violence, the ambit of awareness

programmes should be expanded to include child abuse also. Necessary instructions to organize awareness programmes should be given to Social Welfare Board, which is the implementing body of the programme.

Responsibility - SJD

Time line - 1 month)

C. TERTIARY PREVENTION aimed at victims to help reduce the impact and to prevent its recurrence.

- a. Empowering Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU):** - The SJPU being the first contact agents shall also take steps to avoid secondary victimization. Chances for further victimisation or recurrence of abuse shall be brought to the immediate notice of competent authority. Ensure that the provisions of POCSO

Act and JJ Act are strictly followed.

- b. Media Monitoring :-** A media monitoring system shall be established to identify programmes and reports that may encourage acts of child abuse, including secondary victimisation by revealing the identity of the child in need of care and protection. Appropriate legal action shall be initiated against those responsible.

B. PROTECTION

- a. Employing child protection safeguards in institutions:-** Each institution involved in child care and development shall lay down guidelines for child protection. These guidelines shall spell out roles and responsibilities of all employees with reference to child protection, safe guards for prevention of child maltreatment, orientation of children to the protection available to them, mechanism for children to notify complaints etc. Institutions shall lay down Standards of Care to bring in greater transparency and accountability. These safeguards shall be applicable to children living in child care institutions including orphanages and hostels.

(Guidelines as applicable under JJ Act to be prepared and circulated by SJD)

Time line – August, 2014.

b. Employing child protection safeguards in educational institutions

Hostels for Students

- i. School hostels should have adequate facilities including toilets, availability of washing area, enough water, drinking water, facilities for disposal of napkins, etc.
- ii. A teacher of the school should be posted as warden who shall reside in the hostel and another teacher should be posted as tutor for assisting the students in their studies.

- iii. Availability of doctor on Part time basis should be ensured. The doctor should conduct periodic visit to the hostel and provide service to the students with medicines.
- iv. A welfare committee should be constituted in the hostel with following members
 - a. Head of the institution
 - b. Warden
 - c. Tutor
 - d. Parents - 6nos (Three males and three females)
 - e. Students residing at Hostel - 5 nos
 - f. Ward Counsellor

Hostel Welfare Committee should be convened twice in every month.

Schools

It is the role of the head of the institution to avoid occasions that may lead to the abuse of children. All the events and daily proceedings in the school should be well planned in such a way to avoid threat of child abuse.

School Transportation System.

a. School Bus.

- i. Each trip of the school bus should be conducted with a female staff of the school. The mobile phone number of such staff shall be kept at the school's office. The duty of the teacher to accompany the school bus should be well planned. Month wise time table of the female teachers to accompany the school bus should be prepared in advance.
- ii. The regulations in respect of School bus issued by the Education and Motor Vehicle Departments should be strictly followed.
- iii. The details of the drivers along with photograph, license copy, mobile phone number and family details should be kept in the school. The head of the institution should prepare a panel of drivers, for which the service are to be taken in the absence of the permanent drivers. The details of all the drivers included in the panel should also be kept in the school.
- iv. If the services of the male helpers are used at the school bus, details of the helpers should be kept in the school.

b. Private Vehicles

- i. If the parents are sending their children to school in Private vehicles, the matter should be reported to the head of the institution. Details of the vehicle, driver and place of boarding the vehicle should be reported to the head of the institution.
- ii. If any case of abuse is reported from the drivers or staff of private vehicles, severe action should be initiated against him including cancellation of license.

c. Public Vehicles

- i. The Police and Motor Vehicle Departments should ensure that students are not physically and mentally abused by the staff of the vehicle.
- ii. The students should have a right for the seat on availability. Instances of not providing seats even though it is vacant shall not occur.
- iii. Stopping of buses at the bus stops should be ensured.

d. Educational Tours.

- i. Educational tours should be well planned and permission should be obtained from the respective authorities before the tour is conducted.
- ii. Presence of atleast one female member from PTA should be ensured in every educational tour when students are there.
- iii. For every 10 girl students, one female teacher shall accompany the tour group.
- iv. The places of visit and stay should be planned in advance and it should be discussed in the PTA. Such details shall be informed to all the parents concerned.
- v. Accommodation facilities in the way of tour should be arranged in advance.
- vi. The place of accommodation should be at a place where girl students are having safety, secured bathroom facilities etc.
- vii. The rules and regulations of the place of visit should be circulated to students before starting the tour.

If any case of abuse from any person at the time of tour is reported, the matter should be immediately reported to the next police station by the leader of the tour group.

Responsibility - Education Department

C. REPORTING / INTERVENTIONS

1. Propagation of Childline Services :-

Day and night services of Child line which is existing in all the districts of Kerala is to be strengthened with additional staffs and other facilities so as to enable it to assist in rescue and rehabilitation of the child and extend tele-counselling. The facility of child line services should be made known extensively. Text books printed by the General Education Department should show a brief message against child abuse and carry the No. **1098** in bold and contact details of KeSCPCR.

Responsibility- SJD and General Education Department –

Time Line- 1 year

2. Installing Drop Boxes / ‘ Sahayam Venam’ box in all schools

A ‘bright and attractive’ **Box** shall be provided in all schools to enable the students to drop a note if they face any problem in their home, class or any other area. This box can be used for placing their doubts in respect of their physical body, diseases, tensions and reproductive hygiene also. As the girls are not willing to clear their personal doubts or express their problems openly, Drop Box will enable them to open up their issues without disclosing their identity. The position of the box should be arranged in such a way that the

students can drop their issues without the notice of teachers or other students. More than one box shall be set up for the purpose.

The Nodal Teacher will be in charge of the Drop Box. He/She will open the drop box daily in the evening in the presence of the head of the institution and will find out the problems faced by the students and chalk out activities to elevate the common problems faced by the students. The Co-ordinator will arrange awareness classes on the basis of responses received through the Drop box. In case of common issues, the Nodal teachers can put a write up or posters in the notice board regarding the issues received from the drop box.

The Nodal teacher should maintain a register and record all the issues and their frequency received from the drop box. After listing the issues, an action plan should be noted on the issues received from the drop box. The page of the register should be closed with the signature of the Nodal teacher and counter signature of the head of the institution.

Responsibility - Education department and regional heads of different streams of study to prepare a guideline on the installation and maintenance of 'drop box' system which would be applicable to all the educational institutions in Kerala working in both aided and unaided sector.

Time Line – June- July - 2014.

Likewise, there are Help Desk Services and 'Souhrida clubs' available in some higher secondary schools in the State. Their functions need to be reviewed closely and make it available to children in consonance with all other reporting measures.

3. Empowering Child Welfare Committee (CWC)

A standard Operating Procedure (SOP) including the following responsibility of CWC to be developed and provided for their effective intervention in cases of abuses of children.

1. Remove the child from the household on the day of reporting itself if sexual abuses is from family member. Take steps to intimate police at once.
2. In cases of physical injury/bruises warranting medical attention, send the child for immediate medical assistance and take appropriate action such as removing the child from the house hold if needed. CWC to be reimbursed of expenditure incurred for the same if any to be made by the DSJO within one week of the claim.
3. If the harassment is 'minor' in nature, parents /guardians shall be summoned before CWC (Initiate inquiry). Enlighten the parents/guardians about the need to provide an abuse free house hold to the child. Conduct inquiry and follow up. [If the matter is reported when the CWC is not in session, single member can decide accordingly and get ratified subsequently].
 - Systematic issues of CWC to be analyzed and efforts to be taken to improve the system in terms of providing required infrastructural facilities, sensitization trainings etc.

Responsibility - SJD & Timeline -2014-2015)

4. Gearing up hospital facility to mandatorily report violence.

All hospital staffs to report cases of 'abused children' brought to Casualty /OP/Wards to the concerned Medical Officer without fail. Proper trainings to be imparted to all hospital service personnel to know 'Red Flags' that will help to identify cases of abuse viz. physical, sexual and emotional.

Bhoomika/ One stop Crisis Cell (OSCC)

The mandate of Bhoomika/OSCC to be expanded to provide services for abused children including boys. This service has to be extended to all district and taluk hospitals. Center to provide tertiary level counselling for children and parents, maintain register of detection and intervention, help the family / child to seek mental health assistance/ psychological assistance, proceed with police intimation in necessary cases and provide necessary legal assistance and follow up.

Responsibility: Health Department

5. Empowering Jagartha Samithis (Panchayat level and ward level)

The ambit of Jagrutha Samithi's to be expanded as a platform to discuss violence issues of children not only on case to case basis but also on the general issues confronted by children in the local area and take measures to prevent recurring of the issues. Closely watch children from vulnerable families that are identified by first line agencies.

Responsibility - Panchayat Department)

6. Empowering Special Juvenile Police Unit

Revamp the present constitution of SJPU to make it more functional. Special Juvenile Police Units to include 2 social workers as per rule 84(2) of JJ Rules. Special Juvenile Police Unit at district level shall co-ordinate and functions as a watch –dog for providing legal protection against all kinds of cruelty, abuse and exploitation of child or juvenile.

The unit shall take serious cognizance of adult perpetrators of crimes against children and see to it that they are without delay apprehended and booked under the appropriate provisions of the law and for this purpose the district level units shall maintain liaison with other units of police station.

SJPU to be trained and sensitised adequately on juvenile jurisprudence

Responsibility - Home Department

7. Nireekshna – Online reproting system established by KeSCPCR

This on-line complaints registration system helps children themselves or any one on behalf of children to report to the Commission about corporal punishment or other physical or psychological abuse of children in schools. It also provides real time chat facility for children who can directly ask questions and clarifications to the KeSCPCR.

This system need to be widely propagated in Schools

Responsibility – KeSCPCR, Education Department

D. HABILITATION / REINTEGRATION

a. Layout Schemes for Medical Assistance and Emergency Services

Principal/Head Master of any School to move suspected victim of child abuse to nearest Government Hospital/OSCC.

- i. Allotment of not exceeding Rs.1000 per child victim on transport/medicine etc.
- ii. Initial expenditure to be met from PTA or School Development Fund as is appropriate.
- iii. This amount to be drawn and reimbursed by the District Social Justice Officer (DSJO) within one week of receipt of the claim from the Principal.
- iv. The Principal/ Head master should immediately contact the CWC and inform them of the suspected abuse and furnish the details of child.
- v. If the child victim is in need of speciality or superspeciality treatment the expenses shall be borne by the State if the family belongs to economically poor category.

Responsibility - Health department

b. Establish Schemes for Educational Assistance

a. If abused children or children at high risk are from poor families with total family income below Rs.2 lakhs per year, the Principal/Headmaster may, at his discretion, address the District Social Justice Officer/DCPC, recommending that the costs involved in providing special tuitions and meeting expenditure on excursions, picnics be met by Government.

b. The amount spent on a student should not exceed Rs.3000 in a year.

c. This amount may be met by providing additional allocations under the State Share of ICPS.

Responsibility - SJD

c. Draw Modalities for disbursing Compensation

As per G.O (Ms)No.37/2014/Home a child victim of abuse is also eligible for compensation based on the injury or loss suffered. Maximum awareness should be created on this particular right of the child and the child to be helped to avail the benefit.

Responsibility- District Child Protection Officers, Legal Services Authority. DLSA to render all assistance to child victims/families to apply for compensation.

d. Draw up schemes for Sponsorship, Foster Care Plans

Sometimes severe economic deprivation of the families also leads to abuse and neglect of children. To avoid institutionalisation of such children, sponsorship and foster care

programmes of children should be encouraged. A proper policy on sponsorship and foster care programmes has to be evolved and implemented.

Responsibility- SJD

ACTION MATRIX

Action	Responsibility	Timeline
A. PREVENTION		
PRIMARY PREVENTION		
a. Mass awareness campaigns	SJD, PRD	2014-2015
b. Media Plan for Generating awareness	SJD, PRD	One year
c. Periodic trainings for Officers on child abuse including POCSO Act	All the Departments	One round of training to be completed within One year
d. Trainings for Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Assembly Sessions in Schools 	General Education Dept. Regional heads of respective streams of study	June -December 2014
SECONDARY PREVENTION		
a. Capacity building for frontline agents for identify Vulnerable families	KILA in collaboration with Dept. of community medicine, TVPM to prepare common training module and SJD to roll out capacity building programmes.	Training Module preparation June-July, 2014. Training Calendar to be prepared by respective departments and training to be started by August, 2014.
b. Identification of Vulnerable families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through Crime mapping • House to house visits • Preparation of list of students 'at risk' through schools. 	Kudumbasree Various other frontline agents Education Dept	Process to be completed by December 2014
TERTIARY PREVENTION		
a. Empowering SJPU	Home Dept.	
b. Media Monitoring	PRD	
B. PROTECTION		
a. Employing child protection safe guards in institutions	Guideline to be prepared by SJD and to Monitor implementation	August 2014
b. Child protection safeguards in educational institutions	Education Dept.	
C. REPORTING/		

INTERVENTIONS		
a. Propogating Childlines services/help desk system	SJD, General Education	
b. Installing Drop Boxes/ 'Sahayam Venam' box	Education Dept.	June-July,2014
c. Empowering child welfare committees	SJD	
d. Making Hospital facility mandatory for reporting violence • Empowering OSCC	Health Dept.	
e. Empowering Jagrutha Samithies	Panchayat Dept.	
f. Empowering Special Juvenile Police Unit	Home Dept.	
g. Promoting Nireekshana	KeSCPCR	
D.HABILITATION/ REINTERGRATION		
a. Laying out schemes for medical assistance and emergency services	Health Dept.	
b. Establishing Scheme for Educational assistance	SJD	
c. Drawing modalities for Provision for compensation	DCPU &Legal Services Authority	
d. Drawing sponsorship, foster care plans	SJD	December,2014