



2018-19

ANNUAL REPORT



WEST BENGAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS



सत्यमेव जयते

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Glossary of Acronyms

1. ADM: Additional District Magistrate
2. AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
3. CCI: Child Care Institutions
4. CPCRA: The Commissions For Protection Of Child Rights Act, 2005
5. CrPC: Criminal Procedure Code
6. CWC: Child Welfare Committee
7. DCPO: District Child Protection Officer
8. DCPU: District Child Protection Unit
9. DCRT: Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking
10. DI: District Inspector
11. DM: District Magistrate
12. DPO: District Programme Officer
13. DWCD & SW: Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare
14. DSWO: District Social Welfare Officer
15. FIR: First Information Report
16. HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
17. JJ Act: Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
18. LD: Lower Division
19. NCPCR: National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
20. NGO: Non Government Organisation
21. OC: Officer-in-Charge
22. POCSO: The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences
23. PM: Post Mortem
24. RTE: Right to Education
25. SP: Superintendent of Police
26. SSM: Sarva Siksha Mission
27. UD: Upper Division
28. UNCRC: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
29. UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
30. WBCPCR: West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights
31. WBCW: West Bengal Commission of Women
32. WP: Writ Petition

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Chairperson's review- looking back



The Annual Report for the year 2018-19 tries to reflect the magnitude of the work accomplished by West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights across the state of West Bengal and the meaningful journey we have walked to reach all children irrespective of their caste, class, creed and sexuality.

In 2018-19, we touched thousands of children across 23 states of West Bengal through addressing the complaints of child rights violation, sensitizing on various issues relating to child rights and child protection, involving them in celebration of significant days.

We conducted 40 Hearings on RTE Act 2009, JJ Act, 2015, POCSO Act 2012 and domestic violence & child custody related matters. Several workshops and consultations were organised on RTE, POCSO, Missing, Trafficking, mental health needs of children in CCI, Child labour, JJ Act, child marriage, physical and mental health needs of children, rights of migrant children, rescue, rehabilitation of missing and trafficked children and social integration, child friendly atmosphere in school and Madrasah.

Our focus of work for the next year would be more of vertical nature, i.e. penetrating deeply into the cause of the issue and analyse the factors. Immediate interventions solve the issue for the interim period, but analysing the social determinants of the problems would explore the mode of prevention in the long run.

We have accomplished the research titled 'Demystifying School Education- Study based scopes within the system- Pilot Study- 'Towards Education the life of a child as citizen and revisiting the education system at school levels: Findings from West Bengal: jointly done with Behala Keertika. The objectives of the study were to address character building scopes of children in a focused mode (combined with curricula based education), to facilitate situation specific responsiveness & skills among children, to involve professionals like Psychologists, Sociologists into the subject of educating students as worthy citizens and broadly to revisit roles of existing stakeholders in life enrichment endeavours for children. The study report has been handed over to the Department of School Education, Government of West Bengal so that the findings would help them to address the core concerns.

Through the course of child custody related hearings, we have seen that children living with domestic violence grow up in an environment of fear, anxiety and tension which leads to significant emotional and psychological trauma. Most of the times, domestic violence is seen as the violation of women's rights, but the issue of rights of child are often not prioritized. Domestic Violence affects right to education, right to have good physical and mental health, right to be protected from neglect, rejection, desertion, right to have proper nutritious food and freedom of movement.

Considering the situation the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights has initiated a "Dipstick assessment on impact of Domestic violence on children" in collaboration with Action Aid India & Jayaprakash Institute of Social Change, All Bengal Women's Union (ABWU), South Kolkata Hamari Muskan and School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University. The objectives of the study are to understand the extent of the problem, to know the social, physical and emotional impact on children who are exposed to domestic violence, to analyse the role of stakeholders. The study is partly funded by UNICEF. The study would yield a set of recommendations for mitigating the problem. The data collection is in progress now.

Chairperson's review- looking back

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 that came into force with effect from 14th November, 2012 which provides a victim centric legal framework. The Act has legislated for child-friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated Special Courts.

In a significantly large numbers of cases, past or current romantic relationships that extended into sexual interactions of exploration or even penetration, in some cases leading to pregnancy, were being categorized as criminal. In most instances, families filed complaints of alleged rape by the accused of perpetrator. In this context, two gaps can be mentioned:

First, the court as a space is even now insensitive to the needs of a child who has to spend long hours and make repeated visits. The courts are not child – victim friendly.

Second, POCSO serves an important need to protect the child; but it disregards the emerging sexuality of the adolescent creating a loophole through which interested parties can stigmatise every relationship as an offence. Sexual abuse and sexuality of a young girl have been made synonymous.

The Commission in collaboration with Jabala has initiated a study titled 'A Critical analysis of POCSO cases (based on the cases submitted to WBCPCR) to review its justification, implementation and practicability'. The aim of the study is to bring forth the voices of children (survivors or victims) who have gone through the ordeal of the criminal justice system, with cases registered under the POCSO Act, 2012. The study intends to understand the journey of a child sexual abuse survivor once a case is registered under POCSO Act, 2012 and capturing suggestions, spaces of improvement and limitations of dealing with POCSO cases from relevant stakeholders.

The Safe School Policy was formulated by the WBCPCR with the help of some leading NGOs which had been handed over to the Department of School Education, Government of West Bengal. The Department is in the process of formulating a 'Guideline for the child safety from sexual abuses in the school' and the Safe School Policy is being used as reference. The guideline would be notified and applied to all schools in West Bengal.

We will continue to march ahead with our children, stakeholders and networks and our focus would be to positively impact and improve the lives of vulnerable and marginalised children.

Ananya Chakraborti

Chairperson

West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights

From the Desk of Secretary



Like in the previous years, the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR) is bringing out its Annual Report for the year 2018-19. It portrays the Commission's struggles and achievements in the multifarious fields related to the children of West Bengal and the rights due to them to ensure their healthy and happy lives.

Throughout various kinds of ups and downs and challenges, WBCPCR has moved ahead steadily in ensuring the best interests of the children in the State, by promoting safe and child-friendly environments. The Commission's functions, including examination and review of the safeguards provided by or under any law, for the protection of child rights and recommendation of measures for their effective and timely implementation, have been duly fulfilled during the year of report.

Among WBCPCR's various significant achievements, cases of violation of child rights have been inquired into with urgency and recommendations made for initiation of proceedings in such cases; all factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of children affected by terrorism, communal violence, riots, natural disaster, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, trafficking, maltreatment, torture and exploitation, have been taken up in right earnest, enquiries made and appropriate remedial measures have been recommended by the Commission.

Throughout the year 2018-19, WBCPCR has sorted out and monitored various matters relating to children in need of special care and protection, including children in distress, marginalized and disadvantaged children, children in conflict with law, juveniles, children without family and children of prisoners, and duly recommended appropriate remedial measures. Periodical review of existing policies, programmes and other activities on child rights have been made, along with recommendations for their effective implementation in the best interest of children. Research in the field of child rights has also been duly promoted.

Measures have been taken to spread child rights literacy among various sections of the society, along with promotion of awareness regarding the safeguards available for protection of these rights through publications, workshops, seminars and the like.

Various complaints under the RTE Act were addressed by WBCPCR, including cases of torture of specially abled children, denial of admission in school, mental harassment and physical punishment, inappropriate teacher student ratios, non-availability of basic facilities in school premises and the like.

As is evident from this Report, several workshops and consultations have been conducted by the Commission throughout West Bengal. Hearings have been held, as required, and training programmes organised. Observances of the State Child Protection Day, the Child Rights' Week and the International Child Rights Day were successfully undertaken.

I truly appreciate the valuable inputs provided for this publication, by the various sections as well as units under the aegis of the Commission and the Department of WCDSW, and look forward to enriching feedback and interaction in this context from all quarters.

(Sudipta Chatterjee), IAS
Secretary

Chapter 2 : Organisational Structure of WBCPCR

LIST OF CHAIRPERSON & MEMBERS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Ms. Ananya Chatterjee Chakraborti | - | Chairperson
(from September 2016 to till date) |
| 2. Mr Soumitra Ray | - | Member |
| 3. Ms Anita Basu | - | Member |
| 4. Ms Sudeshna Roy | - | Member
(Till December 2018 following which continued as 'Special Consultant') |
| 5. Ms Shakila Sultana Shams | - | Member |
| 6. Ms June Malia | - | Member |
| 7. Mr Prasun Bhowmick | - | Member |

Management Hierarchy of WBCPCR

Sl No	Name of the sanctioned post	Filled up (✓)	Vacant (X)
1	Secretary (One)	✓	
2	Joint Secretary (One)		X
3	Assistant Secretary (One)	✓	
4	Law Officer (One)	✓	
5	Accountant –cum- UDA (One)	✓	
6	Stenographer (Two)	✓	
7	Section Officer (One)	✓	
8	UD Assistant (One)	✓	
9	LD Assistant (two)		X
10	LD Assistant with computer Knowledge (Two)		X
11	Peon (Six)		X
12	Night guard –cum- Gatekeeper (One)		X
13	Total	7	12

Position filled up on Deputation basis:

Sl No.	Position	Number
1	Accountant	1
2	Peon	1

Contractual 'Group D' Category: 7**Chapter 3 : Functions and Powers of WBCPCR**

13. (1) The Commission shall perform all or any of the following functions, namely:—
- (a) examine and review the safeguards provided by or under any law for the time being in force for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation;
 - (b) inquire into violation of child rights and recommend initiation of proceedings in such causes;
 - (d) examine all factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of children affected by terrorism, communal violence, riots, natural disaster, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, trafficking, maltreatment, torture and exploitation, pornography and prostitution and recommend appropriate remedial measures;
 - (e) look into the matters relating to children in need of special care and protection including children in distress, marginalized and disadvantaged children, children in conflict with law, juveniles, children without family and children of prisoners and recommend appropriate remedial measures;
 - (f) study treaties and other international instruments and undertake periodical review of existing policies, programmes and other activities on child rights and make recommendation for their effective implementation in the best interest of children;
 - (g) undertake and promote research in the field of child rights;
 - (h) spread child rights literacy among various sections of the society and promote awareness of the safeguards available for protection of these rights through publications, tire media, seminars and other available means;
 - (i) inspect or cause to be inspected any juvenile custodial home, or any other place of residence or institution meant for children, under the control of the Central Government or any State Government or any other authority, including any institution run by a social organisation; where children are detained or lodged for the purpose of treatment, reformation or protection and take up with these authorities for remedial action, if found necessary;
 - (j) inquire into complaints and take suo motu notice of matters relating to,—

- i) deprivation and violation of child rights;
 - ii) non-implementation of laws providing for protection and development of children;
 - iii) non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships to and ensuring welfare of the children and to provide relief to such children, or take up the issues arising out of such matters with appropriate authorities; and
 - (k) such other functions as it may consider necessary for the promotion of child rights and any other matter incidental to the above functions.
- (2) The Commission shall not inquire into any matter which is pending before any other Commission duly constituted under any law for the time being in force.
14. (1) The Commission shall, while inquiring into any matter referred to in clause (j) of sub-section (1) of section 13 have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and, in particular, in respect of the following matters, namely:—
- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
 - (b) discovery and production of any document;
 - (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
 - (d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office; and
 - (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.
- (2) The Commission shall have the power to forward any case to a Magistrate having jurisdiction to try the same and the Magistrate to whom any such case is forwarded shall proceed to hear the complaint against the accused as if the case has been forwarded to him under section 346 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
15. The Commission may take any of the following steps upon the completion of an inquiry held under this Act, namely;—
- (i) where the inquiry discloses, the Commission of violation of child rights of a serious nature or contravention of provisions of any law for the time being in force, it may recommend to the concerned Government or authority the initiation of proceedings for prosecution or such other action as the Commission may deem fit against the concerned person or persons;
 - (ii) approach the Supreme Court or the High Court concerned for such directions, orders or writs as that Court may deem necessary;
 - (iii) recommend to the concerned Government or authority for the grant of such interim relief to the victim or the members of his family as the Commission may consider necessary.

Chapter 4 : Glimpses of the year 2018-19

Complaints addressed and actions taken:

Table: 1.1 Complaints addressed under Right of Children to Free and Compulsary Education Act, 2009 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
Kolkata	14	Individual – 7	7	DI was requested to take action:6 Recommendations passed: 1 Closed: 1 Complaint resolved: 1 Under Process: 3 Official of School Education Department were informed: 2
North 24 Parganas	20	Individual -7	13	DI was requested to take action: 11 Received Action Taken Report from DI: 3 Principal of school was sent letter: 1 Got report from the ADM: 1 Letter sent to the OC and subsequent reminders: 1 Sent Hearing notice:1 Under Process: 2
Hooghly	6	Individual – 3 NGO -1	2	DI and other school related authorities were requested to take action:5 Matter pending to Hon'ble High Court:1
South 24 Parganas	12	Individual - 6 Face book - 1	5	Hearing conducted and resolved: 1 DI was requested to take action:5 Resolved and closed: 1 Received Action Taken Report from DI:2 DPO, SSM was requested to take

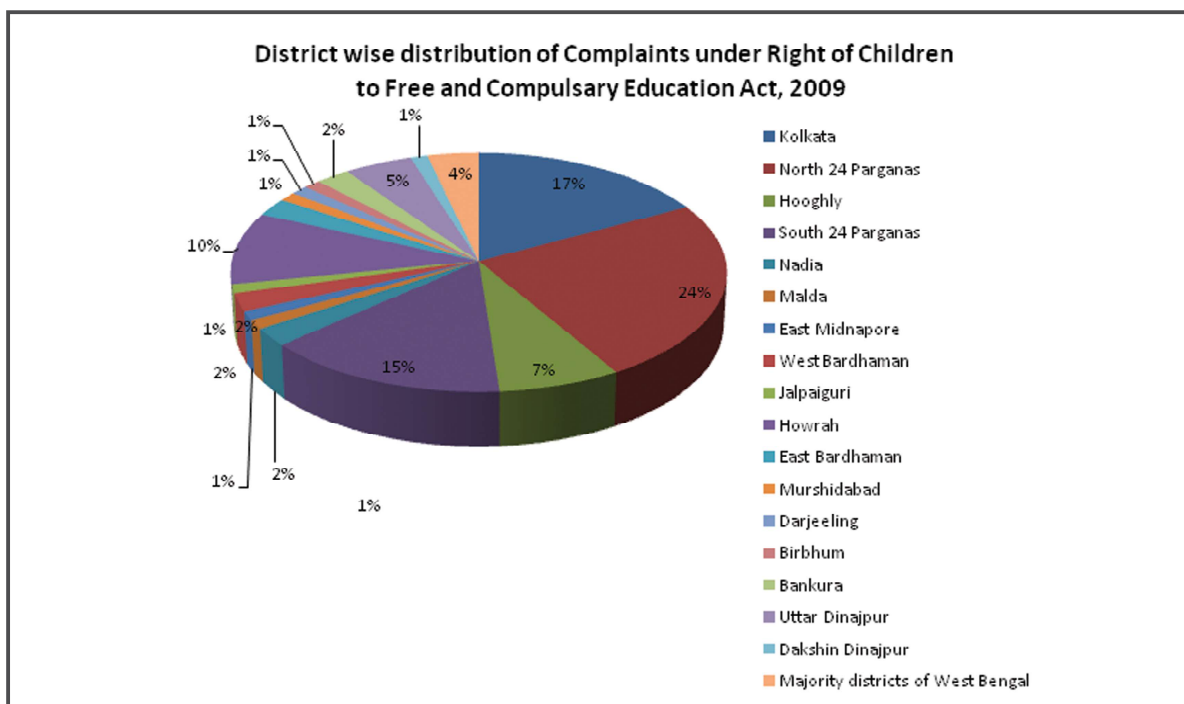
**Table: 1.1 Complaints addressed under Right of Children to Free and Compulsary Education Act, 2009
(between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
				action: 1 Enquiry conducted by the WBCPCR: 1 Got report from SP, concerned district: 1
Nadia	2	NGO -1	1	DI was requested to take action: 1 Received Action Taken Report from DI:1
Malda	1		1	DI was requested to take action: 1
East Midnapore	1	Individual - 1		Matter pending to the Court: 1
West Bardhaman	2	Student- 1	1	DI was requested to take action: 1 An electronic media was sent letter for not disclosing school's identity: 1
Jalpaiguri	1	Individual - 1		DI was requested to take action: 1
Howrah	8	Individual -4	4	Matter resolved by the school authority: 1 DI was requested to take action: 3 Got Action Taken Report from HM: 1 DM was informed: 1 Pending with WBCPCR: 1 Closed: 1
East Bardhaman	2	Individual - 1	1	Dm was requested to take action: 1 Under process: 1
Murshidabad	1	Teacher- in- Charge		Teacher- in- Charge was requested to send the detailed report

Table: 1.1 Complaints addressed under Right of Children to Free and Compulsary Education Act, 2009 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
Darjeeling	1	Individual - 1		DI was requested to take action: 1
Birbhum	1		1	Under process: 1
Bankura	2		2	DI was requested to take action:2
Uttar Dinajpur	4	Individual – 2 NGO -1	1	DI was requested to take action:2 DPO, SSM was informed: 1 Disposed of: 1
Dakshin Dinajpur	1		1	DI was requested to take action: 1 Majority districts of
West Bengal	3	Individual - 1	2	Officials of Education Department were requested to take action: 2 Under process: 1
Total	82			

Diagram 1.1



The complaints addressed by WBCPCR under RTE were on: torture to specially abled child, denial of admission in school, mental harassment and physical punishment, demanding fee at elementary level, inappropriate teacher student ratio, non-availability of basic facilities in school premises like water, toilet etc, biased evaluation in evaluating examination papers, suspension order issued to child.

Table 1.2 Complaints addressed under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
North 24 Parganas	14	Individual -4 West Bengal Commission For Women-1	9	SP was requested to send report: 8 Victim girl was initially sent to Govt CCI, now released: 1 Recommendation passed and legal proceeding going on: 1 Received Action Taken Report from District officials: 3

Table 1.2 Complaints addressed under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
South 24 Parganas West Bengal	7	Individual -3 to be received Commission For Women-1	3	Requested DM to send Enquiry Report: 1 Updated report yet from police: 2 Statement under 164 Crpc of victim recoded, PM report received, investigation going on: 1 CWC of the concerned district has been informed: 1 Social Enquiry Report from DM: 1 Closed: 1 Pending: 1
Howrah	3	Individual -3		Enquiry Report yet to be received from Government official:1 Got Enquiry Report from District Administration:1 Matter pending in Court:
Kolkata	22	Individual -7 West Bengal Commission For Women-2 Whatsapp-1	12	Child Welfare Committee was requested to take action: 9 Police was requested to take action: 7 Recommendation passed by the Commission and accused was arrested: 1 Received Action Taken Report from police: 3

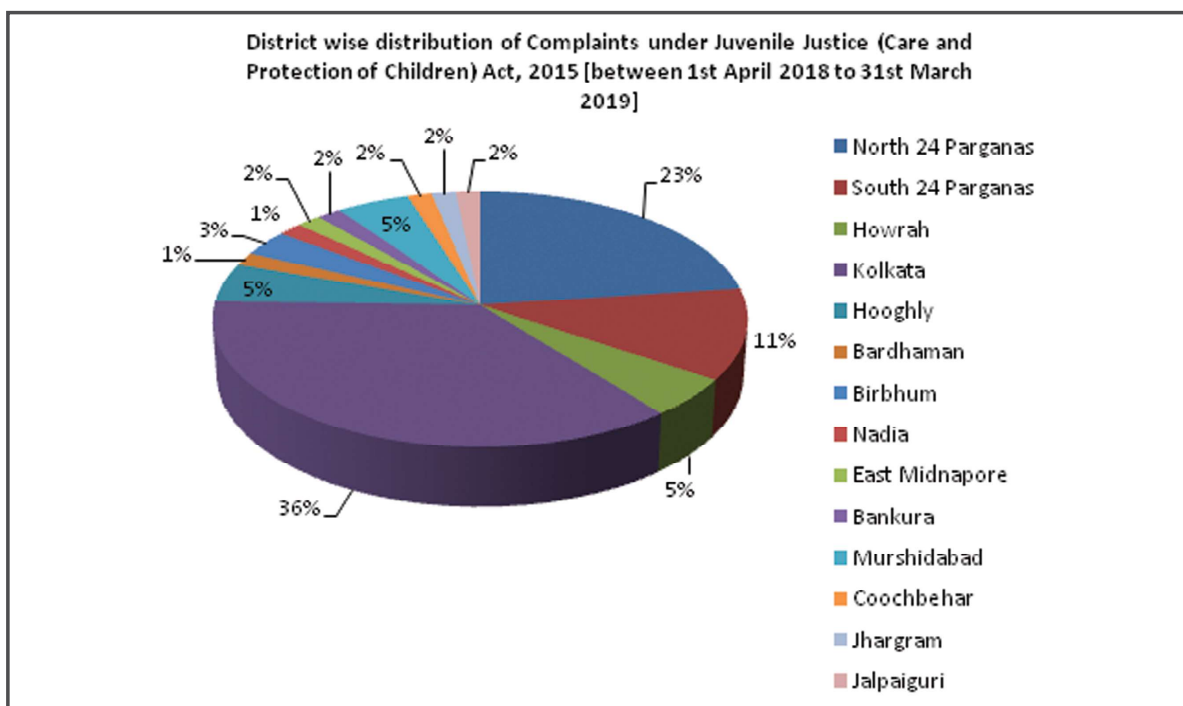
Table 1.2 Complaints addressed under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
				Report of the case in final form submitted: 1 Child line was requested to send report: 1
Hooghly	3	Individual -2	1	Police was requested to take action:3 Received Enquiry Report from DCPO:1
Bardhaman	1	Individual -1		Police was requested to take action:1
Birbhum	2	Individual -1	1	Received Action Taken Report from police:1 DCPO was requested to take action: 1
Nadia	1		1	Received Action Taken Report from police:1
East Midnapore	1		1	Report pending from police:1
Bankura	1		1	Police was informed:1
Murshidabad	3	Individual -2	1	Child Welfare Committee was requested to take action:1 Under process: 2
Coochbehar	1		1	DM was requested to send report: 1
Jhargram	1		1	Received report from SP, accused arrested and investigation going on: 1

Table 1.2 Complaints addressed under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
Jalpaiguri	1	1		Victim girl is safe and secured and CWC has been requested to submit report: 1
Total	61			

Diagram 1.2



The complaints addressed by WBCPCR under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 were on: *drowning of child while playing, cruelty by parents, sibling murder, killing of child by poison, suicide, protection of minor girl and prayer for child custody.*

Table 1.3- Complaints addressed under Juvenile Justice
(Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
North 24 Parganas	61	Individual-6, WBCW -4, NGO – 1	50	Received from police – 19, Received report from police and the matter is pending – 28 Report was sent by DI – 1 Accused was arrested and chargesheet was submitted-2 False complaint -1 Accused person was arrested, charge sheet was submitted and report received from police – 1 Request to action taken report and subsequent reminder – 1 Report along with copy of FIR,164 statement, written complaint and other document received-2 Accused arrested and the matter is pending-1 Police was informed by WBCPCR-1 WBCPCR requested to send update-2 Lying with WBCPCR-1 Action Taken report received, further update required-1
South 24 Parganas	32	Individual -3, Police -1, NGO – 1, WBCW -1	26	WBCPCR received the report from police, the accused persons was arrested and investigation is

Table 1.3- Complaints addressed under Juvenile Justice
(Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
				going on – 1 Trial yet to be started – 1 Charge sheet was submitted and report was received – 1 WBCPCR requested to send report from police – 3 WBCPCR requested to send report from DM and subsequent reminder sent – 2 Police was informed– 1 Received report from police-4 Pending case – 2 Action Taken report received and further update required-1 Updated report has been received-9 WBCPCR requested police to send report on the basis of their previous report-1 Closed – 1
Kolkata	37	Individual -3	34	Commission requested for present status report from police-8 Received report from police – 18 Investigation is going on – 2 Closed – 1 WBCPCR requested CWC to take protection of minor-1 WBCPCR requested to send report from police – 3 Report pending-1 Pending case – 1

**Table 1.3- Complaints addressed under Juvenile Justice
(Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
				Director of Social Welfare & CRT, WB was requested to conduct a comprehensive enquiry and submit the report – 1 District Legal Aid Services Authority, Alipore to submit enquiry report to the Commission – 1
Howrah	13	Individual - 1	12	Accused arrested and investigation going on – 2 Received report from police and investigation going on: 1 Police was requested to send report – 2 Trial yet to be started – 1 Received report from police – 6
Hooghly	14	Individual - 2	12	Commission received report, accused person arrested and investigation is going on – 1 Police was requested to send report – 4 Accused person got bail and investigation going on – 1 Charge sheet submitted – 1 WBCPCR received the report and investigation going on – 1 Closed – 1 Received the report from police – 5

**Table 1.3- Complaints addressed under Juvenile Justice
(Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
Malda	9	Individual – 3, NGO - 1	5	Received the report and investigation is going on – 1 Received the report and charge sheet submitted – 2 Police was requested to send report – 2 Received the report from police – 4
Nadia	14	Individual-2, WBCW -3	9	Received the report from police – 9 Police was requested to send report – 2 Received inquiry report along with copy of FIR, copy of the statement of VG u/s 164 CrPC, copy of charge sheet – 1 Received report and accused charge sheeted – 1 Yet to be closed - 1
West Bardhaman	5	Individual - 2	3	Police was requested to send report – 3 Received report from police and copies of statement u/s 164 CrPC – 1 Received report from police – 1
East Bardhaman	4	T.I.C of School - 1	3	Police was requested to send report – 1 Case pending before the Court – 1 WBCPCR requested report from police-1

Table 1.3- Complaints addressed under Juvenile Justice
(Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

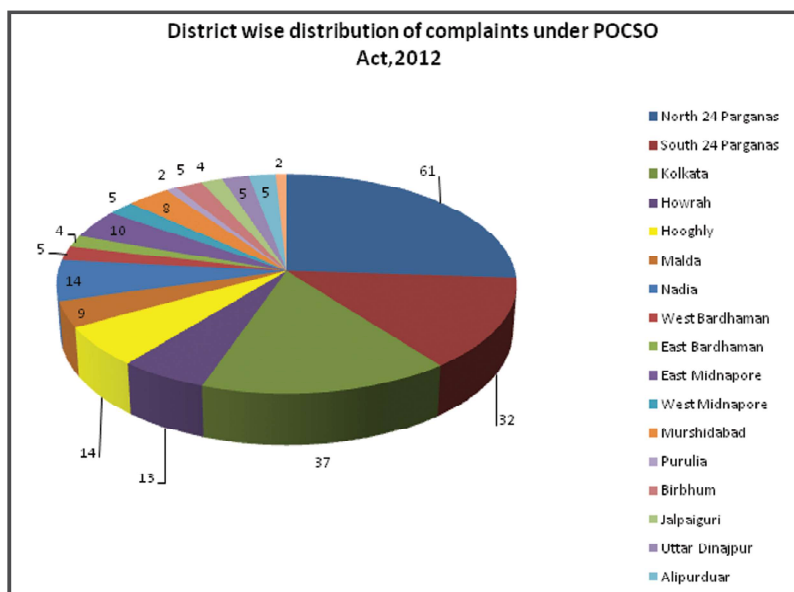
Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
East Midnapore	10	Individual – 1 WBCW - 1	8	Received report from police – 1 Closed -1 Police was requested to send report – 1 Received report from police and accused person is in correctional home – 1 Commission requested DM for sending report – 1 Accused persons are in correctional home – 2 Received the report with FIR, Medico legal report – 1 Charge sheeted submitted – 1 Received the report from police - 2
West Midnapore	5		5	charge sheet has been submitted – 2 Received report and investigation going on – 1 Received report from police – 1 Police was requested to send report – 1
Murshidabad	8	Individual -1 WBCW – 2 ATHB - 1	4	Received report from police – 3 Received report from DSWO and SP-1 Charge sheeted and trial yet to be started – 1 Charge sheeted-1 Commission

**Table 1.3- Complaints addressed under Juvenile Justice
(Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
				requested DM for sending report – 1 Police was requested to send report – 1
Purulia	2	Individual - 1	1	Received report from police -1 Case pending – 1
Birbhum	5		5	Closed case – 1 Police was requested to send report – 1 Received report from police – 1 Received report from police and FIR report along with enquiry report – 1 Charge sheeted submitted and trial started – 1
Jalpaiguri	4		4	Forwarded case – 1 Received report from police – 2 Police was requested to send report – 1
Uttar Dinajpur	5	Individual - 1	4	Commission request to send report from police – 1 Received report from police, accused arrested, investigation going on– 1 Received report from police –2 Received report from police and accused person is in correctional home – 1

Table 1.3- Complaints addressed under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)				
Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
Alipurduar	5		5	Police was requested to send report – 2 Received report from police – 3
Darjeeling	2	N.G.O - 1	1	Received report from police – 1 Police was requested to send report – 1
Total	238			

Diagram 1.3



Complaints addressed under POCSO Act, 2012 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

The complaints addressed by WBCPCR under POCSO Act, 2012 were on: *Rape and gang rape accompanied with killing, molestation and rape of children by tutor, teaching and non-teaching staff of school, family members even biological father, neighbour, stranger, security guards; showing pornographic pictures to child, taking obscene pictures and uploading those in social media, entering into sexual relationship with a minor girl after alluring her for marriage.*

Table 1.4 Complaints addressed under The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
North 24 Parganas	1	School-1		Hearing conducted
South 24 Parganas	1	Individual-1		Under process
Howrah	1	Individual-1		Inspection report received from ADM
Hoogly	1		1	Deputy labour Commissioner was requested to stop children at work in chilli field and send them back to school
Total	5			

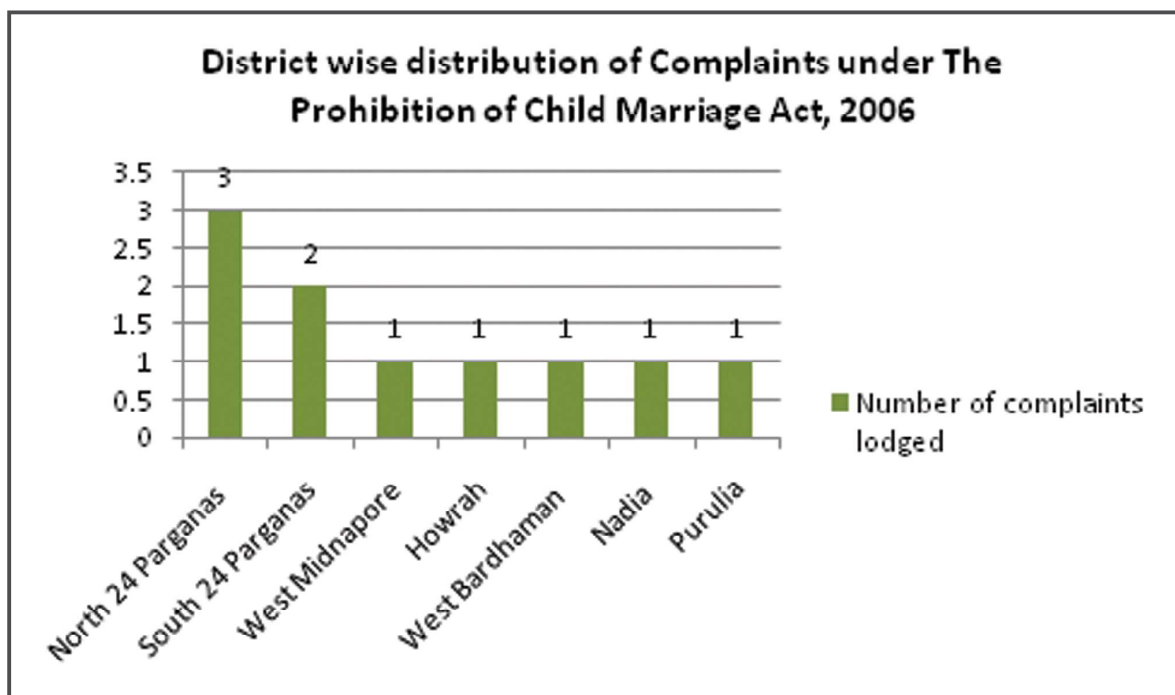
Table 1.5 Complaints addressed under The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
North 24 Parganas	3	Individual-1	2	The marriage was stopped with the help of district administration:2 Investigation is going on, case is sub judge:1
South 24 Parganas	2	Individual-2		The district administration was informed and report received : 1 The girl was found major:1
West Midnapore	1	Individual-1		District administration was informed and the case was handled by police: 1

Table 1.5 Complaints addressed under The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
Howrah	1	Individual-1		Accused was arrested and the girl was recovered:1
West Bardhaman	1	Individual-1		The marriage has been stopped:1
Nadia	1	Individual-1		Child marriage has been stopped with the help of Child line:1
Purulia	1	NGO-1		Child marriage has been stopped:1
Total	10			

Diagram 1.4



**Table 1.6: Complaints addressed related to Trafficking
(between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
South 24 Parganas	1		1	Received Action Taken Report from police: 1
East Midnapore	2	Individual - 1	1	Received the report from district administration:1 Report revealed that the girl was not trafficked, she was found from her relative's place: 1
Howrah	1	Individual - 1		Received Action Taken Report from police: 1
Malda	1	NGO-1		The district administration was informed: 1
Murshidabad	1	West Bengal Commission for Women-1		Received the report from district administration:1
Total	7			

Diagram 1.5

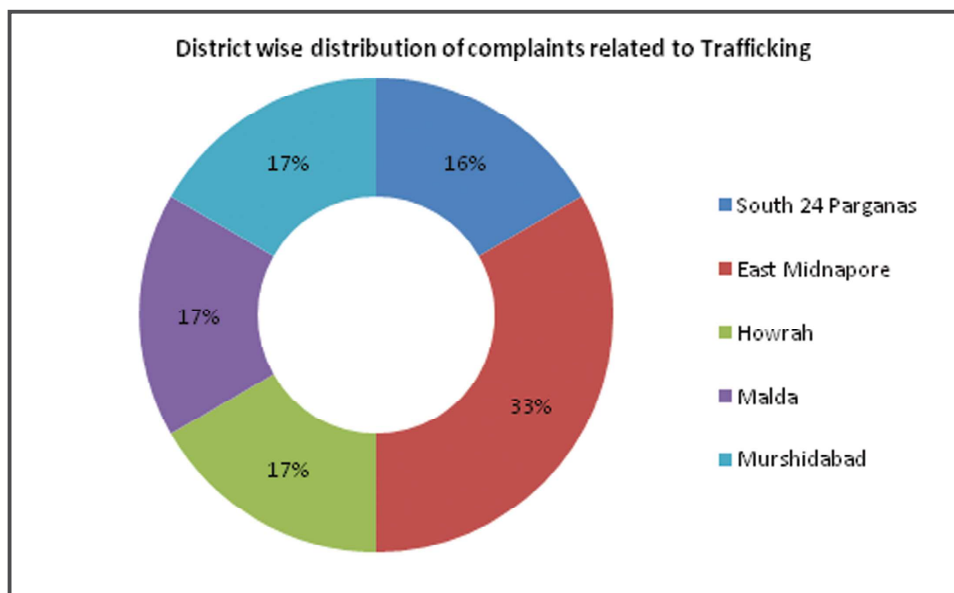


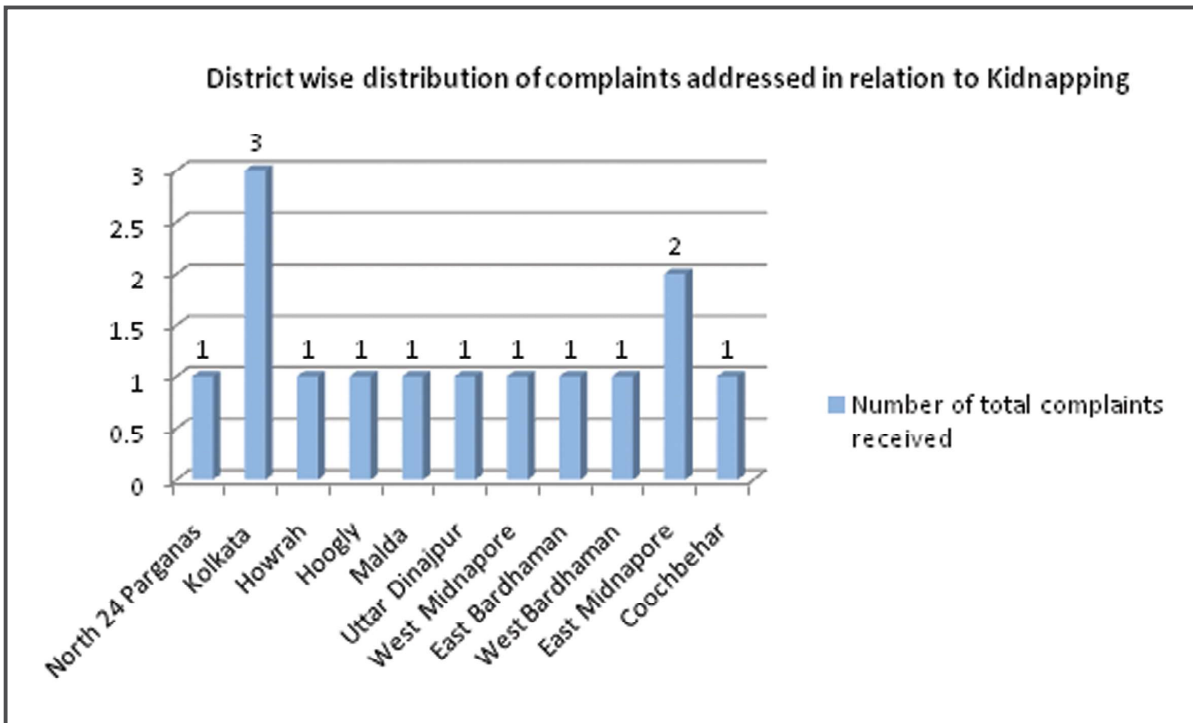
Table 1.7: Number of complaints addressed in relation to kidnapping (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
North 24 Parganas	1		1	District officials were informed and subsequent reminder was sent:1
Kolkata	3		3	Victim boy rescued and accused arrested:1 Requested status report from police: 1 May be closed:1
Howrah	1		1	Requested status report from police: 1
Hoogly	1	West Bengal Commission for Women-1		Minor girl recovered: 1
Malda	1	Individual: 1		Action Taken Report requested from DM:1
Uttar Dinajpur	1	Individual: 1		Girl has been recovered: 1

Table 1.7: Number of complaints addressed in relation to kidnapping (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
West Midnapore	1	West Bengal Commission for Women-1		Requested status report from police: 1
East Bardhaman	1	Through Whatsapp Helpline No:1		Requested status report from police: 1
West Bardhaman	1	Individual: 1		Got Action Taken Report from police:1
East Midnapore	2	West Bengal Commission for Women-1		Individual - 1 Got Action Taken Report from police:2
Coochbehar	1	West Bengal Commission for Women-1		Requested status report from police: 1
Total	14			

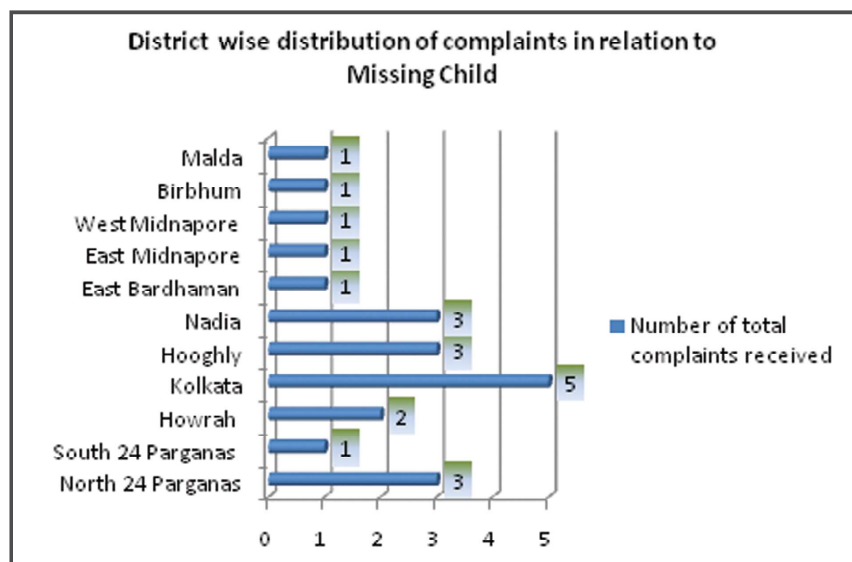
Diagram 1.6



**Table 1.8 Number of complaints addressed in relation to Missing Child
(between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
North 24 Parganas	3	Through Whatsapp Helpline No-1 Individual-1	1	Police and CWC were informed:3
South 24 Parganas	1	Individual-1		Accused was arrested and investigation going on: 1
Howrah	2	Through Whatsapp Helpline No-1 West Bengal Commission for Women-1		Victim girl recovered, case ended in Final Report as Mistake of Fact:1 Requested status report from police: 1
Kolkata	5		5	Requested the report from district administration:2 Received Action Taken Report from police:3
Hooghly	3	Through Whatsapp Helpline No-1	2	Victim girl has been rescued and placed in Government CCI:1 Received Action Taken Report from police:2
Nadia	3	West Bengal Commission for Women-2 Individual-1		Received Action Taken Report from police:1 Requested status report from police: 2
East Bardhaman	1		1	Investigation going on:1
East Midnapore	1	DCPU-1		DM was requested to send report:1
West Midnapore	1			After getting report from police, the Commission requested report from DM: 1
Birbhum	1		1	Received status report from police:1
Malda	1	Individual - 1		Received status report from police:1
Total	22			

Diagram 1.7



Among the missing cases, approx 80% are female children and rest of them are male. Among the female children, cases have been lodged after they fled away with their fiancé to get married. Their family members lodged missing cases. In some cases, they got married, in some cases they were caught before marriage. In a few cases they remain untraced. They have been trafficked for the purpose of domestic labour, commercial sexual exploitation.

Table : 1.9 : Number of complaints addressed in relation to child abuse and ill treatment (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
North 24 Parganas	2	Individual-2		Received Enquiry Report from police and administrative official:2
South 24 Parganas	1		1	Requested status report from police:1
Kolkata	5	Individual-5		Requested status report from police:4 Pending:1
Nadia	1	Individual-1		Report received from DM:1
West Bardhaman	1	Individual-1		Pending:1
Jalpaiguri	1		1	Report received from police:1
Total	11			

Diagram: 1.8

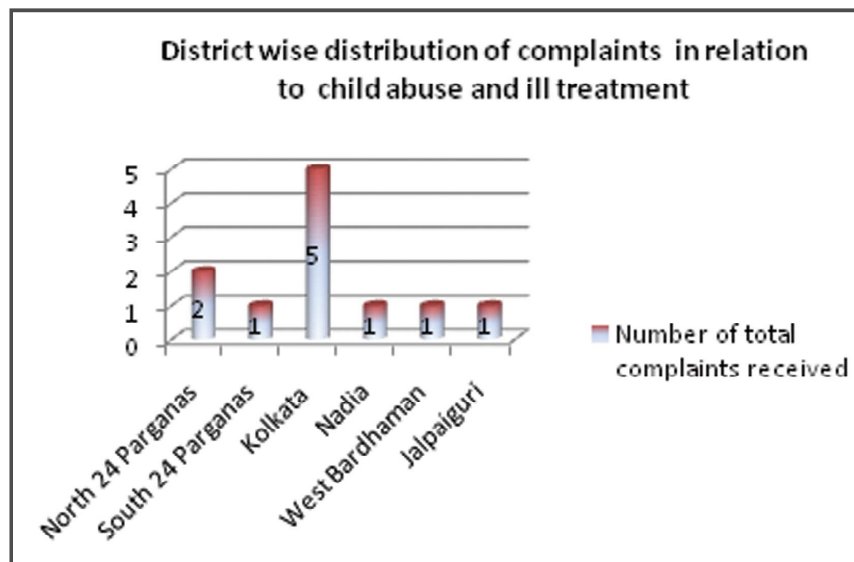


Table 1.10 Number of complaints addressed in relation to Torture (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
North 24 Parganas	6	Individual-4	2	Received Enquiry Report from police and administrative official:6
South 24 Parganas	4	Individual-2	2	Requested status report from police administrative official:3 Requested to the Chairperson CWC to take steps:1
Kolkata	7	Individual-3 Whatsapp -1	3	Requested status report from police:4 Pending:1
Nadia	2	DGPU-1	1	Received present status report from police:1
West Bardhaman	1	Individual-1		Requested status report from police:1
Coochbehar	1		1	Requested status report:1

**Table 1.10 Number of complaints addressed in relation to Torture
(between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
Howrah	4	Individual-2 From CCI-1	1	Matter dropped:1 Report received from administration:2 Enquiry conducted by the DSWO and nothing adverse was found:1
Murshidabad	1	Individual-1		Under process:1
Total	26			

**Table 1.11 Number of complaints addressed in relation to child death
(between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
North 24 Parganas	12	Individual -2	10	Report requested from police:5 Received Action Taken from police and investigation going on:1 Matter is sub-judice:1 Report requested from Divisional Railway Manager, not received yet: 1 Report received from police: 3
South 24 Parganas	12		12	Received Enquiry Report from police; PM Report yet to be received:2 Requested Action Taken Report: 3 Investigation going on:2 Received Enquiry Report from police: 4 Closed: 1
Kolkata	12		12	Report received: 6 Report received and accused arrested: 1 Report requested from police and administration: 5

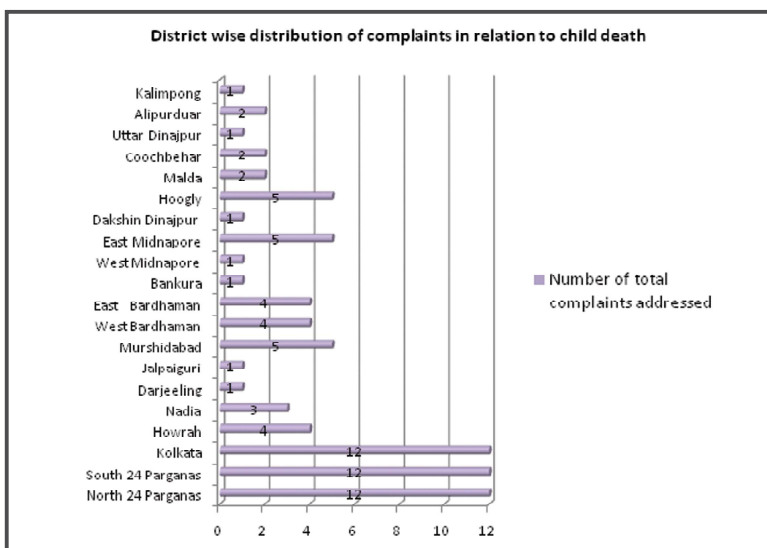
**Table 1.11 Number of complaints addressed in relation to child death
(between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
Howrah	4	DCPU-1	3	Received all documents from police, though present status of the case yet to be received from them: 1 Report received from police: 3
Nadia	3		3	Received Enquiry Report from police: 3
Darjeeling	1		1	DM was requested to send Action Taken Report:1
Jalpaiguri	1		1	Report requested from police: 1
Murshidabad	5		5	Received report from police:3 Report received from police and investigation is going on: 1 Report requested from police: 1
West Bardhaman	4		4	Requested for Action Taken Report:2 Requested for Status Report from police and administration:2
East Bardhaman	4		4	Requested report from police:1 Received report from police:3 Case was declared as beyond jurisdiction:1
Bankura	1	Individual -1		Police was requested to send report:1
West Midnapore	1		1	Requested for update from police, case has been handed over to the CID:1

**Table 1.11 Number of complaints addressed in relation to child death
(between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
East Midnapore	5		5	Case is under investigation and accused is in correctional home :1
Dakshin Dinajpur	1		1	The Commissioner of School Education Dept was informed:1
Hoogly	5		5	Police and administration were requested to send report:4 Received report from police, update is pending:1
Malda	2		2	Police and administration were requested to send report:2
Coochbehar	2		2	Police was requested to send enquiry report along with the copies of FIR complaint, autopsy report, statements of the parents under section 164 Cr.P.C and other relevant documents:1 DM was requested to send the report:1
Uttar Dinajpur	1	Individual -1		The district administration was told to send the status report:1
Alipurduar	2		2	Case is under investigation:2
Kalimpong	1		1	The Commission has received report from the district administration:1
Number of total complaints received	79			

Diagram 1.9



It is mention worthy that in 2017-18 the number of reported death cases was 33, whereas in 2018-19 the number of death of children increased to 79. Suicide among the teenager has been found as the leading cause of death.

Table 1.12 Number of complaints addressed in relation to negligence to child (between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
North 24 Parganas	2	Individual-2		Police was told to submit Action Taken Report:1 DM was requested to send the update: 1
South 24 Parganas	1		1	The administration was requested to take action: 1
Kolkata	7	Individual-5	2	Complainant settled the matter: 1 The police and administration were informed: 6
Hoogly	1	Individual-1		Action Taken Report received from the DM:1
Total	11			

During the tenure , 1 case of child harassment received by the Commission , got the Enquiry Report from the Commissioner of Police , Kolkata and now the matter has been resolved.

**Table 1.13 Number of complaints addressed in relation to Child Health
(between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
North 24 Parganas	1		1	Complaint resolved:1
Kolkata	3	Individual-1	2	Police and administration were requested for report:2
East Bardhaman	1		1	DI was requested to send Action Taken Report:1
Murshidabad	1		1	Requested for Action Taken Report from DI:1
Darjeeling	1	Individual-1		The DM was requested to bring the child under sponsorship scheme:1
Total	7			

**Table 1.14 Number of complaints referred by NCPCR
(between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Actions taken
Hooghly	2	Report sent to NCPCR – 1 WBCPCR has received report from police – 1
Nadia	1	WBCPCR has received report from police – 1
West Bardhaman	1	WBCPCR requested to send action taken report from police – 1
Malda	1	WBCPCR request to send action taken report from DIG,CID,Kolkata marking copies to Director of Social Welfare, CRT and DM - 1
South 24 Parganas	2	WBCPCR has received report from police – 1 The updated report was sent to CP of NCPCR – 1
East Medinipur	1	WBCPCR requested to send action taken report from police – 1
West Medinipur	2	WBCPCR has received enquiry report from DM and investigation is going on– 1, WBCPCR has informed DCPS – 1
Howrah	1	WBCPCR has received report from Commissioner of Police, Kolkata - 1
Total	11	

**Table 1.15: Number of miscellaneous complaints addressed
(between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
North 24 Parganas	21	Individual - 7	14	WBCPCR requested Police to send report from police – 9 WBCPCR received action taken report from police and investigation is proceeding – 1 Commission requested to CP, CWC and Kolkata to take necessary steps to resolve the matter for best interest of the child – 1 Commission has sent reminder – 2 WBCPCR request to send report from DM – 3 WBCPCR received report from police -3 Pending – 1 Closed – 1
South 24 Parganas	16	Individual – 7 WBCW - 1	8	WBCPCR received report from police and investigation is proceeding – 1 Pending – 2 WBCPCR requested police to send report – 3 WBCPCR requested Principal Secretary of Health and Welfare of Govt. of WB to send report – 1 WBCPCR request to send report from DM 2 WBCPCR requested Director of Child Rights and Trafficking & Social Welfare to send report – 1 WBCPCR received action taken report from police – 3 WBCPCR received

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
Kolkata	32	Individual -17 C.M.O - 1 N.G.O - 1	13	<p>report from DM -1 WBCPCR received report from Department of Health & Family Welfare -1 WBCPCR received report from Regional Head - 1</p> <p>WBCPCR request to send report from police - 5 Closed - 3 WBCPCR requested police to send report- 1 WBCPCR received report from police - 5 Pending - 2 Hearing completed and proceeding going on - 1 WBCPCR received report from hospital - 1 WBCPCR has sent reminder to Principal Secretary of Health and Welfare - 1 WBCPCR informed Principal Secretary of Department of Higher Education of Govt. of W.B - 1 WBCPCR received report from DI of Schools - 1 WBCPCR requested DCRT to send report - 2 WBCPCR has also sent to reminder from Director of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Center Loreto - 1 WBCPCR informed Director of Institute of Psychiatry and Investigation is Proceeding - 1 WBCPCR received report from Assistant Inspector of School - 1 Trial Yet to be started - 1</p>

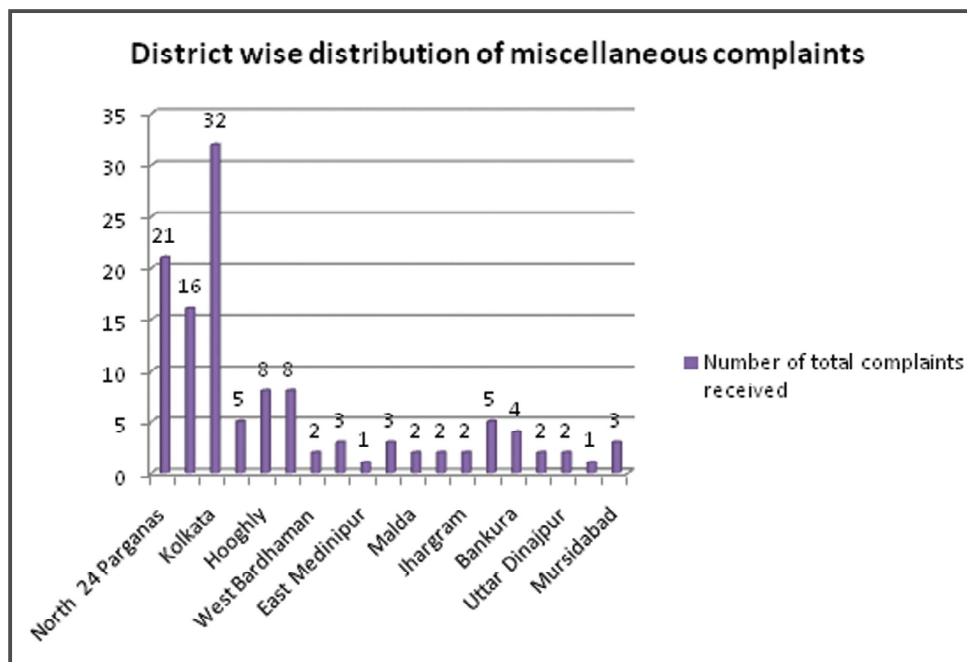
Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
				WBCPCR received report from CWC – 1 Forwarded case – 1 WBCPCR received report from Health & Family Welfare – 1 Recommendation was passed – 1 WBCPCR received report from Saishali Bhawan – 1
Majority districts of West Bengal	5	Individual -3	2	WBCPCR received report from District Inspector of School of Malda – 1 WBCPCR informed Child Welfare Committee of Kisholoy Home – 1 WBCPCR received report from police – 1 WBCPCR received report from District Inspector of School – 1 WBCPCR informed the incumbment and the commission has nothing to do in this case – 1
Hooghly	8	Individual -3 WBCW – 1 N.G.O - 1	3	WBCPCR received report from Divisional Railway Manager- 1 WBCPCR received report from police – 1 WBCPCR received report from CWC – 1 WBCPCR requested to police to send report – 1 WBCPCR sent reminder to Commissioner of School Education Department – 1 WBCPCR requested DI to send report – 1 WBCPCR requested DSWO to send report and investigation is

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
				proceeding – 1 WBCPCR has decided to drop the matter - 1
Howrah	8	Individual - 3	5	WBCPCR received report from police and accused has been arrested and investigation is proceeding – 1 WBCPCR received report from police and investigation is proceeding -1 WBCPCR requested police to send report – 2 WBCPCR received report from police – 2 WBCPCR requested DCPO to send report – 1 WBCPCR requested DI to send update report – 1
West Bardhaman	2	Individual - 2		Recommendation was passed – 2
East Bardhaman	3	Individual - 1	2	WBCPCR request DCRT to send report– 1 Pending – 1 WBCPCR requested police to send report with FIR copy, written complaint copy – 1
East Medinipur	1	WBCW - 1		WBCPCR received report from police and trial yet to be started – 1
West Medinipur	3	Individual - 3		WBCPCR requested DM to send report WBCPCR received report from WBCW – 1 WBCPCR informed the Child Welfare Committee- 1

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
Malda	2	WBCW -1	1	WBCPCR requested DM and Police to send report and also informed Secretary of WCD & SW Deptt – 1 WBCPCR received report from WCD & SW – 1
Coochbehar	2	Individual - 1	1	WBCPCR received report from District Inspector of School – 1 WBCPCR requested DWCD & SW to send report – 1
Jhargram	2	Individual - 1	1	WBCPCR requested Police to send report – 1 WBCPCR requested DM to send report 1
Nadia	5	Individual -2 WBCW - 1	2	WBCPCR requested Police to send report– 1 WBCPCR received report from DM an DCPO -1 WBCPCR requested DM to send report-1 WBCPCR requested Additional Secretary of Women & Child Development and Social Wefare to send report – 1 WBCPCR requested Director of Social Welfare Department of govt. of W.B to send report -1
Bankura	4	Individual -1	3	WBCPCR received report from police – 2 WBCPCR sent reminder to police – 1 WBCPCR received report from school Education Department -1

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance	Actions taken
Birbhum	2	Individual - 1	1	WBCPCR received report from DM – 1 WBCPCR sent reminder to DM -1
Uttar Dinajpur	2	Individual - 1	1	WBCPCR received report from DM and DCPU – 1 WBCPCR sent reminder to police – 1
Jalpaiguri	1		1	WBCPCR requested Police to send to report – 1
Mursidabad	3		3	WBCPCR requested DM for taking action on minor girl – 1 WBCPCR sent reminder to police – 1 WBCPCR requested police to send report-1
Total	122			

Diagram 1.10

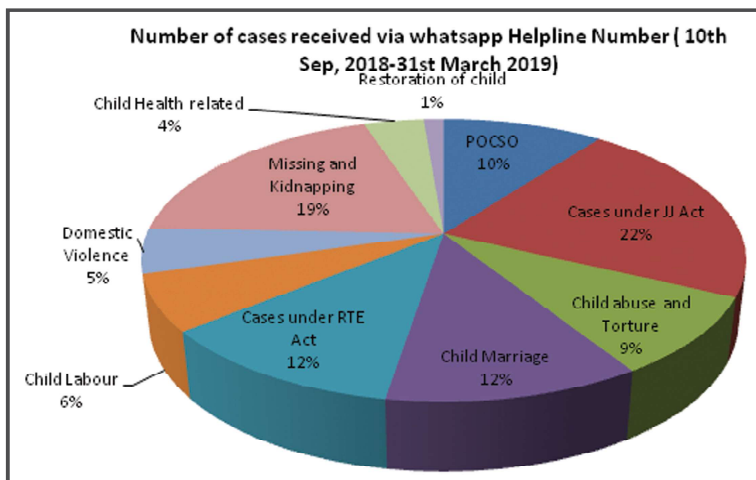


ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

The Commission has introduced 24x7 helpline for Whats app only messages on 10th September, 2018. Any child or adult or any organisation can report any kind of child rights violation cases of West Bengal through this Helpline Number: 9836300300. They can send message, video and audio complaint.

Types of cases received via whatsapp Helpline Number(10th Sep, 2018-31st March 2019)	Name of the districts from where the complaints were received
POCSO	Howrah, South 24 Parganas, Malda, Purulia, Purba Midnapore
Cases under JJ Act	Purba Bardhaman, Kolkata, North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Howrah, Birbhum, Uttar Dinajpur
Cases related to child abuse and torture	Alipurduar, Santoshpur, South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas
Child Marriage	Jhargram, Birbhum, Murshidabad, Purba Midnapore, Kolkata
Cases under RTE Act	Purba Midnapur, Paschim Bardhaman, Uttar Dinajpur, North 24 Parganas, Hoogly, Birbhum, North 24 Parganas
Child Labour	Uttar Dinajpur, Birbhum, Murshidabad, Alipurduar, Howrah
Domestic Violence	Kolkata, Howrah
Missing and Kidnapping	Howrah, Hoogly, North 24 Parganas, Malda, Murshidabad, Purulia, South 24 Parganas
Child Health related cases	Purulia
Restoration of child	Dakshin Dinajpur

Diagram 1.11



Case Studies

Case Study I

The Hon'ble Chairperson received a 'WhatsApp' message from a minor boy named 'Babai' (name changed) of 14 years. His story was that he was a victim of domestic violence in his own house and that his parents had withdrawn him from the school. The Hon'ble Chairperson visited the minor boy at his residence, spoke to him and his father over the phone who seemed to be a rigid man. Later, the minor boy requested the Commission to drop his case since his father had re-admitted him in his previous school.

But, the background story was pathetic and incredible.

The parents of a minor boy approached the Commission after a day or two. They informed orally as well as in writing that their son of 14 years was a victim of sexual assault by his own school teacher who also gave him private tuition. The Commission took cognizance and called for a hearing which included the minor boy, the parents, the teacher (alleged accused), the school authorities and the representative from a reputed NGO who basically works in the field of mental health. Parties placed their submissions. The Hon'ble Chairperson spoke to the minor boy in a child friendly corner, who seemed to be suffering from Stockholm syndrome. After perusing various documents of a rehabilitation hospital (placed by the parents) and after speaking to the concerned psychologist, it was established that the said school teacher has sexually abused the minor boy. Recommendations were made, wherein the complainant father and mother were directed to take the minor boy for Counselling. They were also recommended to lodge an FIR before the appropriate police station. The Superintendent of Police was recommended to conduct an enquiry against the alleged accused teacher and based on such enquiry, initiate immediate criminal proceedings against the accused teacher under Juvenile Justice Act, 2005 and POCSO Act, 201 and submit a report to the Commission within a month.

Upon sending reminder letter a report was received from the concerned Superintendent of Police stating that an FIR has been lodged and a case under JJ Act and POCSO Act has been initiated against the teacher. Subsequently, the complaint informed WBCPCR that the accused teacher was arrested and sent to judicial custody. Presently, the said teacher is on bail and the case is sub-judice. The minor boy was under observation of the Clinical Psychologist for almost 17 days. At the moment, lot of changes have been noticed in the minor boy's behaviour. Lot of truth got unearthed against the accused.

The Complainants are happy that the aforesaid success was only made possible due to the intervention of WBCPCR, although it is just the beginning for them.

Case Study II

Sixteen years old Madhu Koley (name changed) from South 24 Parganas, studying in class X was allured by a boy to marry him. Madhu trusted him and left her home. However all her dreams were

shattered when she realized that she had landed at a brothel in no. 56 New Delhi, and the boy left her stranded there .

For days, from 02.00 pm in the noon to 02:00 am at night, she was forced to serve around 15-16 customers (approx), after which she was given some food to eat. Madhu hardly got Rs.50/- per customer and that too was often snatched away from her when she refused to serve further customers. She was also hit hard and even got cigarette butt burns for not wanting to serve. The girl was given some sedatives/ drugs with milk which kept her drowsy throughout the day.

The minor girl tried to escape from the brothel. She convinced one of her customers and even called her parents from his phone, to rescue her from that place. The Bengal Police tried raiding the brothel a couple of times, but the efforts were futile. The brothel would get to know in advance and hide the girl each time the raid happened. Finally a customer with the help of the brothel owner arranged to drop her till Sealdah railway station. She was asked to go back home and ask her parents to withdraw their complaint lodged against them. She was also asked to come back as they would arrange her marriage with the same boy, who brought her to Delhi.

Madhu went back to her family in South 24 Parganas and her parents took her to the Police Station. She was taken to the Child Welfare Committee and was kept in a Child Care Institute and finally restored back to her parents.

As a Monitoring and supervising body, 'West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights' (WBCPCR) was informed about this case, by a national level organization working on 'Anti Trafficking'.

A member WBCPCR with a team visited the survivor to understand her situation and to plan the further steps of action. WBCPCR recommended to the District Magistrate, South 24 Paraganas to take the following actions:

- a. Continuation of the Kanyashree benefit
- b. Providing extra educational support in form of tutorials over and above the school hours so that she could prepare for her board examinations. This was required as she had missed out on her academic sessions from school when she got trafficked
- c. Victim compensation to the minor

With proper communication and follow-up from WBCPCR as well as active steps by the district officials, Madhu Koley is now staying with her family. She continued her education and has cleared her board examinations this year.

Once again this has planted hope in Madhu's heart, to dream for herself and chase her dreams.

Case Study III

The Commission got a complaint from Mr Aasif Khan regarding mental cruelty upon his son Azeem of class VI of a reputed missionary school in the district of North 24 Parganas by the school authority.

On the basis of complaint the Commission made a school visit for the purpose of enquiry. It has been found by the Commission that the victim child's report card was withheld by the school which was subsequently released on the request from the Commission to the principal of the said school, but the child was not given readmission to the school.

Then a Hearing was conducted in the Commission where both the parties were present before the Bench constituted by the Honourable Chairperson and Members of the Commission.

The respondent has denied the allegations. The Commission has observed that there was corporal punishment upon the child and the teacher student relationship seems to have deteriorated. However the Principal stated that she may give readmission to the child provided the parents should take proper care towards their child.

Keeping best interest of the child the Commission passed a set of recommendations which included the child would need to go for professional counselling for his overall development and his parents would go for counselling for change of attitude. The school was requested to give opportunity to the child if these two conditions (approaching counsellor) are met. The teachers were directed that any child should not be subjected to corporal punishment as it is punishable offence under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act,2009.

Finally, the child was readmitted to class VI in the same school and he is continuing his education without any hindrances.

Chapter 5 : Activities and Programmes undertaken:

I. Visits from the Commission:

The Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal has set up West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights in exercise of powers under sub-section (1) read with clauses (a) to (d) of sub-section (2) under section 36 of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 with the objective of ensuring protection of children against all forms of abuse and violation of child rights. The Commission has also been mandated to examine all factors that inhibit enjoyment of child rights, look into the matters relating to children in need of special care and protection including children in distress. The Commission is responsible to recommend appropriate remedial measures, analyse laws to examine their compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 (UNCRC) and recommend remedial measures.

The Commission is also meant to serve as a forum which children can access easily in order to seek redress for the violation of their rights.

The mandate also includes inspecting and monitoring custodial institutions for children to examine the situation and facilities as per Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Through visit and in-depth analysis, the Chairperson, members and consultants provide inputs and suggestions to improve the services, ensure child friendly atmosphere within the institution.

Visits are conducted in two ways: a) Regular routine visits to assess the compliance b) Based on a complaint against the custodial institutions regarding any incidents of torture, unavailability of services meant for children, bad behaviour of caregivers etc.

The Commission gets the complaint from the district administration authority, electronic and print media report and individual citizens, even sometimes by any anonymous person.

After the visit, reports are prepared and sent to the concerned authority for taking action. Follow up visits are also conducted wherever it is required.

In the last year, numerous public and private schools have been visited to examine and review the safeguards for rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation. The Commission has taken proactive steps based on the complaint against the Head of the institution, a particular teacher/ a group of teachers, School Management Committee by visiting the schools, meeting with the authorities, sending letters to concerned authorities. The Commission has taken suo motu cognizance in a large number of cases before police has taken any action.

A few Madrasahs in Hoogly were also visited where interaction and discussion took place on child rights and child protection.

As per the POCSO Act, WBCPCR is assigned to monitor the implementation of the Act. So, the Commission takes suo motu cognizance and also takes action based on the complaint lodged by individual, Non- Government Organisations, reports published in electronic and print media and other Commissions.

Based on the nature and gravity of the complaint, the Chairperson, members, consultants visited child friendly corners of police stations, attended court proceedings, met the survivors, visited hospitals and health centres, ICDS centres, correctional homes to do a comprehensive assessment.

The Chairperson and the consultant rescued a few minor girls forced into prostitution. The rescue



operation was jointly done by District Police and International Justice Mission.

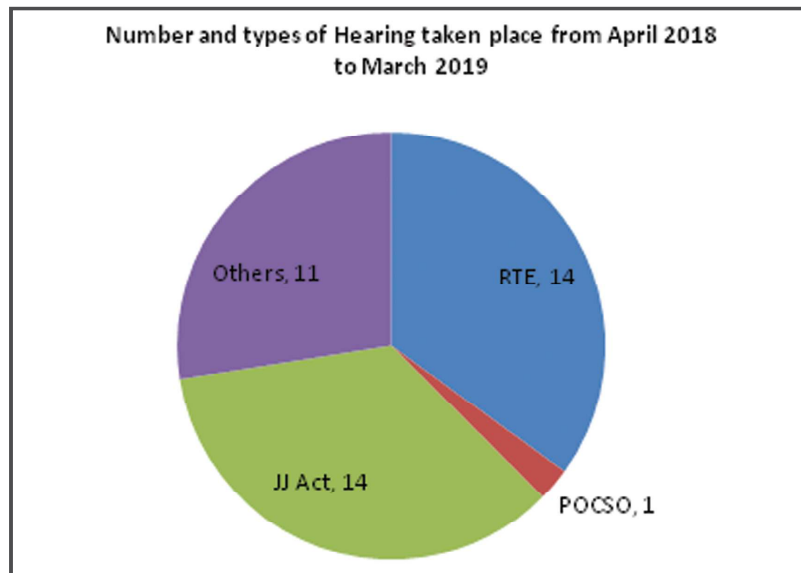
There is an established route which takes girls from West Bengal to Kashmir, where they face forced marriage and are being pushed into sexual slavery. Through the course of its action in different districts of West Bengal and interacting with the rescued trafficked survivors in the CCI, the Commission could understand the worse situation of children forced into sexual exploitation. Thus, the Chairperson and one of the members went to Kashmir to assess the situation and decide the action plan for the source and destination area.

WBCPCR visits Dumdum Central Correctional Home on a regular basis to assess the situation of children who are staying with their parents. Apart from these other district correctional homes are also visited.

II. Hearings:

In exercise of the powers under Section 14 of CPC Act, 2005, the Commission has the power to summon and enforce the attendance of any person for hearing and examine him/her on oath. Such hearing is necessary for the purpose of inquiry, depending on the situation and circumstances of the case, which culminates to recommendation.

Statistics of Hearings conducted in the Commission:



Hearing was conducted only in one POCSO case, where WBCPCR received a complaint directly and intervened. Presently, it is sub-judice before Ld Court. Almost all other cases are also sub-judice since POCSO cases are directly reported to the police administration for judicial intervention.

The 'others' category includes child custody, maintenance and missing related complaint.

III. Activities:

Review Meeting : Quarterly review meeting with Police, Chairperson and Members of Child Welfare Committee, DCPOs and DSWOs, Superintendents of Government and NGO run CCIs are conducted on a regular basis to discuss the problems they face to work for children and resolve those as far as possible. Interactions among different stakeholders help to remove the bottlenecks and render justice to the children.

Collaboration with NGOs: The Commission collaborates with the NGOs working on child rights and child protection across West Bengal as they have knowledge, expertise and easy access to reach people living in grass root level. The Commission organises sensitization programme on several issues with them, prepares policy document with the support of the NGOs, and gets support in follow up of cases. The Commission gets huge support in organising State Child Protection Day Programme, International Child Rights Day Programme, setting up child friendly corners in Kolkata International Book fair, Poushmela in Santiniketan , Gangasagar fair.

Action Research: The Commission undertakes action research projects based on the emerging needs in the society and to bring change in knowledge, policy and practice in terms of promoting child rights and ensuring child protection.

In the past one year, the Commission has taken up three research work-

a) **‘Demystifying School Education- Study based scopes within the system- Pilot Study-‘Towards Education the life of a child as citizen and revisiting the education system at school levels: Findings from West Bengal:** Study jointly done by WBCPCR and Keertika

b) **A Critical analysis of POCSO cases (based on the cases submitted to WBCPCR) to review its justification, implementation and practicability :** Study done jointly by WBCPCR and Jabala

c) **“Dipstick assessment on impact of Domestic violence on children” :** Study done by WBCPCR in collaboration with Action Aid India & Jayaprakash Institute of Social Change, All Bengal Women’s Union (ABWU),South Kolkata Hamari Muskan and School of Women’s Studies, Jadavpur University



Among these three research work the first one has been completed and handed over to the Education Department on 25th September,2019. Others are ongoing.

Training session organised for Members, Consultants and other staff:

A training session on the ‘ recent amendments of POCSO Act and its implications’ was conducted by Ms Ruchira Goswami, Assistant Professor, National University of Juridical Sciences

Educational sponsorship:

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Eastern Region has been taking an exemplary initiative of sponsoring one year of free education of girl children who need it most.



WBCPCR with the help of NGOs identified 22 girl children who belong to the marginalised community

and faced child rights violation in their lives. In spite of their marginalisation, conquering all difficulties these children are continuing their education and would do so in future as well.

CII handed over the cheques to the Girl Children towards their one year of free education during their HR Conclave and Regional Seminars.

Apart from the CII, BNI Ideal Kolkata Chapter also has taken similar kind of initiative. They have sponsored 6 girl children who were identified and selected by the Commission.

III Child Friendly Fair:

Poushmela, Santiniketan :

Since 2016, the Commission has been organising Child Friendly Corner in Poushmela in collaboration with the District Administration of Birbhum. This is for the first time in the state of West Bengal a fair or festival has been recognised as a Child Labour Free Fair. Children across the district were involved in many activities like drawing competition, workshop on crafts. They performed cultural programme every evening and enjoyed a lot. Each child was given a hand band stating their name, address and contact numbers.



Kolkata Book Fair :

In 2018, The West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR) organised a Child friendly corner at the 42nd International Kolkata Bookfair. Children from different corners of West Bengal participated and enjoyed. It created an impact among the visitors in the book fair as WBCPCR is the first commission in India to set up a child friendly corner in book fair. In 2019 the commission was allotted a bigger space than the previous year. Dr Shashi Panja, the Minister of State for Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Department, Ms Ananya Chakraborti, Chairperson of WBCPCR and renowned painter Mr Suvaprasanna Bhattacharjee inaugurated the child friendly corner of the commission in 43rd International Kolkata Book Fair on 2nd February 2019.



On the inaugural day, a large canvas was placed within the child friendly corner where children from various segments draw pictures and cartoons. The first touch was given by Mr Suvaprasanna. Then the other dignitaries also painted the canvas as well as the children.

Everyday children across West Bengal stepped in the corner and painted the canvas. Don Bosco Ashalayam conducted Art Workshop for children for two days and used several means of painting like slates, balloons etc. After the workshop, these drawings and painted materials were also used to decorate the corner which gives the children a sense of ownership.

Copies of Eight issues of Hullor and other publications including IEC materials like booklet, posters and research reports were displayed in the corner.

Approx more than one thousand Hullor was distributed among interested readers. There were many who collected Hullor in last year, became interested and stepped in this year to get a copy of the magazine.

A leaflet was also prepared for dissemination of information on child rights and helpline numbers.

The Bookfair continued from 2nd to 11th February. During this time, approx 1000 children and 2000 adults came to the corner, staged performance, took part in sessions, quiz, games conducted by the Commission and spent some quality time.

Children from Child Care Institutions and disadvantageous communities across Kolkata and nearby districts showcased dance performances, song, issue based dramas/skits, self defence shows etc.

The NGOs and Community Based Organisations in and around Kolkata participated and helped to conduct the activities for 10 days.

The NGOs and individuals conducted the following with children:

- Quiz on general knowledge and active citizenship
- Several interactive and edutainment games
- Demonstration of Martial Art

The renowned RJ Sekhar and RJ Manali anchored the entire 10 days activity with innovative ideas and enthusiasm which attracted the general mass to the corner.

Gangasagar Fair : WBCPCR in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development & Social Welfare organised its first Child Friendly Corner from 11th to 16th January, 2019 in Gangasagar Fair. The

Commission felt it important to organise the corner as there is a possibility of threat in regard to safety and security of children in the fair, children get missing from the fair and get trafficked in the pretext of job and marriage. It is also observed that children are employed as child labours and beggars. So, two corners were organised- one in Kachubedia and another in Gangasagar Fair. The IEC materials



in Hindi, Bengali and English were distributed among all pilgrims. A leaflet was also disseminated mentioning child helpline numbers like Child Line, Whats app Helpline number of WBCPCR. Besides this, audio and video spots were used to campaign against child labour, child marriage, missing and trafficking.



IV Awards from WBCPCR:

- **“Birangana and Birpurush Puraskar”:** Bravery Awards for children has been introduced by the Commission since 2016. Girls and boys across the state who play proactive roles in prevention of child marriage and child abuse, facilitate education & other child rights issues and thus inspire others are felicitated and awarded with trophy and certificates. Besides this, this year children who saved lives from train accident, saved lives of teachers from mob violence, rescued child from drowning and situations of trafficking were also felicitated. There is such case where the young girl fought against her biological father who tortured her psychologically and continued her education in a successful manner along with other extracurricular activities. In 2018, 26 children received the award.
- **Shishushree:** the Media Awards based on Child Rights reporting was introduced since the year 2017 to sensitize media and society on protection of child rights and the rights of minors. WBCPCR aspires to recognize and honour those journalists of Bengal from both print and electronic media (in Bengali & English) who have endeavoured to uphold child sensitive issues in a responsible manner and thereby sensitize readers and viewers. In 2018, 8 journalists got this award.
- **Police Bravery Award:** The Commission announced the Police Bravery Award as 'Child Friendly Police Personnel' in regard to her/his best performance for the children in need of care & protection for the year 2018. Some of the criteria of selecting the police personnel were : the person should be aware of all the provisions of JJ Act and POCSO Act, the person who has shown courage in preventing crimes against children and raise awareness on Child Rights as well as child protection, the person who has played a proactive role and shown responsibility on each and every case involving children , starting from registering a case to conviction of the perpetrator/s. In 2018, 3 Police Officers received this award .
- **Best Superintendent of CCI and the Best CCI Award:** The Commission introduced reward for the Best Superintendent of CCI and the Best CCI Award in West Bengal. The Commission formed a Selection Committee and selected such CCI and Superintendent who showed exemplary initiative to keep children in a safe, secured and child friendly environment with minimum resources. It was also observed whether the West Bengal Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Rules, 2017 has

been followed properly or not. In 2018, Uttarpara Shishu Abash, Hoogly and Edith Wilkins Street Children Trust Fund, Darjeeling got this award.

II. Observation of Days

- **The State Child Protection Day** was observed by WBCPCR on 9th June, 2018 in partnership with Department of Women Development & Child Development & Social

Welfare, UNICEF and other civil society organizations. Three celebrity personalities were felicitated for their invaluable contribution to the society- Ms Bibi Russel-the Bangladesh fashion designer, Satyarup Siddhanta who is the world's youngest mountaineer to climb the seven highest mountains and seven highest volcanoes in seven years and Maulana Imdadul Rashidi, Imam of a mosque in Asansol who made headlines as a messenger of peace whose 16 year old son died in riots. A new app on POCSO was introduced. Children from different districts of West Bengal performed and participated.

- The Commission celebrated **Child Rights Week** from 14th – 20th November in 2018 all over West Bengal. More than 15, 000 Children from all districts participated in the week long programmes in their respective districts. The Child Rights Week began with a colourful tram rally organised by WBCPCR where five trams full of children from CCIs and communities converged in Esplanade – Dharmtala tram depot from five different points of Kolkata.

The week long programme came to its conclusion with the celebration of **International Child Rights Day** by the WPCPCR at the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Salt Lake on 20th November in 2018. More than 1000 people including 500 children from all the districts including Kolkata participated in the programme. Retired High Court Judge Ashim Kumar Roy and Justice Nadira Patheria, Ms Sanghamitra Ghosh, IAS, Secretary of DWCD & SW, Ms Ananya Chakraborti, Chairperson of WBCPCR and members of WBCPCR, Mr Mohammad Mohiuddin , Chief of Field Office-UNICEF, police, NGOs and a number of celebrities grace the occasion with their presence.

As a part of Child Rights Week Programme, 180 underprivileged children escorted by adults attended and enjoyed 'Sky Show' programme in Birla Planetarium. The authority of the Planetarium provided this wonderful opportunity to children free of cost.

- The Commission celebrated the **National Girl Child Day** on 23rd January, 2019 with the residents of Baruipur Anandagar CCI. A colourful cultural programme with various sports activities and picnic was organised on that day. A Health camp was also held to identify the cases of Juvenile Diabetes among the CCI residents.

Consultations and workshops organised by WBCPCR in collaboration with District Administration and NGOs

1. 'An Interface with Child Champions' and ' Consultation on Street Connected Children'- two significant programmes were organised by WBCPCR in collaboration with Save the Children and CINI respectively to observe The International Day for Street Children on 12th April, 2018
2. On 4th May,2018 a round table meeting on 'Online sexual exploitation on children and usage of technology in trafficking of children' was held by WBCPCR jointly with International Justice Mission(IJM). It was a preparatory meeting prior to the International Conference on the same issue to be held in the month of December,2018
3. Consultation on Child Labour in South 24 Parganas on 12th June,2018- organised by WBCPCR in collaboration with District Administration of South 24 Parganas
4. Consultation titled 'Promoting child friendly atmosphere in school' on 26th June, 2018 in- Alipurduar
5. 'State level workshop on Mental Health Needs of Children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in Coochbehar on 27th , June 2018
6. 'State Level Workshop on Missing and Trafficking Children, focussing on tea gardens' in Coochbehar on 28th , June 2018
7. Workshop on JJ Act 2015 & RTE Act,2009 for the teachers of Madrasha and Sarva Shiksha Mission on 31st August, 2018 in WBCPCR
8. Consultation on 'Early Marriage and POCSO Act, 2012' in Murshidabad on 8th Sep, 2018
9. Consultation on 'Early Marriage and Early Pregnancy' In Purba Midnapore on 12th September, 2018
10. 2 dissemination workshops were held prior to the finalisation of the research : 'Demystifying School Education- Study based scopes within the system- Pilot Study- 'Towards Education the life of a child as citizen and revisiting the education system at school levels: Findings from West Bengal: Study jointly done by WBCPCR and Behala Keertika
11. Final Report of the above mentioned research was released on 25th Sep, 2018 handed over to the School Education Department, Govt of West Bengal
12. 'Safe School Policy' was released on 25th Sep, 2018 and handed over to the School Education Department, Govt of West Bengal
13. Consultation on 'Situation of Children in West Bengal' in WBCPCR's office on 1st October 2018
14. 'West Bengal State Level Girl Child Day Conference', 2018 in collaboration with World Vision on 11th October, 2018 to observe the International Day of the Girl Child
15. One day awareness workshop titled 'Adolescent Physical and Mental Health' on 18th Dec, 2018 organized by WBCPCR in collaboration with Ebong Alap and Sunderban Bijoyagar Disha
16. Half day discussion on 'Missing and Human Trafficking' in collaboration with Shakti Vahini on 7th January,2019 in WBCPCR
17. Interstate Consultation on the rights of migrant children to education, 30th January 2019- WBCPCR in collaboration with Save the Children

18. One day workshop on 'Impact of Child Marriage and Child Labour on Adolescent Physical and Mental Health' on 1st February 2019 in Nadia- organized by WBCPCR in collaboration with SEWA, Bharat
19. 'Consultation on POCSO Act & its proper implementation' on 9th February, 2019 in Purba Bardhaman- Organised by WBCPCR in collaboration with District Administration of Bardhaman (participated by Purva and Paschim Bardhaman, Bankura and Purulia)
20. 'Consultation on Challenges faced in Rescue, restoration and rehabilitation of missing and trafficked children and social reintegration' on 15th Feb, 2019 in Bankura- Organized by West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights in collaboration with District Administration of Bankura
21. One day Consultation for the Development of Multi Sectoral Action Plans to Prevent Child Marriage & Teenage Pregnancy on 11th March, 2019-organized by WBCPCR in collaboration with Young Lives
22. Health Awareness Camp for children in S.M.M.Liluah Home, Howrah on 28th March, 2019

Chapter 6 : Significant achievement

Workshop on Protection of Child Rights and Role of Media: Challenges and Opportunities-

It is often noted that several media houses reflect a lack of broader understanding about child rights and the relevant legal framework. This leads to violation of the right to confidentiality of the children in the reporting of news or features related to them. Hence to sensitize and inform this pivotal stakeholder, a Workshop on the Protection of Child Rights and Role of Media: Challenges and Opportunities was organised by WBCPCR, on 1st March, 2019 at Rabindra Okakura Bhawan Salt Lake with the support from CRY, Save the Children, Kolkata Sanved and Vikramshila Education Resource Society.

The Workshop was attended by students from the government and private secondary schools, media students, young journalists and members from Civil Society Organisations. Dr. Shashi Panja, Honorable Minister of State- Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, inaugurated the workshop along with other eminent dignitaries .

International Conference on Sexual Exploitation of Children in a Digital Era :

The number of children with access to the internet via computer or smartphone is rapidly growing every day all over the world. The lack of digital literacy and online safety measures expose these children to new forms of abusive threats. WBCPCR and International Justice Mission (IJM) considered it important to make the synergy among all stakeholders to protect children from exploitation through technology.

The International Conference on Sexual Exploitation of Children in a Digital Era, the first of its kind held in India, was organised on 14th-15th Dec, 2018 at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata, West Bengal with the key objective to gather prominent stakeholders to analyse, discuss and recommend convergent strategies on combating the sexual exploitation of children through online means.

The Conference aimed to bring together the most knowledgeable minds across the world onto a single, intelligible platform, to exchange ideas, discuss, deliberate and help materialise comprehensive and

effective solutions to battle the grave issue of sexual exploitation of children across various digital mediums.

The 2 day event witnessed participation from various countries, government and non- government departments, law enforcement agencies, private institutions of relevance, corporate, social services organisations and prominent domain experts.

Leaders and specialists from 15 countries including India, United States of America, Germany, Netherlands, Philippines, Uganda, Ghana and Canada attended the conference.

Post consultation, it has been decided that a booklet on 'Stay Safe Online' for children will be prepared by WBCPCR. It will be extensively used as an advocacy tool for adolescents, parents, teachers and other stakeholders.

Safe School Policy

The Commission has formulated 'Safe School Policy' with the support of West Bengal Education Network, Child Rights and You, Vikramshila Education Resource Society, Action Aid and Save the Children.

Dr Shashi Panja, MOS (IC) – DWCD & SW handed over the policy to the Education Department, Government of West Bengal on 25th September 2018 for notification and subsequently implementation in all schools.

The aim of the policy is to introduce child protection in the context of schools and to equip them to implement, monitor and evaluate it on a regular basis. It provides clear direction to staff and others about expected roles and responsibilities in dealing with child protection issues. The school's commitment is explicitly expressed in the policy in order to deal with the issues of the child protection with utmost sensitivity, keeping in mind the best interest of the child. The policy will apply to all personnel and persons related to the school and who come in direct or indirect contact with children of the School System or any other constituent directly or indirectly engaged in school system.

On the basis of a High Court Order on formulation of a set of guidelines for the purpose of ensuring safety and security of children in schools, the School Education Department has adopted the 'Safe School Policy' and formulated guidelines for the child safety from sexual abuses in the school. In compliance with the direction of the Hon'ble High Court passed in WP 31138(w) of 2017 dated 16th November, 2018 and in pursuant to provision of the Revised Final Report dated 16th November, 2018 the guideline was notified by the Governor. A State Level Nodal Committee has been formed where the Representatives have also been included as members. The notification will be applicable to the schools which impart education from the pre-primary to higher secondary level and receive any kind of aid from the State Government and/or recognized under the respective Boards or Council of the State.

Incorporation of child rights issue in the Training Manual of Gram Panchayat Member and Officials

The Society for Training & Research on Panchayats & Rural Development (STARPAR) under Panchayats & Rural Development Department, Government of West Bengal has developed a Training Manual where the issues of child rights and child protection have been included. The Chairperson and the Consultants conducted intensive training sessions with the Memners of Gram Panchayat and Officials of all 23 districts.

Chapter 7 : Information under the Right to Information Act, 2005

Applications under RTI Act, 2005 received in the year 2018-19					
No. of RTI application received	No. of RTI application disposed of	No. of first appeal arising out of the applications	No. of first appeal disposed of	No. of second appeal before State Chief Information Commission	No. of second appeal disposed of
18	18	4	3	1	1
Cases related to: a) JJ Act: 9 b) RTE: 7 c) POCSO: 1 d) Other: 1		Cases related to : a) JJ Act: 1 b) RTE:3		Case related to: a) JJ Act:1	

Chapter 8 : Publications of WBCPCR

- i. The Report of the research titled '**Demystifying School Education- Study based scopes within the system- Pilot Study- 'Towards Education the life of a child as citizen and revisiting the education system at school levels: Findings from West Bengal**' was published on 25th September, 2018 by Dr Shashi Panja, MOS (IC) – DWCD & SW and it was handed over to the Department of School Education, Government of West Bengal. The study was done jointly by WBCPCR and Behala Keertika
- ii. **A game on POCSO Act** has been conceived and developed by the Commission to give an idea what the POCSO Act entails, what are the measures one can take if any case of abuse happens with a girl or boy, who can be contacted, what are the punitive measures. It can be downloaded from the Google play store. The game has been translated in 3 languages- Bengali, English and Hindi. It is widely used in different schools, CCIs across the state of West Bengal as a means of campaign against sexual abuse on children.
- iii. **A Pocket Handbook for Media and Journalists reporting on Child Rights** has been developed by WBCPCR jointly with four organisations. The booklet outlines reporting guidelines that Media representatives can follow while covering incidents of child rights violations in the field, so that the dignity and best interest of the child is maintained thoroughly.
- iv. The **POCSO booklet** was initially developed in Bengali. As it has gained enormous popularity among all schools, so , for an wider reach it has been developed in English and released during International Conference on Sexual Exploitation of Children in a Digital Era on 14th-15th Dec, 2018.
- v. **WBCPCR's calendar of 2019** was released on International Child Rights Day programme on 20th November at EZCC, Saltlake. The subject of the calendar was "The Child in Ray". It was created with 12 still photos of Oscar winner director Satyajit Ray's 12 Films. Each of the sequence of the photos was somehow connected to children and their issues.

HULLOR

West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights publishes a children’s magazine- Hullor. It is a quarterly magazine of and for the children.

It is a prominent children’s magazine in the country, where minors from a wide cross- section of the society, including CCL (Children in Conflict with Law) and CNCP (Children in Need of Care and Protection) children can voice their opinion, depict their dreams and illustrate their aspirations side by side with celebrities like Sankha Ghosh, Sourav Ganguly , Soumitra Chatterjee, Chiranjit or Bachendri Paul.

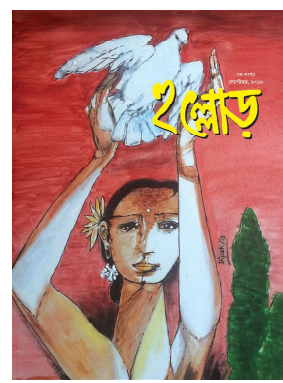
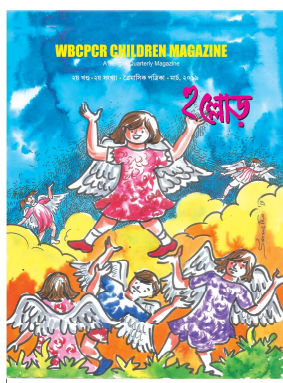
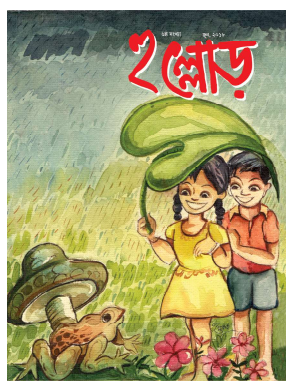
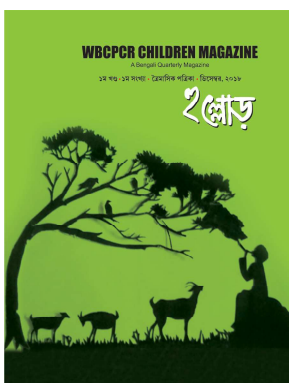
It has obtained due registration from Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) as WBCPCR CHILDREN MAGAZINE (Reg. No. WBBEN/ 2018/76942).

Since its inaugural issue, Hullor received huge appreciation from all quarters specially from the children of CCIs and school children. They rarely get any scope to read a Sankha Ghosh or a Sourav Ganguly’s interview or to get in touch with Chiranjit’s painting which they get here.

Here children get the flavor of wildlife of Masaimara, Keniya or Bandhabgarh , Madhyapradesh through the camera of eminent actor and wildlife photographer Sabyasachi Chakrabarty. At the same time, Bachedri Pal, the first Indian woman who reached the summit of Mount Everest tells them about the golden rules to overcome mountains and as well as unprecedented obstacles in life.

Simultaneously, there are several sections like the Cover Story or Counseling which deals with child rights issues like Right to Education, Trafficking, Kanyashree, Right to Play, Child Marriage. Hullor has introduced a comic strip “Dustur Dustumi” where a girl child character , Dustu does many daring activities to protect child rights. Dustu is the representative of all the brave children of Bengal.

In brief, Hullor inspires the children to learn how to think and also empowers them on better awareness regarding rights of children ensured under the acts and provisions implemented by CPCR.



Chapter 9 :Recommendations by WBCPCR (2018-2019)

- 1. Need of Comprehensive Child Protection Policy:** The notification bearing no.739/1-se (law)/sl/5s-356/18 dated 26.06.19 and the Guideline for “The child safety from sexual abuses in the school” has been issued by School Education Department, Government of West Bengal. But the guideline covers only preventive measure against the sexual abuse in school and measures after incident of alleged sexual abuse in school.

However all children need to be safe not only from the sexual abuse but also from other violations and violence inflicted on them in the best interest of children.

So, the Commission recommends that the State of West Bengal should have a comprehensive Child Protection Policy to be applied in all schools and other institutions concerned with children.

- 2. Mental Health related issues:** The percentage of child death (Date Source: complaints lodged related to child death and suo motu cognizance taken by WBCPCR in 2017/18 and 2018/19) has increased 139% in one year. It has been observed by the Commission that due to increased pressure in school, parental pressure and a negative perception of life, young children develop stress, depression and anxiety. Resultantly they commit suicide. Most of the times, the information of their mental health concern is not shared with the school authorities as parents often go into denial mode when it comes to their children’s mental health.

Thus, the Commission recommends the following:

-Inclusion of information related to mental health concern of the students in school diary in order to create a mechanism of keeping record of such information

-Formulation of Parental Guidelines

-Relook at the syllabus of schools under all Boards, Councils and Madrasahs and review examination patterns

- 3. Abnormal Fee structure in Private Schools & Other RTE Related Issues:** Charging of exorbitant fees by the private schools is a major cause of concern. In the past one year, the Commission had to deal with a considerable number of such cases.

Following are the recommendations:

I. Fee structure of private English medium schools:

- a) There should be a relevant State Rule to curb the tendency of abnormal increase in admission fee by the private English medium schools as it goes against RTE. As minority unaided schools and play schools are not legally bound to follow the government instructions, a State Rule is to be necessarily designed to address the issue. There may be a ceiling in admission and session fee hike.
- b) Readmission fee in every class is not acceptable and this issue may be addressed by the School Education Department.
- c) Scope of fee hike through introducing co-curricular activities and exposure/ study trip/ excursion (especially to expensive places) must be regulated.

Chapter 9 :Recommendations by WBCPCR (2018-2019)

II. “Economically Weaker Section” (EWS) as stated in RTE, 2009:

- a) As per the Section 2 clause (e) of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, weaker sections are defined as ‘children belonging to weaker economic categories that the appropriate governments have to notify, based on a minimum annual income of the parents/guardians.’

But as the term “Economically Weaker Section” (EWS) hasn’t been defined specifically by the State government through a notification, the schools take admission under the EWS category based on the BPL status of the child.

So, the term ‘EWS’ is required to be defined properly. In this regard, in defining EWS, the practice of some other States like Maharashtra, Bihar may be referred to, and a suitable strategy may be adopted with convergence of all relevant government departments.

- b) In addressing the issue of EWS, if part of the expenditure incurred by the schools is to be borne/reimbursed by the Government, then the process for that needs to be properly defined.

III. RTE related issues:

- a) There should not be any compulsion from the end of the school administration affiliated by ICSE & CBSE and such other Boards to the students and their guardian for buying shoes, books and other required materials from respective schools or particular outlets or brands prescribed by the school.
- b) Play Schools should also be taken under the State Government scanner. Therefore RTE needs to be expanded from the age of 2.
- c) The State Government needs to have the power to take legal action against ICSE and CBSE Boards if they violate provisions of RTE as well as the State Rule.

4. MID DAY MEAL:

i) The quality of Mid day Meal and the availability of raw materials for preparation of the Meal should be ensured for all children

ii) Midday Meal Scheme may be extended to at least to class X.

5. **Prevention of cases of child rights violation and follow up:** The officials of local self government and administrative officials at district levels should take more proactive role in prevention of trafficking, child marriage, child labour and all kinds of abuse on children. The members of Block Level Child Protection Committee and Village Level Child Protection Committee should take measures to follow up the cases related to child rights violation to eliminate recurring incidents.
6. **Segregation of children in CCI as per age:** It has been observed that adult children in CCI often want to take control over the younger children and show aggressive behaviour to them. So, it is recommended that there should be provision of accommodating children in CCIs based on their age range. There should be three categories: 6-10 years, 10-14 years and 14-18 years.
7. **Setting up Formal Schools in CCI:** The Children In Need Of Care of Protection residing in CCI often lack the facility to access formal school due to several reasons. It happens with the Children in Conflict With Law also. It is recommended that formal schools up to class X should be set up within the CCI to ensure their right to education.

Government of West Bengal

West Bengal Commission For Protection Of Child Rights -WBCPCR

ICMARD Building (9th Floor), 14/Z, C.I.T Scheme VIII(M), Ultadanga , Kolkata : 700 067

Report & Accounts
Year ended 31st.March, 2019.

GAUTAM BASU & CO.

Chartered Accountants

6-B, Sevak Baidya Street;
Ground Floor,

Chapter 10 : Auditor's report and Balance Sheet



Gautam Basu & Co.

Chartered Accountants

Gautam Basu M.Com., F.C.A.

Mobile : 9903336720

E-mail : gtmbasu@gmail.com

6-B, Sevak Baidya Street

Kolkata - 700029

AUDITORS' REPORT

We report that we have audited the Balance sheet of WEST BENGAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS, an autonomous entity under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005 as at 31st. March, 2019, the Income & Expenditure Account and the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended as on that date, all annexed here to. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the Commission.. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosure in the financial statements. An audit also include assuring the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, proper books of account as required have been kept by the Commission so far as appears from our examination of those books. The Balance Sheet, the Income & Expenditure Account and the Receipts & Payments Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the Books of Account.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit.

In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Commission, visited by us, so far as appears from our examination of those books.

In our opinion, and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view :

- (a) in the case of the Balance sheet of the state of affairs of the Commission for their Account as at 31st. March, 2019; and
- (b) in the case of the Income & Expenditure Account of the excess of income over expenditure of its accounting year ended as on that date.

For **GAUTAM BASU & CO.**
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No.313010E

(Signature)
(GAUTAM BASU)
Proprietor
Membership No.050924



Chapter 10 : Auditor's report and Balance Sheet



Gautam Basu & Co.

Chartered Accountants

Gautam Basu M.Com., F.C.A.

Mobile : 9903336720

E-mail : gtmbasu@gmail.com

6-B, Sevak Baidya Street

Kolkata - 700029

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE

West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights has been formed to meet the objectives stated under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 at the state level. It is formed as an autonomous entity under the Child Development and Women Development & Social Welfare Department Government of West Bengal having separate set of books of accounts and bank accounts.

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- i. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention following cash basis of accounting.

2. FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

- i. Fixed assets are stated net of Depreciation. Any addition during the year comprises purchase price inclusive of duties, taxes, and incidental expenses if any, as applicable.

3. REVENUE RECOGNITION

Revenue is recognized as and when received. Grants are recognized in the accounts only when the grant is received by the Commission. During the year 2018-2019 Govt Grant received and credited to the bank for an amount of Rs. 29221000.00 . Other Grants received by the Commission during the year 2018-19 was Rs.3515002.00 .

NOTES OF THE ACCOUNTS

- a. Since there was nil cash in hand on 31.03.2019 no specified bank note deposited in Bank Account (during the year ended 31 st March, 2019) Cash balance as on 31.03.2019 has been certified by the Management of the Commission.
- b. Depreciation/ has been provided on Furniture. @ 10% AC Machine @ 15% & on Computer @ 20%.



Chapter 10 : Auditor's report and Balance Sheet

GAUTAM BASU & CO.
Chartered Accountants

Government of West Bengal
West Bengal Commission For Protection Of Child Rights -WBCPCR
ICMARD Building (9th Floor),14/2, C.I.T Scheme VIII(M), Ultadanga , Kolkata : 700 067

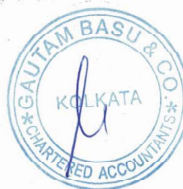
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2019

LIABILITIES	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	ASSETS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
<u>Capital Fund :</u>			<u>Furniture :</u>		
As per Last A/c	3375298.59		As per Last A/c	1047906.00	
Add :Surplus/Transfer from I & E Account	<u>5461351.00</u>	8836649.59	Add : Addition during the year	<u>285266.00</u>	
				1333172.00	
			Less : Depreciation	<u>119054.00</u>	1214118.00
			<u>AC Maachine :</u>		
			As per Last A/c	362358.00	
			Less : Depreciation	<u>54354.00</u>	308004.00
			<u>Computer :</u>		
			As per Last A/c	874480.30	
			Add : Addition during the year	<u>252159.00</u>	
				1126639.30	
			Less : Depreciation	<u>400224.00</u>	726415.30
			Advance for Programme		789000.00
			<u>Closing Balance as on 31.03.2019 :</u>		
			Cash in hand (As certified)	3866.00	
			Balance with Axis Bank	2812140.00	
			Balance with Corporation Bank	<u>2983106.29</u>	5799112.29
		<u>8836649.59</u>			<u>8836649.59</u>

As Per Our Report Annexed
for GAUTAM BASU & CO.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No. : 313010E

(GAUTAM BASU)

Proprietor
Membership No. . 050924



Dated; 9 th July, 2019

Chapter 10 : Auditor's report and Balance Sheet

GAUTAM BASU & CO.
Chartered Accountants

Government of West Bengal
West Bengal Commission For Protection Of Child Rights -WBCPCR
ICMARD Building (9th Floor),14/2, C.I.T Scheme VIII(M), Ultadanga , Kolkata : 700 067

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2019

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Annual Report & Magazine Printing		1762581.00	Donation From NGOs		52000.00
Audit Fees		23600.00	Donations From Individuals		57000.00
Bibi Russel & Liluah Expenses		141908.00	Grant From Department (W & CD and SW)		29221000.00
Car & Telephone Allowance of CP & Members		280920.00	Grant From NCPCR		440902.00
Car Hiring Charges of Office		914258.00	Grant From UNICEF		3074100.00
Child Protection & Child Rights Day		4333515.00	Interest From AXIS BANK		53921.00
Electricity & Water Tax		400381.00	Interest From Corporation Bank		23958.00
Honorarium to Consultants		3707833.00	Other Receipts		178763.00
Honorarium to CP & Members		2851000.00	WB Pollution Control Board		84000.00
IEC Printed Materials		615143.00			
Meeting & Seminars/Research/W.Shop etc		5258850.00			
Office Exp & Other Charges		1843955.00			
Office Telephone Charges		335597.00			
Public Hearing / Home Visit / School Visit		244283.00			
Office Rent		3395942.00			
Research Work with Keertika / Jabala		317346.00			
Sishusree & Others Awards		90000.00			
Wages of Group D		633549.00			
<u>Depreciation on</u>					
Furniture	119054.00				
AC Machine	54354.00				
Computer	400224.00	573632.00			
Surplus - Transfer to Capital Fund Account		5461351.00			
		<u>33185644.00</u>			<u>33185644.00</u>

Dated: 9 th July, 2019



As Per Our Report Annexed
for GAUTAM BASU & CO.

Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No. : 313010E

Ban

(GAUTAM BASU)

Proprietor

Membership No. : 050924

Chapter 10 : Auditor's report and Balance Sheet

GAUTAM BASU & CO.
Chartered Accountants

Government of West Bengal
West Bengal Commission For Protection Of Child Rights -WBCPCR
ICMARD Building (9th Floor),14/2, C.I.T Scheme VIII(M), Ultadanga , Kolkata : 700 067

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2019

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<u>Opening Balance as on 01.04.2018</u>			Annual Report & Magazine Printing	1762581.00	
Balance with Axis Bank	601533.00		Audit Fees	23600.00	
Balance with Corporation Bank	187965.29	789498.29	Bibi Russel & Liluah Expenses	141908.00	
Donation From NGOs		52000.00	Car & Telephone Allowance of CP & Members	280920.00	
Donations From Individuals		57000.00	Car Hiring Charges of Office	914258.00	
Grant From Department (W & CD and SW)		29221000.00	Child Protection & Child Rights Day	4333515.00	
Grant From NCPCR		440902.00	Electricity & Water Tax	400381.00	
Grant From UNICEF		3074100.00	Honorarium to Consultants	3707833.00	
Interest From AXIS BANK		53921.00	Honorarium to CP & Members	2851000.00	
Interest From Corporation Bank		23958.00	IEC Printed Materials	615143.00	
Other Receipts		178763.00	Meeting & Seminars/Research/W.Shop etc	5258850.00	
WB Pollution Control Board		84000.00	Office Exp & Other Charges	1843955.00	
T.D.S (Party)		371765.00	Office Telephone Charges	335597.00	
			Public Hearing / Home Visit / School Visit	244283.00	
			Office Rent	3395942.00	
			Research Work with Keertika / Jabala	317346.00	
			Sishusree & Others Awards	90000.00	
			Wages of Group D	633549.00	
			Advance for Programme	487944.00	
			Furniture	285266.00	
			Computer	252159.00	
			T.D.S (Party)	371765.00	
			<u>Closing Balance as on 31.03.2019 :</u>		
			Cash in hand (As certified)	3866.00	
			Balance with Axis Bank	2812140.00	
			Balance with Corporation Bank	2983106.29	5799112.29
		<u>34346907.29</u>			<u>34346907.29</u>

As Per Our Report Annexed
for GAUTAM BASU & CO.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No. : 313010E



(Signature)
(GAUTAM BASU)
Proprietor
Membership No. : 050924

Dated: 9 th July, 2019

Chapter 11 : Photo Gallery



Chapter 11 : Photo Gallery



Chapter 12 : WBCPCR in Media

যৌন অপরাধ রোধে 'শিশু-সুরক্ষা আইন' সংক্রান্ত বইয়ের প্রশংসা আইনজীবীদের

নিজস্ব প্রতিনিধি, কলকাতা: যৌন হারানির রূপে বার্তা শিশু কমিশনের তরফে শিশু-সুরক্ষা আইন (২০১২) সম্পর্কিত বইটি সপ্রতি রাজ্যের বিভিন্ন স্থানে ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের মধ্যে বিলি করা হয়েছে। একাধিক ছবি দিয়ে সাজানো এই বইটির ডুম্মী প্রশংসা করেছেন পক্ষসো মামলার সব স্তূপ সরকারি আইনজীবীরা। তাঁদের বক্তব্য, সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধি করতে এই বইটি স্থূল পড়ুয়ার 'শিশু' দেখাবে। দক্ষিণ ২৪ পরগনার মুখ্য সরকারি আইনজীবী রাধাকান্ত মুখোপাধ্যায় বলেন, সরকারের এই উদ্যোগ প্রশংসনীয়। বইটি যত বেশি প্রচার হবে, এই ধরনের অপরাধ দমন করা তত বেশি সহজ হবে। অপর্যায়ীরাও ভ্রম পাবে।

আদালতে এই ধরনের বিভিন্ন বই ছাড়াও রয়েছে নানা খেলার সামগ্রী। যে সব শিশু নির্যাতনের শিকার হয়েছে, তারা যাতে নির্ভয়ে সাফা দিতে পারে, তার জন্যই বিশেষ আদালতে একটি আলাদা পরিবেশ তৈরি করা হয়েছে। পক্ষসোর বিশেষ আদালতের সরকারি আইনজীবী মিঃ দাস বলেন, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ শিশু অধিকার

কী আছে এই বইয়ে? কত ভাবে যৌন হেনস্তা হতে পারে, তার একটি সামগ্রিক চিত্র রয়েছে ওই বইয়ে। যা লেখায় এবং রেখায় মুদ্রিত। পাশাপাশি এই ধরনের অপরাধ রুখতে কী কী পদক্ষেপ নেওয়া হবে, সেই কথাও বলা আছে। এমন অপরাধ ঘটলে কোথায় অভিযোগ জানাতে হবে এবং করা সুরক্ষা দেবেন,

রাজ্য শিশু কমিশনের তরফে উদ্যোগ

সুরক্ষা অ্যারোগের (শিশু কমিশন) এই বইটি শুধু স্থূল পড়ুয়া নয়, তাদের অভিভাবকদেরও পড়া উচিত। দায়রা বিশেষজ্ঞ জগদীশচন্দ্র মজুমদার বলেন, যৌন অপরাধ সংক্রান্ত শিশু-সুরক্ষা আইনের বিভিন্ন ধারা এবং উপধারা সকলে জানানো। এই বইটি সহজ সরল ভাষায় লেখা ও বিভিন্ন ছবিতে তামা। যা থেকে প্রাথমিকভাবে ছাত্রছাত্রীরা বিস্ময় উপলব্ধি করতে পারবে।

তারও উল্লেখ রয়েছে। সব শেষে এই মামলার বিচার আদালতে কোন পরিবেশে হবে, তার বিশদ বিবরণ দেওয়া হয়েছে। দুই অবসরপ্রাপ্ত বিচারক গোপাল সরকার এবং তপন সিংহা বলেন, সরকার এই ধরনের বই, লিফলেট, হ্যান্ডবল ইত্যাদি যত বেশি সংখ্যক ছাত্রছাত্রী ও সাধারণ মানুষের কাছে পৌঁছে দেবে, তত সকলের মঙ্গল হবে। এর মাধ্যমে এই ধরনের অপরাধ কিছুটা হলেও রোধ করা সম্ভব হবে।

রকমারি অনুষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে রাজ্যে শিশু দিবস পালিত

নিজস্ব প্রতিনিধি, কলকাতা: নানা অনুষ্ঠান ও কর্মসূচির মাধ্যমে বৃহৎ শহরের বিভিন্ন জায়গায় পালিত হল শিশু দিবস। রাজ্য শিশু কমিশনের উদ্যোগে এদিন দুঃস্থ শিশুদের নিয়ে ট্রামে করে শহর ভ্রমণের আয়োজন করা হয়েছিল। বেলা ১২টা নাগাদ শ্যামবাজার, বিদ্যাপুর এবং নোনাপুকুর তিপসা থেকে একাধিক ট্রাম ছড়ে। সেজেসেজে রাজ্যের সেই ট্রামে ৩৫। তাদের সঙ্গী ছিলেন শিশু কমিশনের সদস্যরা। গানবাজনা মেতে ওঠে কচিকাচারা। দুপুরে সবক'টি ট্রাম ধর্মসভায় পৌঁছানোর পর সেখানে বাচ্চাদের জন্য অপেক্ষা করছিল আরও চমক। সেখানে নানা সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে দিনটি উপন্যাস করা হয়।



সচেতনতা শিবিরের মাধ্যমে শিশু দিবস উদ্‌যাপিত হল। ইন্ডিয়ান ডেন্টাল অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের রাজ্য শাখার উদ্যোগে আর আহমেদ ডেন্টাল কলেজে স্বাস্থ্য শিবিরে... যোগে করা হয়েছিল। সেখানে আর ১০ খাজার শিশুর কিম্বোমে মুগে পরীক্ষা করা হয়। পাশাপাশি সচেতনামূলক শিবিরে তারার থিমপেই এবং থিমপেই দেওয়া হয়। বাচ্চাদের স্বাস্থের প্রতি বড়বন হওয়ার ও পরামর্শ দিয়েছেন চিকিৎসকরা। দূর্ঘটকেন্দ্রীয়া সড়ক দুর্ঘটকেন্দ্রীয়া আইডিও এর রাজ্য শাখার অফিসের রাজ্য বিদ্যালয় বলেন, মুখ ও নাকের দুঃস্থ অস্বস্তি নির্মূল করে নিয়মিত রাস করা ও মুগের ব্যয় নেওয়ার উপহাস। শিশুদের এই নিয়ে সচেতন করে তোলাই আমাদের লক্ষ্য। পাশাপাশি, কলকাতা মেডিক্যাল কলেজ হাসপাতালের মেটালোজি বিভাগেও শিশু দিবস পালন করা হয়। বিভাগের প্রধান মেয়েটি উভ্যচরণ বলেন, লিডউকেমিয়া, হেমেবলিডিয়া এবং থ্যালাসেমিয়া আক্রান্ত বই শিশু আচ্চকের দিনলিটকে রোগব্যাপি হলে আনন্দ উৎসবে শরিল হয়। এছাড়াও হাসপাতালের পেডিয়াট্রিক বিভাগে মা এবং শিশুদের নানা অনুষ্ঠানে শরিল করা হয়। বাচ্চাদের হতে হলে দেওয়া হয় খেলনা। এছাড়া ম্যাগনাস ইন্সটিটিউট অব হোমিওপ্যাথি এবং ঠাকুরপুকুরের একটি বেসরকারি ক্লাবের হাসপাতালেও এই দিনটি পালন করা হয়। পাশাপাশি, বিভিন্ন সরকারি স্কুলেও দিনটি সাড়্বরে পালিত হয়েছে। বই বেসরকারি স্কুলে যেমন শুলে শুলে শুলে প্রভিব্যাটার আয়োজন করা হয়। যোগাও আবার থেপাওয়ার আয়োজন করা হয়েছিল। • নিজস্ব চিত্র

চরম মূল্য দিতে হয় শৈশবকেই

এই সময়: আদালতে দেড় বছরের শিশুক দেখিয়ে মা অসুস্থিতা পাল দে-কে আনিন পাইয়ে দেওয়ার মরিয়া চেষ্টা করছেন আইনজীবীরা। কিশু, সরকারি আইনজীবীর বিরোধিতায় ব্যর্থ হল। মা-কে আর অসুস্থিতাদের জন্ম পাবে না মুগের শিশু। আশাতত সপ্টলেবে দাধু-দাদার বাড়িই তার আশ্রয়। নিউ টাউনের আইনজীবী হওয়ার ঘটনায় সবচেয়ে মামুতিক দিক সজ্বত এটাই। বাবা খুন হয়েছেন, এ বাস মায়ের কোল থেকেও বঞ্চিত হল শিশুটি। ২৪ ডিসেম্বর রাতে মায়ের হাতে বাবা খুন হওয়ার সময় মামার বাড়িতে ছিল সে।

মেজাজ হারানো খামীর-স্ত্রীর মধ্যে ক্ষুণ্ণিত বাসুন্দে বা বাস্তাহেতিস সোকা মর্ষণ। কখনও বৈতিক সলক্ষ থেকে বিচারে হওয়ার মামলার টানাপোড়নের উপকরণ। বাবা না মা—কদর পক্ষে যাবে সেটাই তো বুঝে উঠতে পারে না যেটার। মত নিতে গেলে বেশিরভাগই বলে, 'বাবা-মা দু'জনকে চাই।' আদালতে সন্তানের

চিন্তিত কমিশন

দেখাশোনার অধিকার পেতে মা-বাবার আইনি লড়াইয়ে বিচারপতি সন্তানের মতামত চেয়েছেন, এমনও বই নজির রয়েছে দেশের সর্বত্র। সন্তানের মুখ চেয়ে মা-বাবাকে 'ভালো করে ডবাব' উপলক্ষে দিয়েছে আদালত, এমন নজিরও কম নেই। তবু নিশ্চিন্ত হচ্ছে না। ফলে ভবিষ্যৎ অনিশ্চিত হয়ে পড়েছে বই শিশু-কিশোরের।

ক্রমশ বাড়তে থাকা এই সামাজিক সমস্যার সমাধান পেতে উদ্যোগী

হয়েছে রাজ্য শিশু অধিকার রক্ষা কমিশনও। সংস্থার চেয়ারম্যান অশ্বতা মুক্তাঙ্গী বলেন, 'প্রতিদিন এমন বই সমস্যার মুখোমুখি হতে হয় আমাদের। এই সমস্যা ক্রমশ বড় হচ্ছে। খামীর-স্ত্রীর সাংগঠনিক আশ্রিত ও শীতল সম্পর্কের ফলে সন্তানের যত্ন কী অস্বস্তি হয়, সেই সম্পর্কে ইতিমধ্যেই টারটি সংস্থা কাজ করছে কলকাতা ও রাজ্যের আরও আটটি জেলায় এবং সোনাগাঁওতে।' এই সংস্থার সদস্য সুদক্ষা রায়ও শিশুদের মামুতিক অস্বস্তর কথা বলতে গিয়ে বলেন, 'এমন মনে করার কোনও কারণ নেই যে এই ধরনের সমস্যা শুধু শহরগুলোতে ও অর্থনৈতিক ভাবে সচ্ছলদের মধ্যেই আটকে রয়েছে।' শহর ও গ্রাম মিলিয়েই সমাজের সব স্তরে এই সমস্যা রয়েছে।' রাজ্য শিশু অধিকার রক্ষা কমিশন আশা করছে, এডিলিং-নে নাগার সক্রিয়তার কাজ নেই হবে এই ধরনের ঘটনায় শিশুদের অবস্থা ফেরাতে কী করা যেতে পারে, তার রূপরেখা তৈরি করা সহজ হবে।

Mission to save kids from online exploitation

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Joy Sadhu Khan

TIPS TO CYBER EDUCATE YOUR CHILDREN

- Do not let your children use social media apps, where photos or videos can be exchanged, unguided
- Do not let them make video calls to anybody in your absence
- Tell them not to click on any pop-ups while surfing online
- Monitor their online activities
- Encourage them to speak to you about any cyber bullying or blackmailing



Ajeay Ranade, IG, CID (left) and West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights chairman Ananya Chatterjee Chakraborti (right) discuss their plans on Wednesday

Kolkata: The government is set to launch a campaign to sensitize parents and schools against the rising menace of child pornography and sexual abuse of children through social media.

In order to devise a stronger firewall and enhance investigating methods of

Times View

This is a serious issue and deserves all the attention it is getting. The scope for damage is vast and both children and parents need to be made aware of the potential dangers.

government agencies, the West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, along with International Justice Mission, will hold an international conference on Sexual Exploitation in a Digital Era. Senior officials from several IT companies, social media platform cops from different countries and school principals will meet to chalk out a modus operandi to protect

kids from falling prey to pornography, exchange tips to enhance investigating capabilities and stress the formulation of stronger laws to tackle trans-border exploitation of children through social media. The commission is a wing of the department of women and child development and social welfare.

"The nature of child pornography and exploitation of minors is changing and it has become a cause of concern

for us," said commission chairperson Ananya Chatterjee Chakraborti, pointing out how human traffickers were using technology to escape the law. "The traffickers target children who are active online. They befriend the kids whom they coax into sending them their photos or videos or let them gain access to their private albums. Once they have the access, they start blackmailing the kids," said Chakraborti.

Saji Philip, director of operations of IJM in Kolkata, explained how children were kidnapped and then forced to engage in inappropriate acts for "clients" sitting in other countries. "The traffickers who post the pictures online are contacted by those interested. These clients are mostly from other countries. The children are forced to engage in sexual acts, depending on the demand of the client, who pays. The person sits at home and watches the entire thing unfold on social media," Philip said.

At the conference to be held at Biswa Bangla Centre on Friday and Saturday, investigating agencies in Kolkata will share their knowledge with their counterparts from other countries, aiming to enhance their investigative skills and creating a strong deterrence for people attempting to exploit kids. "This has become a global issue and not limited to a certain pocket or jurisdiction of any one agency. We need to devise a strategy to tackle it. We hold awareness sessions and undertake steps to create deterrence," said Ajeay Ranade, IG, CID.

Chapter 12 : WBCPCR in Media

Children inspire with acts of courage

JHINUK MAZUMDAR

Calcutta: A 17-year-old from Murshidabad who had severed ties with her family when they tried to marry her off in Class VIII has become a prominent voice against child marriage and helped save seven girls like her from forced matrimony. Sumi Khatoon, who was barely in her teens when her parents decided she should get married, found support from her grandmother and some of her teachers and neighbours. She has since been living with her grandmother in Sampara village, continuing her education and emerging as a woman of substance.

Sumi, now in Class XI, works with a local NGO that watches over girls being forced to quit studies and get married early. "Whenever we hear of such incidents, we approach the local administration and the police so that we can intervene and stop such marriages," she said on Tuesday after being conferred a

bravery award. Sumi was among 26 girls and boys who received Birangana and Birpurush awards at an International Child Rights Day programme organised at the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre in Salt Lake. One of the awards instituted by the West Bengal State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the department of women and child development and social welfare went to Priyanka Singha Roy, whose training in taekwondo has given her the strength and courage to stand up for herself and others.

Priyanka, 17, was once stalked by a group of youths in a Sainthia neighbourhood and, like many women in similar situations, had her hand pulled by one of them. She fought them off alone, packing a punch that she believes would prevent them from targeting a woman again. Several other stories of grit in the face of adversity and selflessness were acknow-



Sumi Khatoon and (right) Priyanka Singha Roy demonstrates a high kick before receiving her bravery award at the International Child Rights Day event on Tuesday.



Priyanka Singha Roy demonstrates a high kick before receiving her bravery award at the International Child Rights Day event on Tuesday.

ed at the event. One of those brave faces was Rumpa Pramanik, who risked her life to save a toddler a couple of months ago. Rumpa, a Class XI student at Sarisha Kunapur Anchal High School in Narayanpur block of West Midnapore, was

excused myself from the class and ran out. By then, the boy was almost in the water. I had never swum in a sarai, but I jumped in without giving it a thought. My only concern then was to save the child. I am glad I was able to do so," Rumpa said.

Ayantika Pramanik, Indram Das, Tamushree Prasad and Poulomi Sinha, all students of Binodini Girls' High School in south Calcutta, were felicitated for an act of courage like no other. This one involved running across the rail tracks at Dhakuria to shield one of their teachers from a mob that had earlier ransacked their institution. Subho Mondal, Anil Singh and Rupak Didiya from Hooghly received awards for averting a potential train accident after noticing a crack on a rail track and grabbing the attention of a driver by waving a red piece of clothing. The awards are meant to be not only a recognition of bravery but also an acknowledgment of the primacy of child rights. "It is important to encourage children because they have young minds that can be moulded very easily. If they see other children getting awards, they will themselves feel inspired," said Anannya Chatterjee Chakraborti, chair-

person of the West Bengal State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Sanghamitra Ghosh, the secretary of the department of women and child development and social welfare, told the audience of mostly schoolchildren that students needed to be aware of their rights. "The government and the commission is working to protect child rights, but you have to remember that self help is the best help. You cannot forget that nothing is more powerful than your ability to stand for yourself." The commission also gave away awards to police personnel, NGOs and children's institutions for rescuing children and women from traffickers. According to Chakraborti, the commission needs stakeholders like the police, judiciary, NGOs and civil society to help out in its mission. "In Bengal, there are approximately 3.3 crore children below the age of 18 and that is the magnitude of the challenge we face," she said.

পড়ুয়াদের সুরক্ষা বিধি স্কুলে গিয়ে শেখাবে শিশু কমিশন

শৈশবিক ন্যায় • কলকাতা

প্রায়ই স্কুলে স্কুলে পড়ুয়াদের শারীরিক নিরাপত্তা বিকলি সন্দেহ আসছে। কখনও অভিযোগ উঠে উঁচু রাস্তার পড়ুয়াদের বিরুদ্ধে। কখনও বা সরাসরি হুমকি উঠে, শিক-শিককারীর পিছু। অন্যদিকে, অভিযোগ করলে পাছে সমস্যা হয়, তাই মূখ্য স্কুলিকের কাছে সরাসরি করে বন্ধ পড়ুয়া। স্কুলভেদে এই সমস্যাগুলি সোনিয়া করে যাচ্ছে। ন্যায়ের পক্ষ থেকে পড়ুয়াদের নিরাপত্তা এবং স্কুলে পড়াশোনা করার জন্যে তারা কলকাতার ছাত্রসংগঠনের প্যাসপোর্ট উপস্থিত থাকবে। শিশু, শিকাকর্মী। কার কী কর্তব্য, সবটাই

যেখানে কমিশনের কর্তব্য। পৃথকভাবে একাধিক বেসরকারি স্কুল ছাত্রদের শারীরিক হুমকির ঘটনা বিবেচনা উভাল হয়েছে। সেই সব ঘটনার শিককারী কলকাতার উঠেছে। যে স্কুলে এমনটা ঘটে, তাদের নামও খালি রাখা যাবে। এমন সব ঘটনা বেছে নিতে সুরক্ষা সন্যস্ত আঁধা নিজে সকলেরই প্রচেষ্টা হওয়া প্রয়োজন। তবে মনে করবেন কমিশনের কর্তব্য। স্কুলে গিয়ে প্রেক্ষিতই কমিশনের এই প্যাসপোর্ট উপস্থিত করে। (পিসসি) কী, কোন কোন অঙ্গপত্র করলে এই আইন লঙ্ঘন হতে পারে, সেই তালিকা দেওয়ার পিছনে হবে কলকাতার অভিযোগ কমান্ডে হুমকি থাকাই ফুলগুলিতে এই বিশেষ কর্মশালা

করবে শিশু কমিশন। তার জন্য একটি মল তৈরি করা হবে। তাতে কমিশন হুমকিও করবে। অর্থাৎ স্কুলের প্রতিনিধিগণও থাকবেন। কর্মশালা করার আগে এই মলটিকে প্রদর্শন করা হবে। কমিশন সুরে খবর, বন্ধ স্কুল জেতার ২টি এবং ছোট ছেলেরা ১টি করে স্কুলে এই কর্মসূচি পালন করা হবে। কমিশনের স্কুলে গিয়ে সুরক্ষা সন্যস্ত আঁধা নিজে সকলেরই প্রচেষ্টা হওয়া প্রয়োজন। তবে মনে করবেন কমিশনের কর্তব্য। স্কুলে গিয়ে প্রেক্ষিতই কমিশনের এই প্যাসপোর্ট উপস্থিত করে। (পিসসি) কী, কোন কোন অঙ্গপত্র করলে এই আইন লঙ্ঘন হতে পারে, সেই তালিকা দেওয়ার পিছনে হবে কলকাতার অভিযোগ কমান্ডে হুমকি থাকাই ফুলগুলিতে এই বিশেষ কর্মশালা

কি কথা। তাই পক্ষের আইন কী কী বলা আছে, সেগুলি সঠিকভাবে না বুঝিয়ে দেওয়া হলে অনেক ধারণাই কলঙ্কিত হতে পারে। স্কুলের থেকেই যদি এই ব্যাপারে সচেতন করা যায়, তাহলে এই ধরনের অপরাধ আটকানো সম্ভব হবে। পঞ্চম মাসে হতে পোনা ফুলগুলিতে এই কর্মসূচি নেওয়া হবে বলে জানা গিয়েছে।

কমিশনের কর্তব্যের ক্ষেত্রে, আর্ককে করে না যাচ্ছে, তাই স্কুলে গিয়ে শেখাবে শিশু কমিশন। তার জন্য একটি মল তৈরি করা হবে। তাতে কমিশন হুমকিও করবে। অর্থাৎ স্কুলের প্রতিনিধিগণও থাকবেন। কর্মশালা করার আগে এই মলটিকে প্রদর্শন করা হবে। কমিশন সুরে খবর, বন্ধ স্কুল জেতার ২টি এবং ছোট ছেলেরা ১টি করে স্কুলে এই কর্মসূচি পালন করা হবে। কমিশনের স্কুলে গিয়ে সুরক্ষা সন্যস্ত আঁধা নিজে সকলেরই প্রচেষ্টা হওয়া প্রয়োজন। তবে মনে করবেন কমিশনের কর্তব্য। স্কুলে গিয়ে প্রেক্ষিতই কমিশনের এই প্যাসপোর্ট উপস্থিত করে। (পিসসি) কী, কোন কোন অঙ্গপত্র করলে এই আইন লঙ্ঘন হতে পারে, সেই তালিকা দেওয়ার পিছনে হবে কলকাতার অভিযোগ কমান্ডে হুমকি থাকাই ফুলগুলিতে এই বিশেষ কর্মশালা

Meet on online child sexual abuse

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Calcutta: Child rights activists, tech experts and cyber security specialists from several countries will put their minds together to find ways to prevent online sexual exploitation of children at a conference to be held on Friday and Saturday. The conference, being hosted by the West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, recognises the danger of children following the proliferation of smartphones, activists said.

According to the activists, offenders use modern technology to lure children into live pornography. Figures released by Interpol and shared at a press conference, held in the run-up to the conference, revealed that around 2.4 million cases of online child sexual abuse were reported from India in 2017. "Although we do not have any state-specific data, the complaints are prevalent across the states," said Anannya Chatterjee Chakraborti, chairperson of the West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights. A global organisation that protects the most vul-

nerable from violence and oppression.

The organisation is partnering the commission for the protection of child rights in organising the conference at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, New Town. Ananya Chatterjee Chakraborti, chairperson of the commission, said every availability of smartphones has led to a spurt in online pornography involving minors. "A child is easy to be lured into the trap because he or she will unsuspectingly click on a link that might pop up on the screen. Once into the trap, the Desubate starts. Children of city schools, where the use of smartphones is rampant, ap-

pear to be the most vulnerable," Chatterjee Chakraborti said. "There are allegations that acts of abuse are live streamed. Those who are watching are offenders, too," she said. Cyber experts said it was becoming increasingly difficult to track down the evolving tactics and technologies being used by the perpetrators. "This is posing a new challenge for police," said Ajay Ranade, inspector-general of police, CID-I, who looks after the anti-trafficking wing of the investigating agency. "They use advanced technologies such as the dark web (an encrypted portion of the internet that is not indexed by search engines). It is difficult to track them down. At times servers based in other countries are put to use, making it difficult for police agencies to access them... Cyber experts from across the globe will attend the conference. We hope to collate knowledge on developing an effective mechanism to deal with the challenge," Ranade said. The organisers said representatives from the United States, Deoitte and PricewaterhouseCoopers would attend the conference.

শৃঙ্গ জয়ের অভিজ্ঞতা শুনিতে খুঁদেনে পাহাড়ে চড়ার স্বপ্ন দেখালেন সত্যরূপ

শৈশবিক ন্যায় • কলকাতা



শিশু কমিশনের বিশেষ অনুষ্ঠান। বঙ্গ পাহাড় সেনে মনে হয়েছিল, কী করে চড়া। খালি প্রচেষ্টা সত্যরূপের আনন্দ, কয়েক ঘণ্টার ফুট উঠতে উঠতে সে তো আনন্দ-ভরা হয়ে যায়। তাই উভয় দিক পাহাড়, তাদের পাহাড়ের নিচে বসে পাহাড়ের সত্যরূপের কথা, কিভাবে পাহাড়ের সত্যরূপের কথা শুনতে হবে।

আজ। বিভিন্ন শৃঙ্গ জয়ের মতোই শৃঙ্গ জয়ে গিয়েছিল সত্যরূপের বোঝা। শিশু কমিশনের বিশেষ অনুষ্ঠানে পাহাড়ে শৃঙ্গ উঠে এল তবু শিশু। সত্যরূপের সত্যরূপের কথা শুনতে হবে। শিশু কমিশনের বিশেষ অনুষ্ঠানে পাহাড়ে শৃঙ্গ উঠে এল তবু শিশু। সত্যরূপের সত্যরূপের কথা শুনতে হবে।

শিশু কমিশনের বিশেষ অনুষ্ঠান। বঙ্গ পাহাড় সেনে মনে হয়েছিল, কী করে চড়া। খালি প্রচেষ্টা সত্যরূপের আনন্দ, কয়েক ঘণ্টার ফুট উঠতে উঠতে সে তো আনন্দ-ভরা হয়ে যায়। তাই উভয় দিক পাহাড়, তাদের পাহাড়ের নিচে বসে পাহাড়ের সত্যরূপের কথা, কিভাবে পাহাড়ের সত্যরূপের কথা শুনতে হবে।

শিশু কমিশনের বিশেষ অনুষ্ঠান। বঙ্গ পাহাড় সেনে মনে হয়েছিল, কী করে চড়া। খালি প্রচেষ্টা সত্যরূপের আনন্দ, কয়েক ঘণ্টার ফুট উঠতে উঠতে সে তো আনন্দ-ভরা হয়ে যায়। তাই উভয় দিক পাহাড়, তাদের পাহাড়ের নিচে বসে পাহাড়ের সত্যরূপের কথা, কিভাবে পাহাড়ের সত্যরূপের কথা শুনতে হবে।

চৈচিয়ে পাড়া মাত করো

পাঠসার্থি সেনগুপ্ত

'চৈচিয়ে পাড়া মাত করো'। বিশেষ অধিকার রক্ষা শিশুদের এ চাইতে পোষকতা দেবে কয়েক গুণে বেশি। শিশুদের পক্ষে পোষকতা দেবে কয়েক গুণে বেশি। শিশুদের পক্ষে পোষকতা দেবে কয়েক গুণে বেশি। শিশুদের পক্ষে পোষকতা দেবে কয়েক গুণে বেশি।



সেই পোষ্টার — রাহুল মাস্কর

বিশেষ অধিকার রক্ষা শিশুদের এ চাইতে পোষকতা দেবে কয়েক গুণে বেশি। শিশুদের পক্ষে পোষকতা দেবে কয়েক গুণে বেশি। শিশুদের পক্ষে পোষকতা দেবে কয়েক গুণে বেশি। শিশুদের পক্ষে পোষকতা দেবে কয়েক গুণে বেশি।

আজ শিশুদিবস

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