

TRAINING CUM SENSITIZATION SESSION ON CHILD RIGHTS & CHILD PROTECTION

children RAILWAY
No child lost to the streets



**IN CONTEXT TO THE RAILWAY SOP (2024) & GUIDEBOOK ON
CHILD HELPLINE SOP & JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT, 2015**

INTRODUCTION

A two-day Training cum Sensitization Session on Child Rights & Child Protection was conducted by Railway Children India (RCI) in collaboration with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Mumbai City on January 8-9, 2025. The training aimed to strengthen participants' understanding of child protection laws, the Railway Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) 2024, and the guidelines for effective intervention for children in need of care and protection at railway stations.

The session brought together key stakeholders, including officials from government departments, child welfare experts, social workers, railway and government police forces, hospital staff, representatives from the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), and NGOs, to discuss challenges and solutions in implementing child protection measures.



MS. SHOBHA SHELAR

Women and Child Welfare Development Officer

Ms. Shobha Shelar, Women and Child Welfare Development Officer, elaborated on the background and significance of the training program for stakeholders, highlighting its role in strengthening child protection efforts and collaborative interventions.



MR. NAVIN SELLARAJU SUKUMAR

CEO, Railway Children India

Mr. Navin Sellaraju Sukumar, CEO of Railway Children India, led the Key Information Session, where he outlined the vital role and initiatives of Railway Children India in ensuring child safety. He emphasized the importance of protecting children found at railway premises and highlighted the need for a convergence and integrated approach to child protection. He was preceded by **Mr. Afsar Ahmed Khan** who led the inaugural session by outlining the training objectives.

MR. MAHADEV SAWANT

Child Welfare Expert

Mr. Mahadev Sawant, a Child Welfare Expert, shared valuable insights on juvenile justice procedures and highlighted the crucial role of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in ensuring the protection and rehabilitation of vulnerable children.





DR. ANJALI

Social Worker, Nair Hospital

Dr. Anjali, a dedicated social worker from Nair Hospital, shared her extensive 32 years of experience in child protection and intervention, emphasizing the importance of timely support and holistic care for vulnerable children.



MS. URMILA JADHAV

Member of the Juvenile Justice Board

Ms. Urmila Jadhav, a member of the Juvenile Justice Board, emphasized the importance of protecting children at railway stations and the need for a collaborative approach through convergence and networking. She highlighted the significance of building strong mechanisms to support and strengthen both families and children's lives. The session also underscored the crucial role of field officers, NGOs, and outreach workers in identifying children in need. It covered essential aspects such as appropriate behavior, effective communication methods, and intervention techniques when approaching vulnerable children.

MR. SANTOSH SHINDE

Vidhayak Bharati

Mr. Santosh Shinde from Vidhayak Bharati conducted a session on the Railway SOP (2024), emphasizing key aspects of child protection within railway premises. He discussed the identification of homeless, lost, or vulnerable children in contact with railways and outlined essential processes, including timely intervention, first aid, and presenting children before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). He highlighted the support structures involving Child Help Desks, Child Care Institutions (CCIs), NGOs, and government agencies, along with the crucial role of the Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) in ensuring child safety. Additionally, he addressed challenges such as resource shortages, training gaps, and inter-agency coordination while proposing solutions to strengthen the system.

MR. SHYAM MISTRI

Member of the Child Welfare Committee

Mr. Shyam Mistri, a member of the Child Welfare Committee, participated in the training session, where he emphasized the importance of effective case management and follow-up procedures. He highlighted the need to strengthen families and prevent the revictimization of children through systematic intervention and support.



TRAINING SESSIONS

Ms. Nida Siddique, Manager of Child Safeguarding and Training at Railway Children India, led interactive activities to actively engage participants and enhance their understanding of child protection. She explained various methods for identifying vulnerable children at railway stations and provided an overview of key child protection laws. These included the POCSO Act (2012), which safeguards children from sexual offenses, the Child Labour Act, which regulates the employment of children, and the Child Marriage Act, which aims to prevent child marriages.

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION AND CLOSING REMARKS

The Question & Answer session provided an engaging platform for participants to seek clarifications and discuss real-life challenges related to child protection. Key discussions focused on identifying children during outreach efforts, the steps involved in rehabilitation and legal procedures, and effective follow-up strategies for rescued children. The training concluded with final remarks by **Ms. Fatima Dhaluj, State Program Manager at Railway Children India**, who emphasized the significance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in strengthening child protection mechanisms.

KEY INSIGHTS AND WAY AHEAD

The Training cum Sensitization Session on Child Rights & Child Protection provided crucial insights into safeguarding children in railway environments. The Railway SOP (2024) offers a structured framework for handling vulnerable children, emphasizing timely intervention, coordination with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), and psychological support. Effective child protection relies on collaboration between GRP, RPF, Child Help Desks, NGOs, and CWCs, along with a strong understanding of child protection laws. Continuous training remains essential to address challenges and enhance intervention strategies. The session served as a significant step in empowering stakeholders, fostering a collective commitment to child safety. The organizers extended their gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, and participants for their valuable contributions.



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