



सत्यमेव जयते

2019-20

ANNUAL REPORT



WEST BENGAL COMMISSION FOR
PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

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ABBREVIATIONS

1. ADM: Additional District Magistrate
2. AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
3. CCI: Child Care Institutions
4. CPCRA: 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: 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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Chapter 1 : From the Desk of the Chairperson



Pablo Picasso once said, “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up”. As an artist he knew that it is tough to keep our inner child alive as we grow older. It signifies how tender and creative childhood is and as guardians, responsible citizens, stakeholders of this earth it is our responsibility to give children a protective and loving environment to grow up where they survive, grow, learn and develop to their fullest potentials.

West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights is working persistently towards protection of the rights of children and minors in the state. Like previous years, the annual report of 2019-2020 also provides you information on the Commission’s nature of work, objectives, child rights related laws, case studies and a summary of the Commission’s activities and achievements in the past year. It is not only a record of few data and statistics, it is a brief history of time where you will see the challenges of protecting thousands of children. Many of them are victims of violence, abuse, neglect and discrimination every day. Such violations limit their chances of surviving, growing and blossoming of their dreams.

Any child can be vulnerable to violations in any place, including at home. The actual number of children experiencing violations is not easy to determine. While working, the Commission always keeps in mind the issues of underprivileged children. So, other than its regular job of addressing the cases received officially or taking *Suo motu* cognizance of the matters, the Commission organised several workshops and consultations on RTE, POCSO, Missing, Child Trafficking, Child labour, JJ Act, Child Marriage throughout the year. The Commission introduced several awards to sensitize children, police and media towards protecting child rights. Child friendly Corners in different places across the districts such as Gangasagar Mela, Poush Mela, International Kolkata Bookfair were organised where girls and boys from the remote corners of the State were encouraged to speak up for their own rights. If children are sensitized to be aware of their own rights to survive, to be safe, to belong, to be heard, to receive adequate care and protection, our job becomes slightly easier. Sensitivity and awareness are two key words which can play vital roles in preventing child rights violations and developing a better tomorrow for our children.

Ananya Chakraborti
Chairperson

West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights

From the Desk of the Secretary



The West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR), under the Department of WCDSW, has, like in previous years, pooled comprehensive inputs to put together its Annual Report for the year 2019-20. This year's document depicts the Commission's performance and achievements in the challenging fields related to protection of child rights, ensuring child safety and implementation of the relevant Acts and Rules in this respect, like the POCSO Act, Juvenile Justice Act and the RTE Act.

Through various kinds of plans and programmes, in collaboration with Unicef and several NGOs, WBCPCR has acted as the vigilant watchdog of the best interests of the children of West Bengal, 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 period under report.

Always keenly concerned about the safety and security of vulnerable children, WBCPCR has swiftly acted on cases of violation of child rights, like child trafficking, child labour, child marriage and impacts of domestic violence on children, which have been duly taken cognisance of. Following required enquiries and investigations by concerned authorities, studied recommendations have been made by the Commission. Steps for initiation of proceedings in such cases have been taken up in right earnest, including factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of children affected by terrorism, communal violence, riots, natural disasters, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, trafficking, maltreatment, torture and exploitation.

True to its child-friendly role, 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. Survey and research in the field of child rights have also been duly promoted.

From the Desk of Secretary

Consultations, conferences, orientation programmes and interactive counselling sessions have been undertaken, as required, throughout 2019-20. 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.

Deeply involved with the ideology of universalisation of elementary education, WBCPCR addressed complaints under the RTE Act with perseverance, including cases of torture of specially abled children, denial of admission in school, mental harassment and physical punishment, inappropriate teacher student ratios and non-availability of required facilities in school premises.

This Annual Report highlights the outcome of workshops 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 am thankful for the initiatives taken by the multi-level workers linked with WBCPCR and 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

West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Chapter 2 : Organisational Structure of WBCPCR

LIST OF CHAIRPERSON & MEMBERS

1.	Ms. Ananya Chatterjee Chakraborti	- Chairperson
2.	Ms June Maliah	- Member
3.	Mr Prasun Bhowmick	- Member
4.	Ms. Yashabanti Sreemany	- Member (Since March, 2020)
5.	Shakila Sultana Shams	- Member
6.	Mr Soumitra Ray	- Member (term completed in November, 2019)
7.	Ms Anita Basu	- Member (term completed in February, 2020)
8.	Ms Sudeshna Roy	- Ex- member, Special Consultant (Since January, 2019)

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)		X
7.	Section Officer (One)	✓	
8.	UD Assistant (One)		X
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	5	15

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) Present to the Central Government, annually and at such other intervals, as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;
 - (c) 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, the 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 a State Commission or 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 2019-20

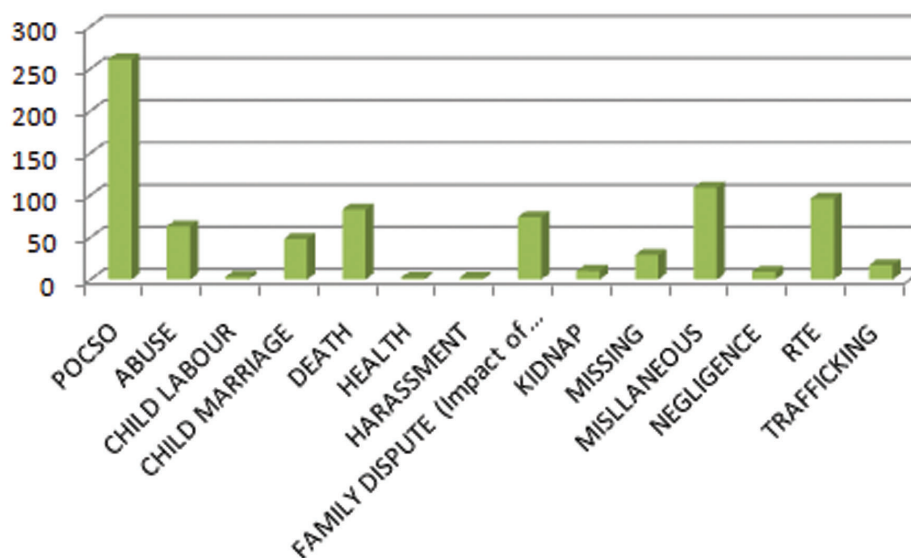
Complaints addressed

Table 1.1 Complaints recorded between 1st April, 2019 to 31st March, 2020

Type	Total No of Records
POCSO	261
ABUSE	63
CHILD LABOUR	3
CHILD MARRIAGE	48
DEATH	83
HEALTH	2
HARASSMENT	2
FAMILY DISPUTE (Impact of domestic violence)	74
KIDNAP	10
MISSING	29
MISLLANEOUS	109
NEGLIGENCE	9
RTE	96
TRAFFICKING	17
Total	806

Diagram: 1.1

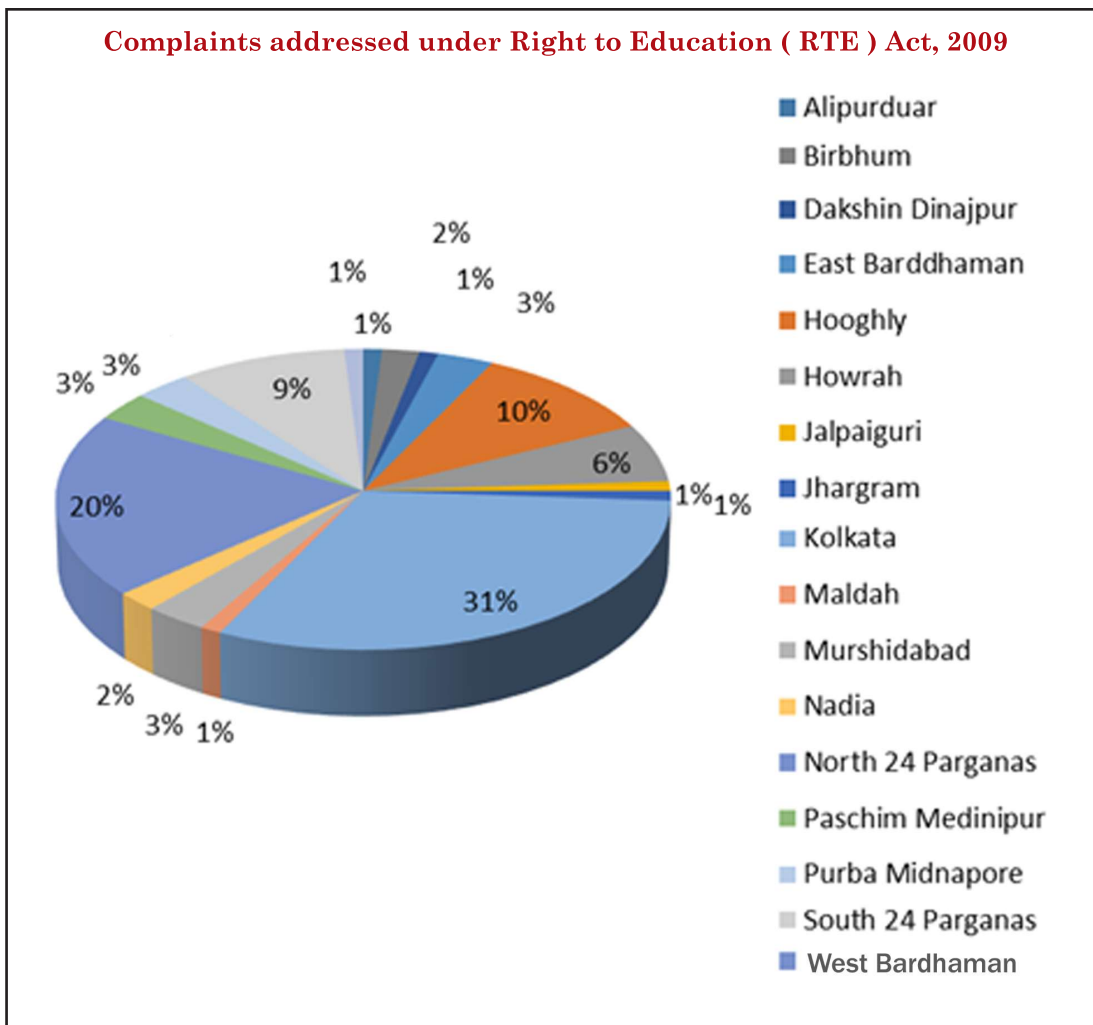
Total Complaints recorded



**Table: 1.2 Complaints addressed under Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009
between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance
Aliporeduar	1	Individual	
Birbhum	2		2
Dakshin Dinajpur	1		1
East Bardhaman	3	Individual 2	1
Hooghly	10	Individual 5 School Management 1	4
Howrah	6	Individual 3 DSWO (E mail) 1	2
Jalpaiguri	1		1
Jhargram	1	Individual 1	
Kolkata	30	Individual 10 Individual Email: 4 Email: School Management Commisttee 1. CWC 1 Calcutta High Court 1 WBEN 1	12
Malda	1	WBWC	
Murshidabad	3		3
Nadia	2	Individual 2	
North 24 paraganas	19	Individual 5 Individual email 2 Whatsapp 3	9
Paschim Medinipore	3	Individual 1	2
Purba Medinipore	3	Individual 1 From School 1	1
South 24 paraganas	9	Individual 2 Email 2 School Management Committee 1	4
West Bardhaman	1	Individual 1	
Total	96		

Diagram: 1.2



The complaints addressed by WBCPCR under RTE were on: denial of admission in school, mental harassment and corporal punishment, fee related issues, inappropriate teacher student ratio, infrastructural problems in schools, biased evaluation in examination, suspension order issued to child.

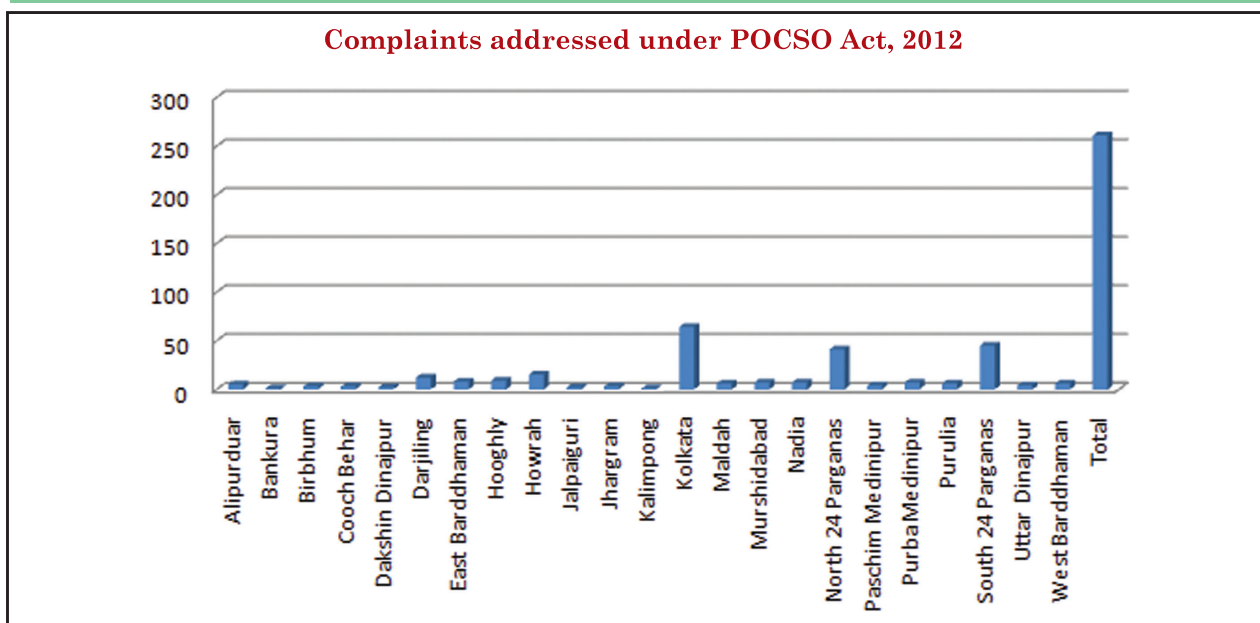
**Table: 1.3: Complaints addressed under POCSO Act, 2012
(between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance
Alipurduar	5	Individual: 1 CWC (E mail): 1	3
Bankura	1		1
Birbhum	3		3
Cooch Behar	3	WBWC: 1 Individual: 1	1
Dakshin Dinajpur	2		2
Darjiling	12	Email: 3 WAP: 4 Individual: 1	4
East Barddhaman	8	E court: 1 Individual: 1 WBWC: 1	5
Hooghly	9	Individual (email): 2	7
Howrah	15	Individual 1 WAP 1, School 1	12
Jalpaiguri	2	WAP 1	1
Jhargram	3		3
Kalimpong	1		1
Kolkata	64	Individual 3 Individual (email) 3 Email from School 1 WAP Helpline 2, NCPCR 1 School Committee 1 Child line 1 WBWC 1	51
Maldah	6	Individual 1	5
Murshidabad	7	Individual 2 WBWC: 1	4
Nadia	7	Individual 1, WAP 1	5
North 24 Parganas	41	Individual: 3 Individual email: 3 WBWC: 2	33

**Table: 1.3: Complaints addressed under POCSO Act, 2012
(between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance
Paschim Medinipur	4		4
Purba Medinipur	7	WAP Helpline 2	5
Purulia	6	Individual email 2 WAP Helpline 4	
South 24 Parganas	45	Individual 4, WAP 3 Individual (mail) 2 Newspaper & WAP 1 WBWC 2	33
Uttar Dinajpur	4		4
West Barddhaman	6	Individual: 1 Email 2	3
Total	261		

Diagram: 1.3

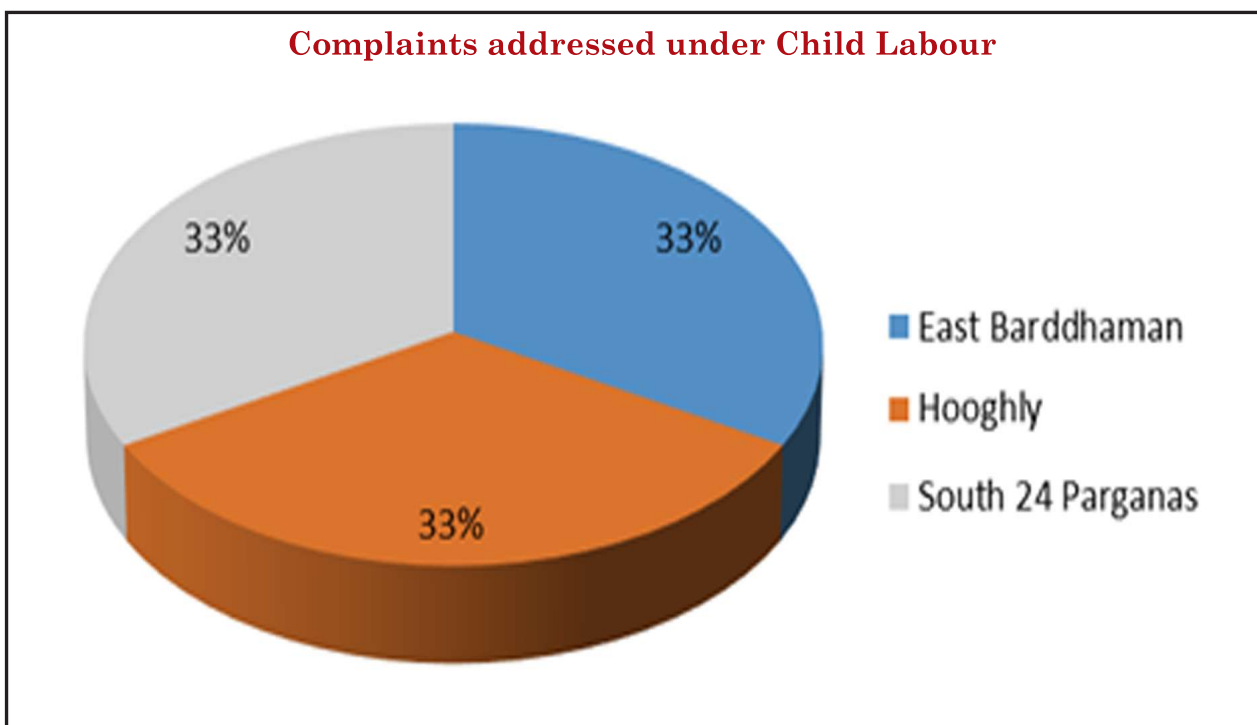


The complaints addressed by WBCPCR under POCSO Act, 2012 were on: sexual assault, sexual abuse/ harassment of children accompanied with killing at home by near and dear ones and outside, showing pornographic pictures to child, taking obscene pictures and uploading them in social media, blackmailing, entering into sexual relationship with minor girls after alluring her for marriage.

Table 1.4 Complaints addressed under The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 (between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020)

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants
Hooghly	1	Individual (phone call)
South 24 Parganas	1	Individual
East Bardhaman	1	Suo Motu
Total	3	

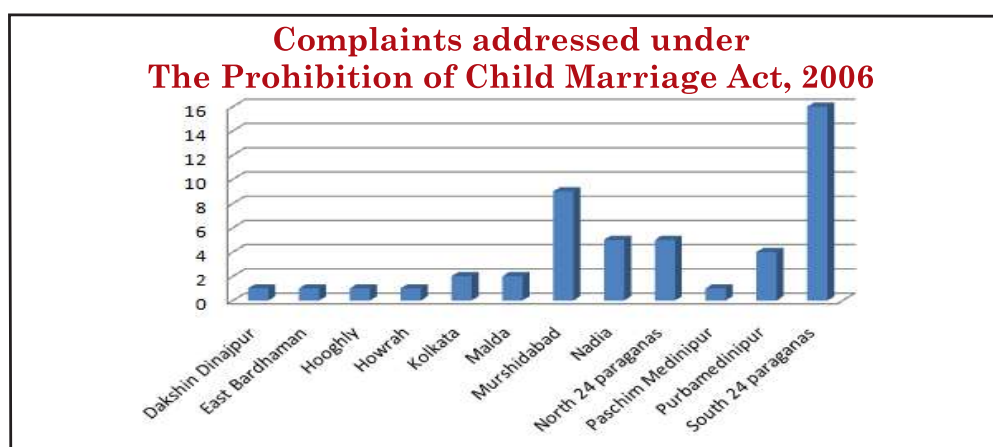
Diagram: 1.4



Note : Very few complaints on child labour issue were lodged because of the difficulties in tracing and identifying the problems.

Table 1.5 Complaints addressed under The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020)		
Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants
Dakshin Dinajpur	1	WAP Helpline
East Bardhaman	1	Individual
Hooghly	1	WAP Helpline
Howrah	1	WAP Helpline
Kolkata	2	WAP Helpline
Malda	2	WAP Helpline:1 Individual: 1
Murshidabad	9	WAP Helpline:9
Nadia	5	WAP Helpline:5
North 24 paraganas	5	WAP Helpline:5
Paschim Medinipur	1	WAP Helpline:1
Purbamedinipur	4	WAP Helpline:3 Individual :1
South 24 paraganas	16	WAP Helpline: 16
Total	48	

Diagram: 1.5

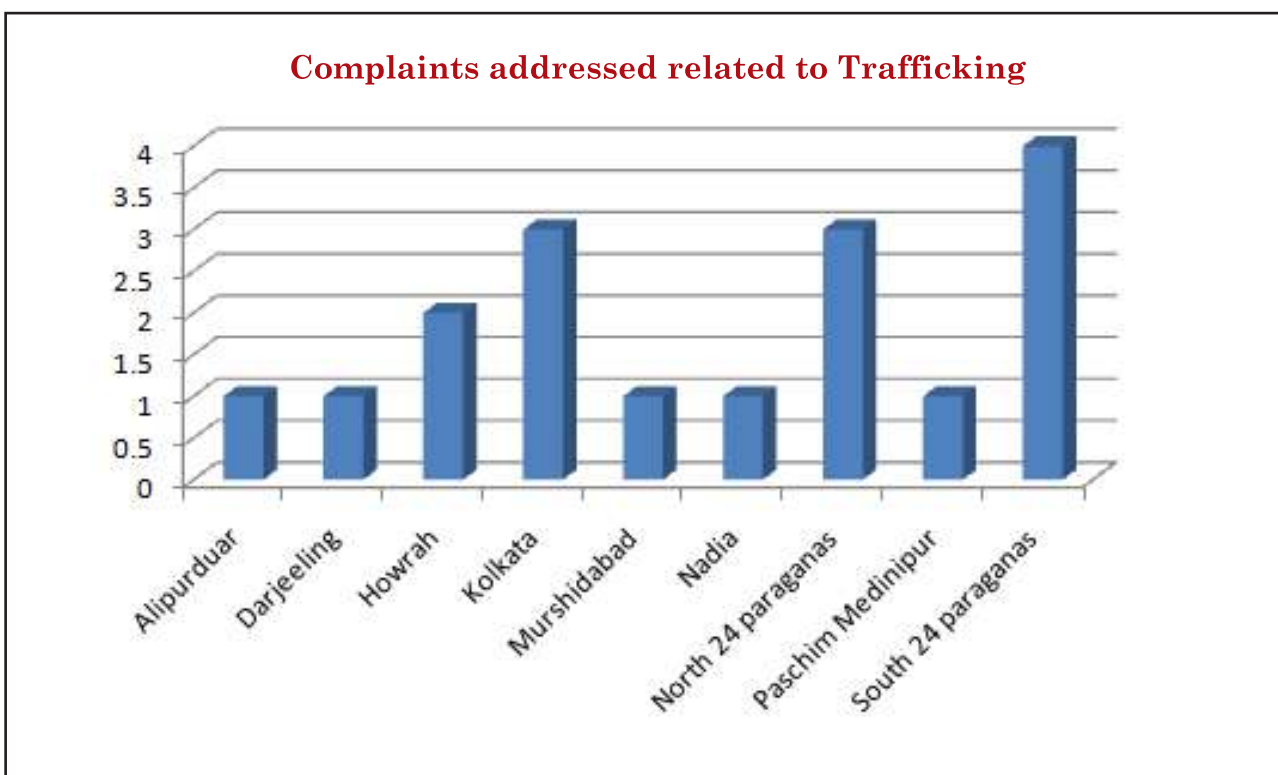


Most of the Child Marriage complaints addressed by the Commission were lodged through WBCPCR’s WAP Helpline and the most of the cases the Commission intervened successfully and marriages were stopped with the help of the district administration and police.

**Table 1.6: Complaints addressed related to Trafficking
(between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance
Alipurduar	1	WAP Helpline :1	
Darjeeling	1	WAP Helpline :1	
Howrah	2	WAP Helpline :2	
Kolkata	3		3
Murshidabad	1	WAP Helpline	
Nadia	1	WAP Helpline	
North 24 paraganas	3	WAP Helpline:2 WBWC: 1	
Paschim Medinipur	1	WAP Helpline:1	
South 24 paraganas	4	WAP Helpline: 3	1
Total	17		

Diagram: 1.6

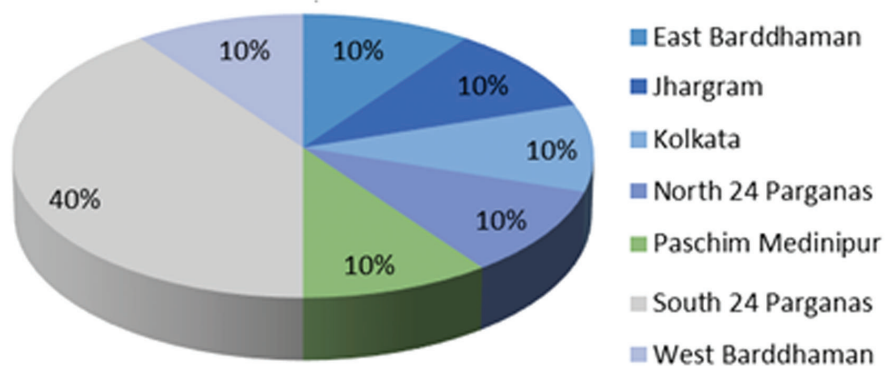


**Table 1.7: Number of complaints addressed in relation to Kidnapping
(between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance
South 24 Parganas	4	Individual 2 WhatsApp 1	1
West Barddhaman	1	WBWC	
East Barddhaman	1		1
Paschim Medinipur	1	WBWC	
North 24 Parganas	1	Childline	
Kolkata	1		1
Jhargram	1	WBWC	
Total	Complaints : 10		

Diagram: 1.7

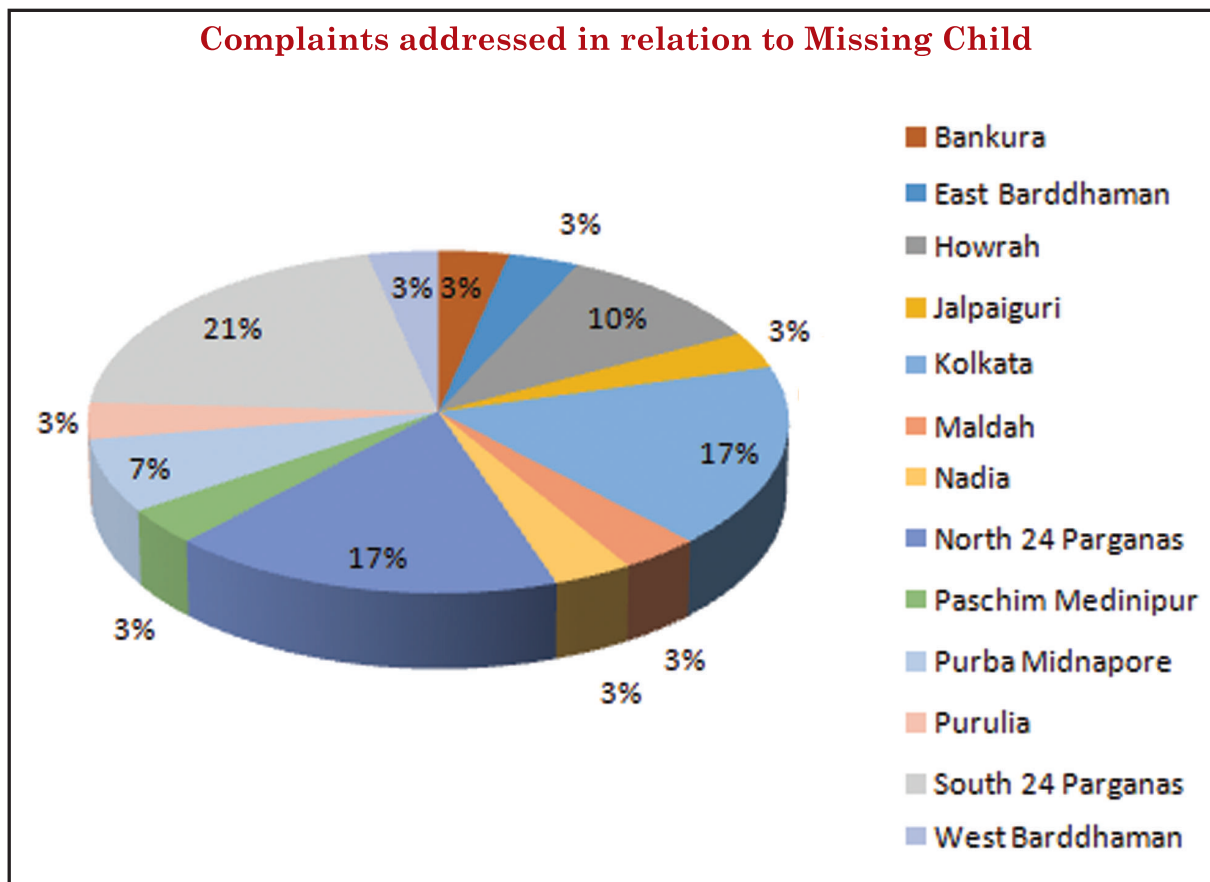
Complaints addressed in relation to Kidnapping



**Table 1.8 Number of complaints addressed in relation to Missing Child
(between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance
Maldah	1	Individual	
Kolkata	5	Individual 2 Whatsapp: 2 Ngo 1	
West Barddhaman	1	NCPCR	
Nadia	1	Individual	
Purulia	1		1
Howrah	3	Individual 3	
Purba Midnapore	2	Individual 1 WhatsApp 1	
Bankura	1	Individual(email)	
South 24 Parganas	6	Individual 4 Individual(emai) 1	1
North 24 Parganas	5	Individual 2 Whatsapp 2	1
Paschim Medinipur	1	Whatsapp	
Jalpaiguri	1	SCPCR, Meghalaya	
East Barddhaman	1	Individual	
Total	29		

Diagram 1.8

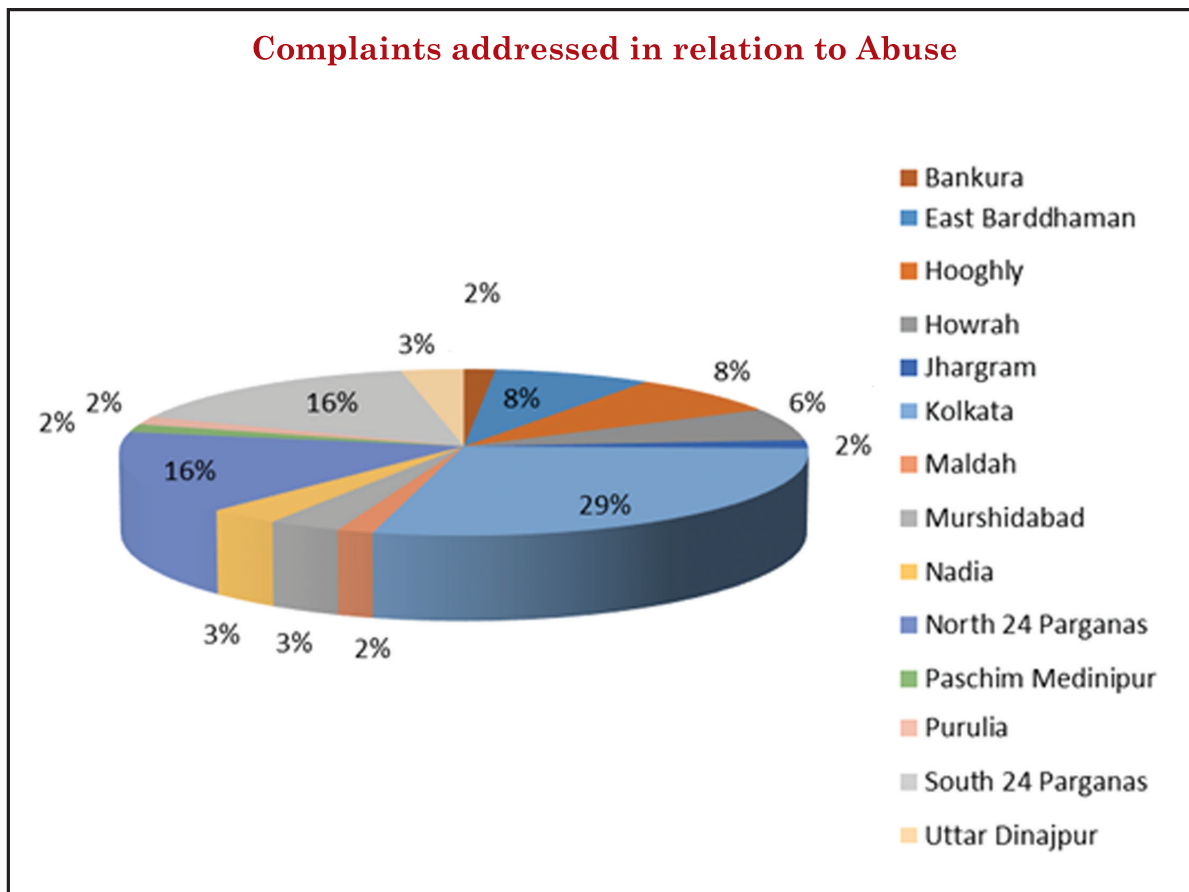


Among the missing cases, approximately 80% were female children and rest is male. In case of girls, most of the cases were lodged after they fled away with their fiance to get married. Their family members lodged missing diaries. In some cases, they got married, sometimes they were caught before marriage. In few cases they remained untraced. They are also trafficked for the purpose of domestic labour, commercial sexual exploitation.

**Table 1.9 Number of complaints addressed in relation to Abuse
(between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance
Bankura	1	Individual 1	
Hooghly	5	Individual 1	4
Howrah	4	Individual 2	2
Jhargram	1		1
Kolkata	18	Individual email 2 Individual 9	7
Malda	1		1
Murshidabad	2	Individual 1	1
Nadia	2	WBWC 1, Individual 1	
Uttar Dinajpur	2	CWC 1	1
North 24 Parganas	10	Individual 5 WAP: 1	4
South 24 Parganas	10	Individual 1 Individual (email) 1	8
Paschim Medinipur	1	WAP helpline 1	
East Barddhaman	5	Individual 3	2
Purulia	1		1
Total	63		

Diagram: 1.9

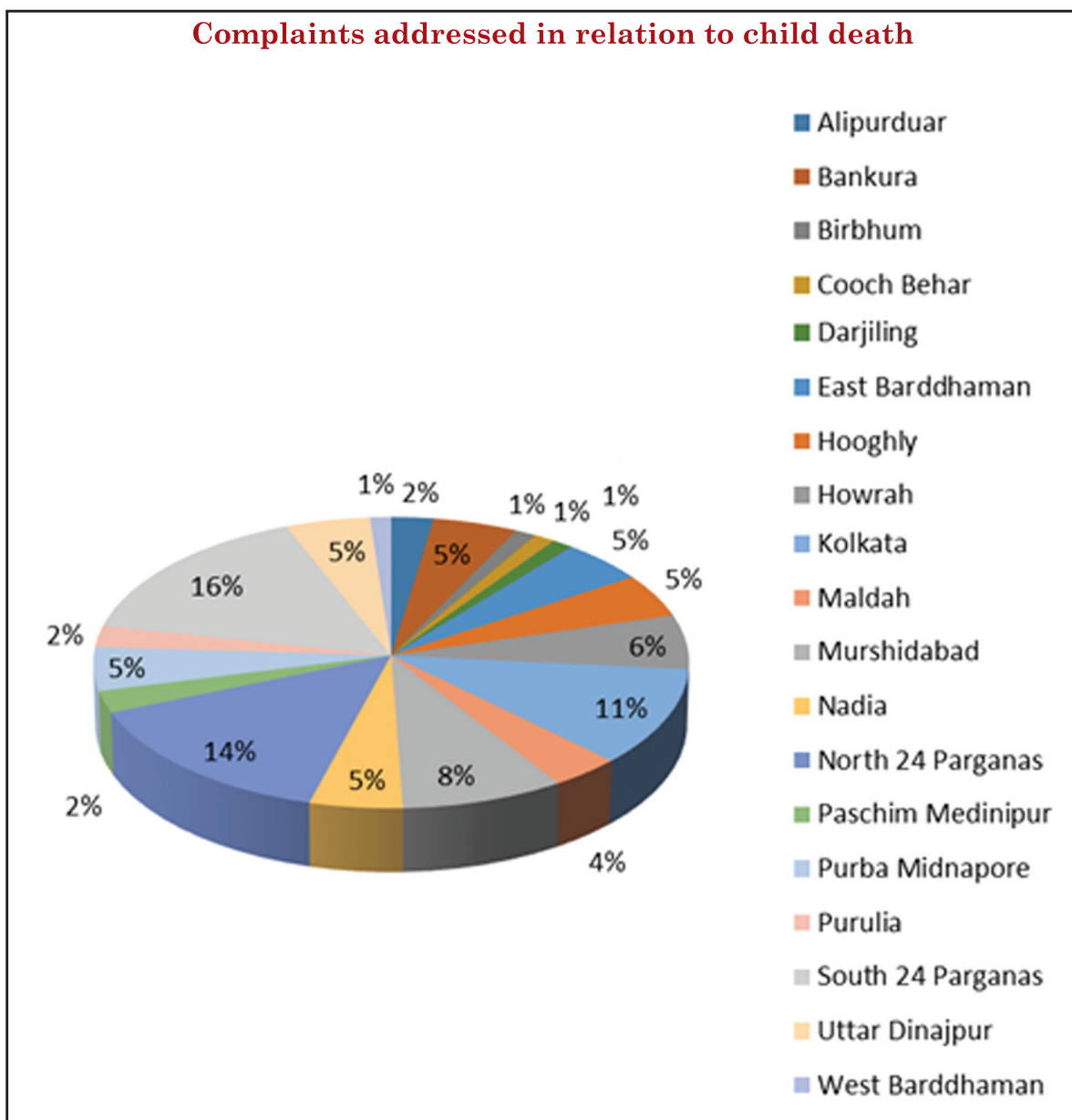


Most of the child abuse cases addressed by the Commission included the cases where children were abused physically and mentally by their family members as results of family disputes and by the outsiders also.

**Table 1.10 Number of complaints addressed in relation to child death
(between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance
Alipurduar	2		2
Bankura	4		4
Birbhum	1	Individual 1	
Coochbehar	1	WAP 1	
Darjeeling	1		1
East Bardhaman	4		4
Hooghly	4	Individual 1	3
Howrah	5		5
Kolkata	9		9
North 24 paraganas	12		12
Purba Medinipore	4		4
Purulia	2		2
South 24 paraganas	13	Individual 1 Email 1	11
Uttar Dinajpur	4		4
West Bardhaman	1		1
Malda	3		3
Murshidabad	7		7
Nadia	4		4
Paschim Medinipore	2		2
Total	83		

Diagram 1.10



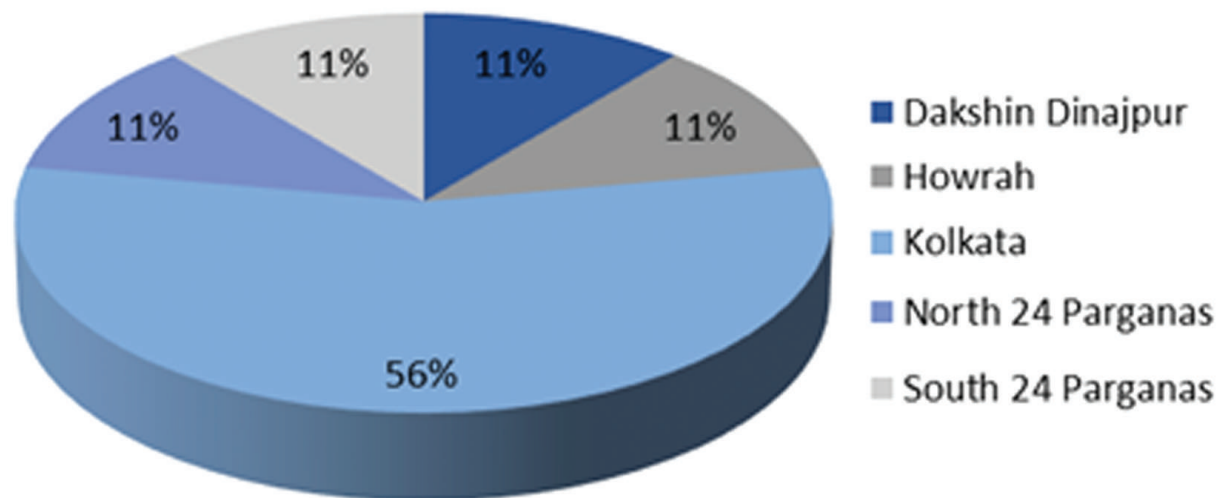
It is mention worthy that in 2017-18 the number of reported death cases was 33, whereas in 2018-19 the number of death of children increased to 79. But last year 2019-2020 it went up to 83. Suicide among teenagers, child tortured to death, medical negligence were the main contributing factors for child death.

**Table 1.11 Number of complaints addressed in relation to negligence to child
(between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance
South 24 Parganas	1	Individual	
North 24 Paraganas	1		1
Howrah	1		1
Kolkata	5		5
Dakshin Dinajpur	1		1
Total	9		

Diagram: 1.11

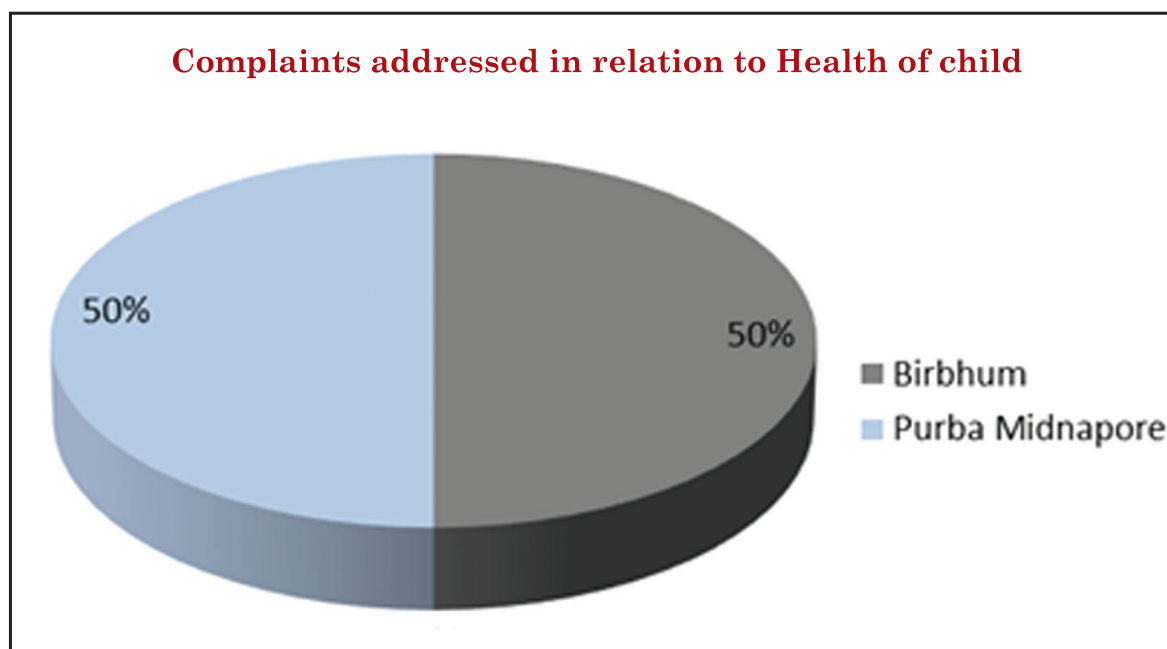
Complaints addressed in relation to negligence to child



**Table 1.12 Number of complaints addressed in relation to Health of child
(between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance
Birbhum	1		1
Purba Midnapore	1	email (DCPU)	
Total	2		

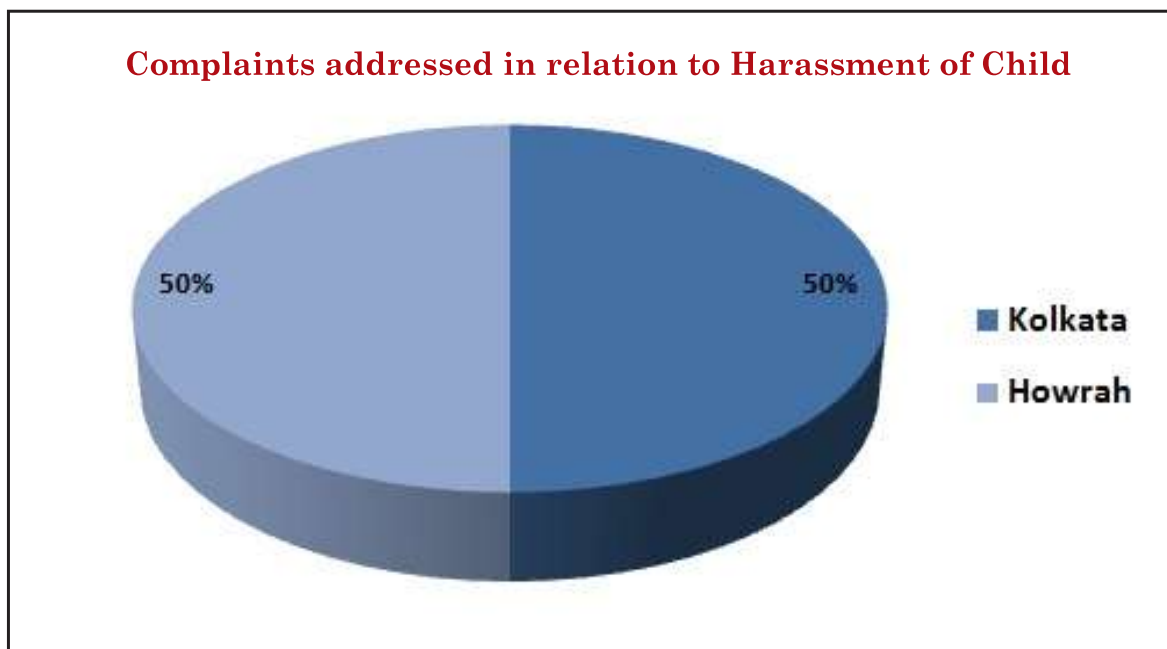
Diagram: 1.12



**Table 1.13 Number of complaints addressed in relation to Harassment of Child
(between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance
Kolkata	1		1
Howrah	1		1
Total	2		

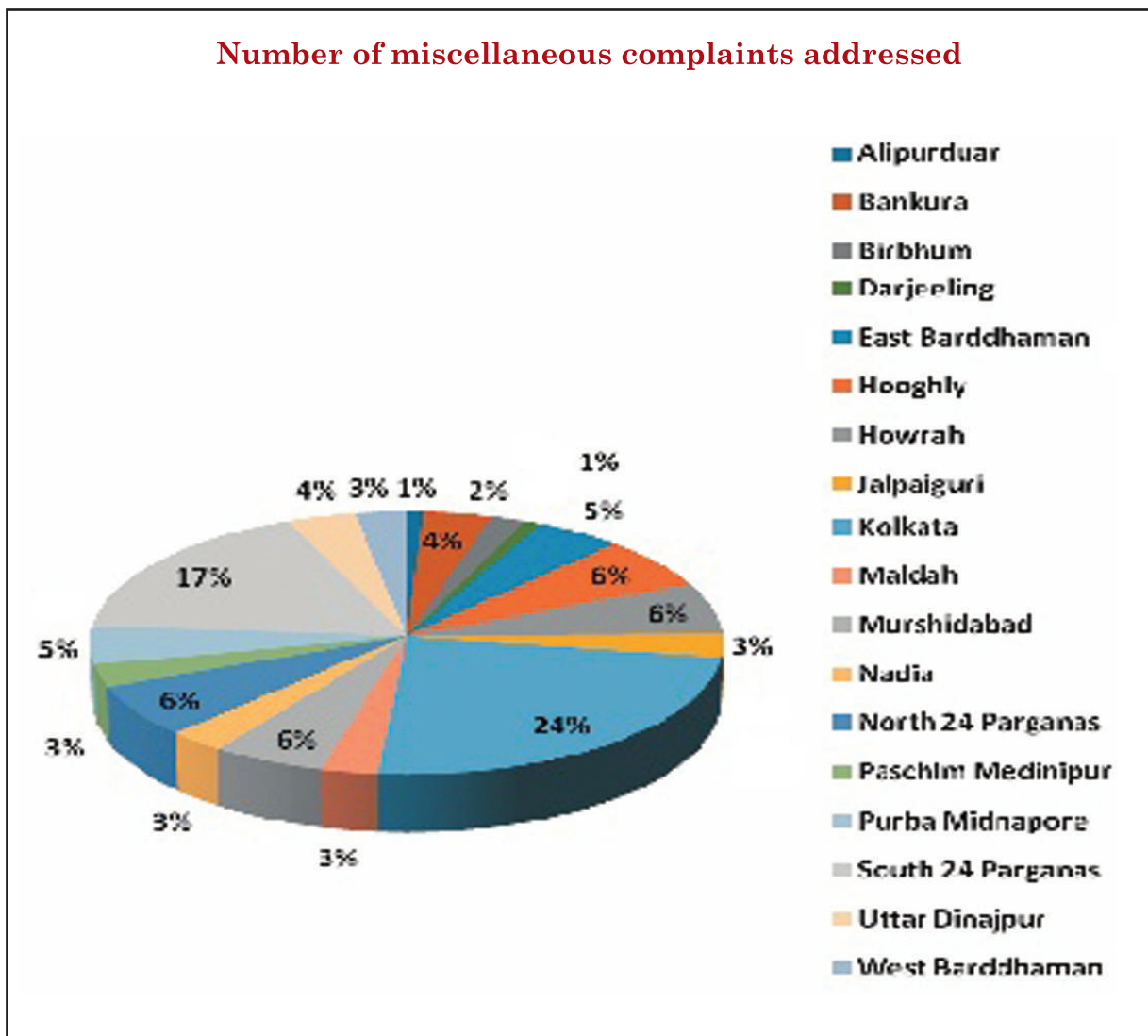
Diagram: 1.13



**Table 1.14 : Number of miscellaneous complaints addressed
(between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020)**

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance
Alipurduar	1	Individual : 1	
Bankura	4	Individual email :1	3
Birbhum	2	WAP Helpline 1	1
Darjiling	1	Individual email 1	
East Barddhaman	5	WBWC 1	4
Hooghly	7	Individual : 1	6
Howrah	7	CWC: 1 WBWC: 1 Individual: 1	4
Jalpaiguri	3		3
Kolkata	26	Individual 6 Facebook 1 Individual Email : 3 NGO : 1	15
Maldah	3	Individual : 1 Email: 1	1
Murshidabad	6		6
Nadia	3	Individual 1	2
North 24 Parganas	7	Individual 1 Individual (email) : 1	5
Paschim Medinipur	3		3
Purba Midnapore	5	Individual 3	2
South 24 Parganas	19	Individualo :7 NGO : 1 WBWC: 1 CWC: 1 Individual email: 1	8
Uttar Dinajpur	4	Individual 1	3
West Barddhaman	3	Individual email : 2	1
Total	109		

Diagram :1.14

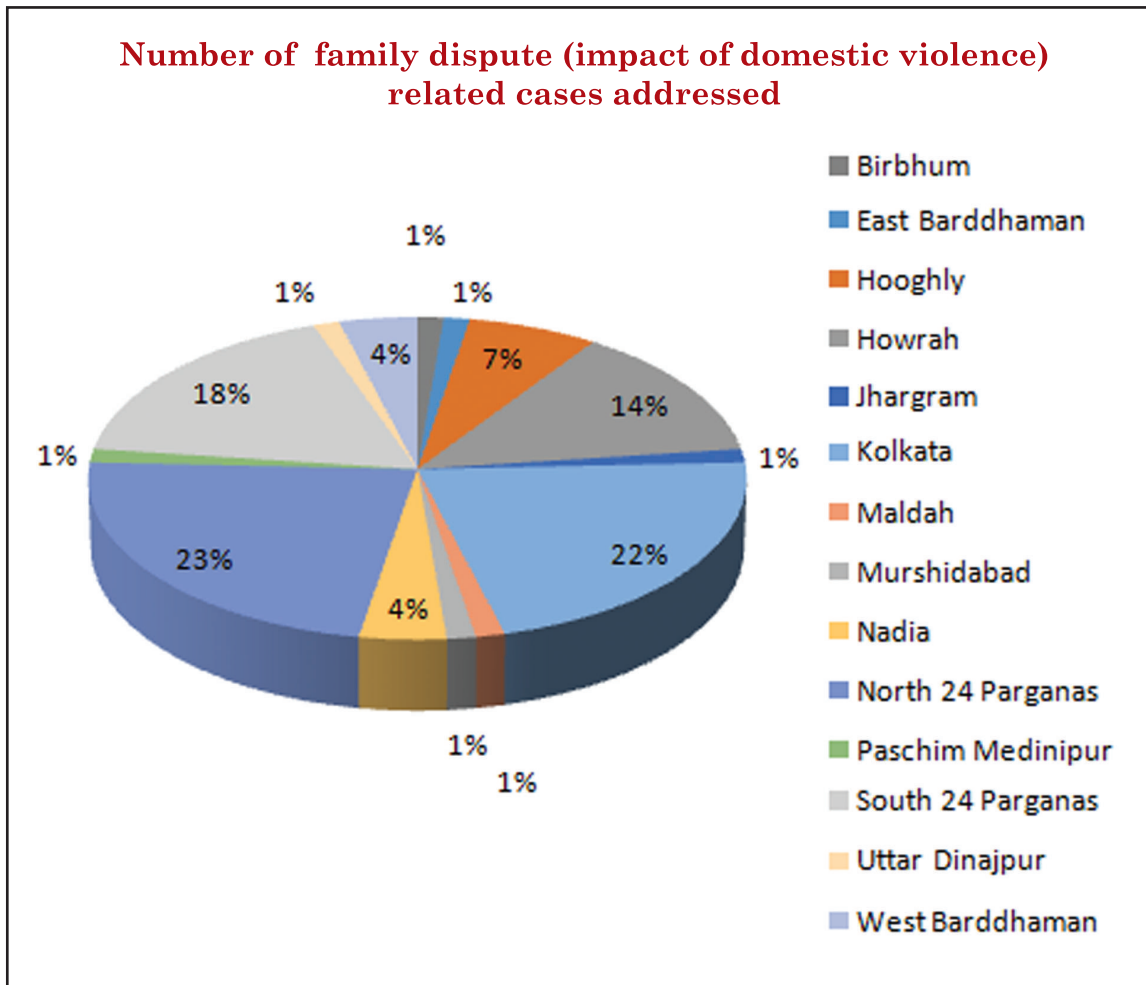


Miscellaneous category generally includes complaints lodged against various institutions dealing with child care & protection.

Table : 1.15 : Number of family dispute (Impact of domestic violence) related cases addressed (between 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020) where children suffered

Districts	Number of total complaints received	Complainants	Suo motu cognizance
Birbhum	1	Individual	
East Barddhaman	1	Individual	
Hooghly	5	Individual 5	
Howrah	10	Individual 9 WAP: 1	
Jhargram	1	Individual	
Kolkata	16	Individual 14 Email 1 WBWC 1	
Maldah	1	Individual 1	
Murshidabad	1		1
Nadia	3	Individual 2, Individual email 1	
North 24 Parganas	17	Individual 16 Individual email 1	
Paschim Medinipur	1	Individual	
South 24 Parganas	13	Individual 8 Individual email 4 WAP Helpline1	
Uttar Dinajpur	1	Individual 1	
West Barddhaman	3	Individual 1 Email 1 WAP Helpline 1	
Total :	74		

Diagram : 1.15



Note: Domestic Violence is on the rise. Children were the worst sufferers due to family dispute.

WhatsApp Helpline

WBCPCR launched its 24x7 WhatsApp Helpline - 9836300300 in 2018. The Hon'ble Minister of State (IC) Dr. Shashi Panja had announced this WAP helpline number in a WBCPCR's programme in Baharampur, Murshidabad. This Helpline number got activated from 10 September, 2018. Since then a number of child rights violation cases of various categories were registered with this helpline number. The cases were addressed by the Commission and actions were taken. Sometimes, complainants also visit the Commission & lodge the complaints personally or mail the complaints to the Commission even after registering the case on helpline. In the period of April, 2019 – March, 2020, out of 48 cases, 45 cases of child marriage were registered through this helpline number. Most of them were prevented by the Commission with the help of the district administration, police and Childline.

WhatsApp Helpline - 9836300300

Actions Taken

Methodology of intervention: How cases are addressed

1. Visit

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 several districts of West Bengal 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 visit child friendly corners of police stations, attend court proceedings, meet the survivors, visit hospitals and health centres, ICDS centres, Correctional Homes to do a comprehensive assessment.

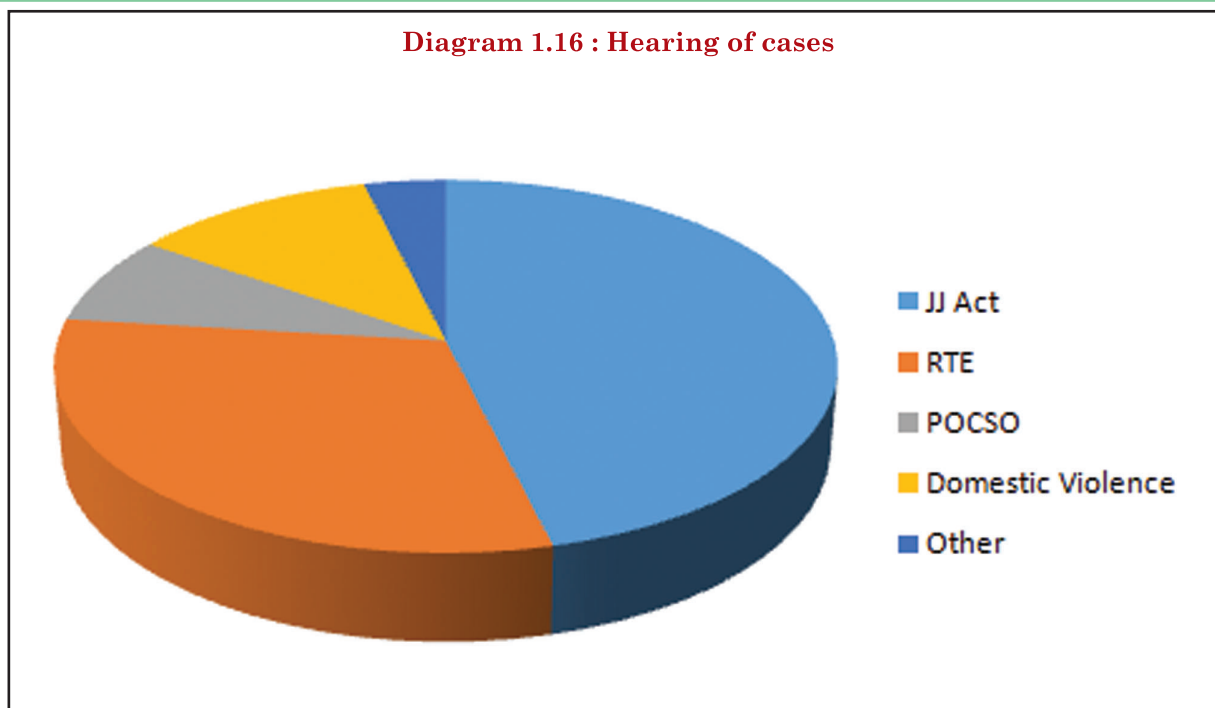
2. Hearing

In exercise of the powers under Section 14 of CPCR 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.

Table 1.16 : Number of Hearings

Case	Total Number	Percentage
JJ Act	12	46.15%
RTE	8	30.76%
POCSO	2	7.69%
Domestic Violence	3	11.53%
Other	1	3.84%

Diagram 1.16 : Hearing of cases



3. Seeking reports, Summoning, Recommendations

The Commission addresses all the complaints received / Suo motu cognizance taken by the Commission at the point of reporting. The Commission has developed a system of registration of complaints, issuing of letters seeking reports, following up with reminders when there is no response from the concerned authorities/ institutions. Depending upon the gravity of the issue it constitutes teams to enquire into the violation of rights and recommends action. When there is no action taken report from the concerned authority/ institution despite reminders given, the accused / concerned persons are summoned.

4. Actions taken: During April, 2019 – March, 2020

Recommendations passed by the Commission: 19

Matters disposed off after taking necessary actions : 40

Case Studies

Case Study I

The case initiated before the Commission when the mother of a student lodged a complaint in WBCPCR. It was alleged that the student of Class II was mentally harassed by the Bengali teacher in the school by calling him beast several times. Although it was an allegation which amounts to mental cruelty towards the child, which is prohibited under RTE Act. It was also alleged that he was not paid any attention by the teacher and the Principal of the said school, finally expelled the said child without any reasonable ground. While perusing the complaint WBCPCR visited the said school for the purpose of enquiry and had a discussion with the Principal of the said school. WBCPCR requested the Principal to allow the child to attend classes but she declined to do that. The matter was reported to Hon'ble Chairperson and she was pleased to call a hearing before the Commission. Both the parties were served hearing notices to appear in person. On the day of hearing before the Commission the school authority did not turn up willfully rather they were represented by their lawyers. WBCPCR decided to send another hearing notice to the School authority wherein the school moved to the Hon'ble High Court in Calcutta for stay of hearing before the Commission. The Hon'ble High Court entertained the matter and passed a judgement in favour of the Commission and the child. It was directed by the Hon'ble High Court to allow the child to attend classes and directed the Commission to continue the hearing and make recommendations in the best interest of the child. The Commission called another hearing as per the direction of Hon'ble High Court where both the parties to the suit were present and made their submissions. After hearing both the parties the Commission passed recommendations keeping in mind the future of the child, directing the school authority to undergo workshop under RTE Act and Juvenile Justice Act, to show compassion towards the child, to give an apology towards the parents for harassing the child and to refund the one year school fees as a means of compensation since the child was traumatised and as a result the parents decided to not send the child anymore to the School. It is pertinent to mention that the school authority at first deliberately and willfully disobeyed the recommendations and was not ready to pay compensation to the child which was expressly given by the Principal by a letter to the Commission. Thereafter the Commission decided to serve a Legal notice for compliance of the recommendation in strict words and finally the school was bound to comply with WBCPCR's recommendations by giving compensation to the child.

Case Study 2

West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights took cognizance of the complaint received from the guardians of Class-X of a school, Howrah regarding mental and physical harassment of students pursuant to a missing ice-cream on Children's Day Celebration on 14th of November 2019. As per the complaint the girls and boys of Class-X were punished for a minor issue after an ice-cream went missing. The Principal ordered a full body search of all the boys and girls of Class-X and the Principal also refused to allow the children to sit for their preparatory examination which were going on for about a month in the school, which was a gross violation of child rights. Based on the complaint, one of the

Members along with two consultants of the Commission visited the school but the meeting went in vain.

After the visit, this Commission decided to call for a Hearing. Three of the girls elaborated on the incident that happened with them. The school authority showed a CCTV footage of the examination hall, where the date and time of the footage had been distorted. The Principal and the other representatives of the school claimed that the CCTVs have been vandalized by the parents only. But after a long discussion and negotiation, the Principal continuously refused to allow children to sit for their Board Examination.

Therefore, the Parents filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court for necessary reliefs. After the Hearing at the Commission, a recommendation had been sent to the Hon'ble High Court. Finally, the Commission won the case and the Hon'ble Court took the decision for the best interest of the children and directed the school to allow the students to appear for ICSE 2020.

Case Study 3

It was a late evening of February, 2020. A sudden phone call came to a Consultant of WBCPCR from a journalist that one of his relative's 13-year old daughter was threatening her parents to commit suicide if they did not marry her off with a 21-year old boy. He wanted to know whether the Commission could intervene in this matter. The consultant promptly suggested the Journalist to send the girl with her parents to the Commission's office next day & informed the Chairperson.

Next day the Commission got to know a different story.

The girl had developed an affair with the man and had eloped with him. They got "married" & stayed together for few days then came back home. Then she started pressurizing her parents to accept their "marriage" & kept threatening to commit suicide if they did not comply. The Commission then & there tried to convince her parents to lodge a complaint against the man as it was clearly a POCSO case. At first, they were hesitant. Later they agreed & lodged an FIR against the man. The girl was produced before the Child Welfare Committee of the district. The girl was required to be shifted to safe custody & by order of CWC she was taken to a government run Child Care Institution. The accused man was arrested by the police. The guardians of the girl sent a letter to WBCPCR appreciating its role.

Case Study 4

It was July, 2019. A minor girl child went missing in Kolkata. She was the only child of her parents and her father worked as a mason and mother as a maid. The matter was reported in the concerned police station. A person who knew her father reported the matter to the Commission as she was yet to be traced. The Commission then and there asked the police to send the action taken report & pursued the case in every concerned level. Within 72 hours police informed the Commission that they could locate the girl in a neighbouring state and they suspected a notorious human trafficking gang was involved in kidnapping the girl. The girl was rescued within 7 days and handed over to her parents which much to their relief. But the traffickers escaped.

Chapter 5 : Activities and Programmes Undertaken

I. Activities

- **Review Meeting:** Quarterly review meeting with Police, Chairperson and Members of Child Welfare Committees, DCPOs and DSWOs, Superintendents of Government and NGO run CCIs are conducted on a regular basis to discuss the problems they face while working for children and resolve those as far as possible. Interactions among different stakeholders help remove bottlenecks and render justice to children.
- **Collaboration with NGOs:** The Commission collaborates with the NGOs for 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 documents with the support of the NGOs, and gets support in follow up of cases. The Commission gets huge support from NGOs in organising State Child Protection Day Programme, International Child Rights Day Programme, setting up child friendly corners in Kolkata International Book fair, Poushmela in Santiniken and in Gangasagar Mela.
- **Action Research:** The Commission undertakes action research projects based on the emerging needs in society and to bring change in knowledge, policy and practice in terms of promoting child rights and ensuring child protection.
- **Training session organised for Members, Consultants and other staff:** A training session on Mental health issues in school children, was conducted by Dr. Rima Mukherji, renowned psychiatrist of Kolkata

- **Public Hearing**

Public hearings serve as a platform to garner opinions, grievances or complaints on matters of public interest and attempt a resolution. It is aimed to assess the implementation of laws, rules, regulations, policies or programs aimed at the protection and promotion of child rights. Depending upon the sensitivity of the issue being considered by the Commission, public hearings may be open to all or restricted to only the victims, witnesses, their families and NGOs supporting them.

The Hon'ble Chairperson, WBCPCR met a child victim from a closed down tea-garden and heard her testimony on the condition of children's lives in such hotbeds of injustice and deprivation. This prompted her to unearth the grievances of the poor families of the tea-gardens who are mostly unheard and whose children get mostly affected. To highlight these issues before the administration and civil society, WBCPCR in exercise of its powers conferred under Section 13(1) of CPCR Act, 2005 held a Public hearing with Action Aid, Kolkata in Alipurduar on 11th June, 2019.

- **Educational Sponsorship**

BNI Ideal Kolkata Chapter Meeting took an exemplary initiative of sponsoring one year of free

education of girl children who need it most. WBCPCR with the help of NGOs identified 6 girl children who belonged to the marginalised community and faced child rights violation in their lives. In spite of their marginalisation, conquering all difficulties these children are pursuing their education and would do so in future as well. BNI Ideal Kolkata Chapter handed over the cheques to those Girl Children towards their one year of free education during their BNI Ideal meeting.

● **Research Work**

In the past one year, the Commission took four research works-

- a) “Dipstick assessment on impact of Domestic Violence on Children” – Study done by WBCPCR in collaboration with Action Aid India & Jayprakash Institute of Social Change, All Bengal Women’s Union (ABWU), South Kolkata Hamari Muskan and School of Women’s Studies, Jadavpur University.
- 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 Action Research Organisation.
- c) A Research work jointly taken up by WBCPCR & Kolkata Sanved on 'Mental Health Gap Assessment of Residents in the CCIs of West Bengal'. This research work was to be completed by the next year.
- d) Proposals were invited by WBCPCR for a study on Child Marriage, its trends towards prohibition & gap analysis between the policies & its intervention in West Bengal.

Among these three research works first two were completed & others are ongoing.

II Child Friendly Fair

Poushmela, Santiniketan

Since 2016, the Commission has been organising a Child Friendly Corner in Poushmela in collaboration with the District Administration of Birbhum. It was for the first time in the state of West Bengal a fair or festival was recognised as a Child Labour Free Fair. This year the Commission in collaboration with the district administration gave Child Labour Free plaques to stalls who practised this in the fair. Sri Ashish Banerjee, the Hon’ble Minister of the Department of Agriculture, West Bengal graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Children across the districts were involved in many activities like drawing competition, craft making workshops. They performed and enjoyed cultural programmes every evening and became sensitized about their rights. Each child was given a hand band stating his/her name, address and contact numbers so that they could be traced easily if they went missing.

International Kolkata Book Fair

Since 2018, the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR) has been organising a Child Friendly Corner at the International Kolkata Bookfair. Children from different corners of West Bengal participated and enjoyed. It created a huge impact among visitors in the book fair as WBCPCR

is the first Commission in India to set up a Child Friendly Corner in book fair.

In 2020, the Commission was also allotted a good space in the International Kolkata Bookfair & the Child Friendly Corner was installed with the focal theme Hansel and Gretel, famous Children's classic fairytale from Germany. Dr Shashi Panja, the Hon'ble Minister of State (IC), DWCD & SW inaugurated the child friendly corner of the Commission in the 44th International Kolkata Book Fair on 29th January, 2020. Renowned film star Sri Chiranjit Chakrabarty and music star Sri Surajit Chatterjee graced the occasion with their presence. Ms Ananya Chakraborti, the Hon'ble Chairperson of WBCPCR along with her members was present in the programme. A large canvas was placed at the child friendly corner where children from various segments drew pictures and cartoons. The first touch was given by the Hon'ble Minister as well as by Sri Chiranjit Chakrabarty who is also a remarkable painter.

Hullor, the children's magazine of the Commission completed its three years of publication. All the copies of Hullor and other publications including IEC material like booklets, posters and research reports on several child rights issues were displayed at the corner.

More than one thousand copies of Hullor, December 2019 issue & Pujasankhya were sold & distributed among children & interested readers. There were many who had collected Hullor last year and this year too they stepped in the corner to get a fresh copy of the magazine.

Leaflets containing informations on child rights and WBCPCR helpline & other important child protection related issues were distributed in the book fair.

Kolkata International Bookfair continued from 29th January to 9th February 2020. During this period, approximately 10,000 children along with their guardians & adults visited the corner, staged performance, took part in quiz sessions, games and other activities conducted by the Commission.

There were three layers of activities & participation of children.

1. Children from Child Care Institutions and disadvantaged communities across Kolkata and nearby districts showcased dance performances, songs, issue-based dramas/skits, self-defence shows.
2. The NGOs and Community Based Organisations in and around Kolkata participated and helped the Commission conduct various activities with children which are as follows.
 - Quiz on general knowledge and active citizenship
 - Several interactive and edutainment games
 - Demonstration of Martial Arts
 - Art workshop
3. Celebrities and noted professionals from different sectors visited the corner & conducted several workshops for the children.
 - Pracheta Gupta, writer: Story reading session
 - Biswanath Basu, actor: Acting workshop
 - Debiprasad Duary, Scientist: Session on sky watching & Solar system
 - Satyarup Siddhanta, Mountaineer: Workshop on Mountaineering

- Dr. Arundhati Sarkar, Director, Manochetana Academic & Research Centre : Interacted with children on mental health
- Bithi Chattopadhyay, Poet: Poetry writing workshop
- Sharmistha Sarkar, Artist: Art workshop
- Troy Roy Chowdhury, Quiz Master: Workshop on Bengali word making
- Dohar, music band: Music workshop

Poetry, limericks & drawings created by children in the workshops were published in the WBCPCR's children's magazine, Hullor and a painting created on a large canvas in the workshop by the children of a Child Care Institution has been installed in the PCR's office as a memento. It gave the children a sense of ownership.

Renowned Radio Jockeys of Kolkata RJ Sekhar and RJ Manali moderated the entire 10 days of activities with their innovative ideas and enthusiasm which made the events interesting for children. There were gifts & prizes for children supported by UNICEF.

Gangasagar Mela

WBCPCR in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development & Social Welfare organised its second Child Friendly Corner from 10 to 15 January, 2020 at the Gangasagar Fair. The Commission felt it important to organise the corner there as there was always a possibility of threat with regard to safety and security of children in the fair. Children get missing from the fair and get trafficked on the pretext of job offers and marriage proposals. It is also observed that children are employed as child labour and beggars. So, two child friendly corners were organised by the Commission — one in Kachuberia and another in the Gangasagar Mela ground. The IEC materials in Hindi, Bengali and English were distributed among all pilgrims. Leaflets containing child helpline numbers like Child Line, WhatsApp Helpline number of WBCPCR were distributed throughout the mela ground. Audio and video spots were used to campaign against child labour, child marriage, missing and trafficking.



Little Magazine Fair

WBCPCR participated in the Little Magazine Fair 2020 that was held from 11 January to 15 January, 2020 at Rabindra Okakura Bhawan, Bidhannagar with its set of publications including its children's magazine Hullor.

Bhangar Bookfair

WBCPCR also participated in the Bhangar Bookfair with its publications & awareness building leaflets. Hullor, the Children's Magazine of WBCPCR received a huge response from readers & children.

III Awards of WBCPCR

- **Birangana and Birpurush Puraskar** : Bravery Award for children was introduced by the Commission in 2016. Girls and boys across the state who play proactive roles in prevention of child marriage and child abuse, facilitate education & work for protecting child rights and inspire their communities & country are felicitated and awarded with plaques and certificates. Children who rescue lives from accident or any disaster and serve the community are also felicitated. In 2019, 25 boys and girls received such Bravery awards from the Commission. This year three male children of 2 to 3 years of age from Bankura district received the awards while their mothers held them on their lap. They saved the lives of thousands of passengers by making a speeding passenger train stop before it could cross over a broken railway track. They could see a gap in the train line while playing & promptly went to a house, took a red torn cloth & flagged the train down standing on the side of the line. The train driver could see and understand the signal and stopped the train & all passengers were saved from a fatal accident. There was also a case where a girl was sexually assaulted and offenders tried to burn her. Now she is a meritorious student fighting out the battle of life.
- **Shishushree Award** : This Media Award based on Child Rights reporting was introduced in 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 2019, 8 journalists received the Shishushree Award. 4 journalists received certificates of Special Mention.
- **Police Bravery Award**: In 2018, the Commission announced the Police Bravery Award for Child Friendly Police Officers. They are awarded for their performances towards protecting rights of Children in Need of Care & Protection. The criteria of selection is whether the police is aware of all provisions of JJ Act and POCSO Act, whether he/she has shown courage in preventing crimes against children and done something to build awareness on Child Rights as well as child protection, whether he/she has played a proactive role and shown responsibility towards cases involving children. In 2019, 3 Police Officers received this award.
- **Best Superintendent of CCI and the Best CCI Award**: The Commission introduced the award for the Best Superintendent of a CCI and the Best CCI in West Bengal. The Commission formed a Selection Committee and selected such CCIs 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 were followed properly. In 2019, Uttarpara Shishu Abash, Hooghly and Edith Wilkins Street Children Trust Fund, Darjeeling received this award.

IV. Observation of Days

- **The State Child Protection Day**: In 2019 The State Child Protection Day was observed by WBCPCR in North Bengal. On 9th June, 2019 in partnership with the Department of Women & Child Development & Social Welfare, UNICEF and other civil society organizations WBCPCR organised the programme at Dinabandhu Mancha, Siliguri so that more children from North Bengal could participate in the celebration.

Two important personalities were felicitated for their invaluable contribution to society- Janab Karimul Haque & Sri Sovon Mukhopadhyay. Padma Shri recipient Karimul Haque is locally known as Bike-Ambulance-dada for his work of supporting the villagers in and around Dhalabari by transporting sick people to hospitals on his bike. Sri Sobhan Mukhopadhyay, a Masters' student of Kolkata University is the first person in Kolkata who started distributing sanitary napkins at pay and use toilets in Kolkata in 2017. A booklet on stopping child marriage "*No marriage now*" was released in the programme. Children from different districts of North Bengal performed and participated in the programme.

- **Child Rights Week :** The Commission celebrated Child Rights Week from 14 – 19 November in 2019 all over West Bengal. More than 15,000 Children from all districts participated in the week long programmes in their respective districts. On 14th November the Child Rights Week began in Kolkata with a colourful tram rally organised by WBCPCR, where five trams with children from CCIs and communities converged in Esplanade tram depot from five different points of the city. Children along with a number of celebrities performed there. On 15th November approximately 100 children visited the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata to witness the forgotten history of Bengal and India. Responding to the appeal by the Commission, the Victoria Memorial authority provided this wonderful opportunity to underprivileged children free of cost.
- **International Child Rights Day:** This week long programme came to a conclusion with the celebration of the International Child Rights Day at Mohorkunja, Kolkata on 20th November, 2019. More than 1000 children from various parts of West Bengal participated in this carnival. 2019 was also the 30th year of CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Dr. Shashi Panja, Hon'ble MOS (IC), DWCD & SW of WB inaugurated the carnival. Sri Debashish Kumar, Mayor in Council, KMC was present as Special Guest. Sri Vinod Kumar, IAS, Secretary, DWCD & SW of WB & Md. Mohiuddin, Chief of Office, UNICEF WB graced the occasion with their presence. Smt. Ananya Chakraborti, the Hon'ble Chairperson, WBCPCR presided over the programme.

A survey report on "Exploratory Research: Dip-stick Assessment on Impact of Domestic violence on Children" conducted by the Commission with support of UNICEF was released at the programme.

A booklet on Cyber Safety (in English & Bengali) for children published by the Commission was released as well.

Four categories of awards were delivered. Bravery awards (Birangana & Birpurush) were given to 25 children of West Bengal for upholding child rights, Shishushree Awards were delivered to journalists for best reporting on Child Rights. Awards were also presented to Child Friendly police and Child friendly CCIs. There was an exhibition of late Trina Lahiri's works. There were several performances by children, shows on dance movement therapy, painting workshop along with other activities in the carnival.

- **National Girl Child Day:** The Commission celebrated the National Girl Child Day on 24th January, 2020 with the residents of Sneha Child Care Home for girls, Sanlaap, Narendrapur, South 24 paraganas. A colourful cultural programme with various sports activities along with a small get together was organised on that day.

Consultations, workshops & meetings organised by WBCPCR in collaboration with DWCD, DCRT, District Administration and NGOs.

Subject	Date & Place	In Collaboration with
Consultation on 'Collaboration for Child Labour Free Society – Building Roadmap for Action	31 October, 2019, Kolkata	Save the Children
State Consultation on Children of Migrant Labourers in Brick Kilns	7 January 2020, Kolkata	Unicef, Jayprakash Institute of Social change
Consultation on "Promoting child friendly atmosphere in Madrasah'	12 September 2019 Murshidabad	District Administration
Consultation on Understanding Missing Children- Situation, Vulnerability and Protection Measures	16 September, 2019, Uttarpara, Hooghly	Childline India Foundation (Eastern Region ReSource Centre)
POCSO awareness programme in schools & Madrasahs (20 schools & Madrasahs covered)	Kolkata, North 24 paraganas, South 24 paraganas, Hooghly, Howrah, Purba Bardhaman	DCPU, Purba Bardhaman, Swapnapuran Welfare Society, Panihati Endeavour, Rupantaran Foundation, Society for Indian Children's Welfare, Childline, Howrah,
Round table discussion on the Exploratory Study on Impact of Domestic Violence on children	26 November, 2020 Kolkata	
Health awareness camps for adolescent boys at Dhruvashram observation & special Home.	11 July, 2019 Ariadaha, North 24 Parganas	
Health awareness programme for adolescent boys and girls at Akshyanagar Pallisri Sangha	29 July, 2019 Nischinda, Howrah.	District Administration Howrah
Workshop on Effect of Child Labour and Child Marriage on Adolescent health	29 August, 2019 Malda	District Administration, SEWA
Celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi	2 October, 2019 Kolkata	Kutchina & Prantakatha
Celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi	2 November, 2019 Viswabharati, Birbhum	Viswabharati Mass Communication Dept.
Mental Health issues in school children– Training	23 October, 2019, Kolkata	
Oneday district level convergence meeting to combat trafficking and POCSO	Baharampur, Murshidabad	WMS

Subject	Date & Place	In Collaboration with
HIV AIDS awareness workshop	30 December, 2019 Kolkata	National Coalition of People Living with HIV in India.
Consultation on Child Marriage and Child Trafficking	4 March, 2020 Contai, Purba Mednipur	
Mental Health Challenges of Survivors of Trafficking	4 July, 2019, Kolkata	JPISC

Meeting with Police

SL	Issue	Date & Place
1	Meeting with CID & Police Personnel on Child Rights Violation across West Bengal	28 November, 2019, Kolkata
2	Meeting with Police, DCRT, Department of Education and Department of Health, West Bengal	27 February, 2020, Kolkata

Chapter 6 : Significant Achievement

Recommendation for introduction of mental health page in school diary

The West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights organised a very important consultation on RTE Act with SSM, Members of the Expert Committee of School Education, teachers and students from private and Government schools, Guardian Forum, RTE Forum and member of ICSE Board on 7th February, 2020 at the Conference Hall, WBCPCR. Various important RTE related issues were discussed. The Commission has come out with important advisories for teachers and guardians along with few recommendations on RTE Act which was sent to the concerned departments.

WBCPCR passed the recommendation for introduction of mental health status page in the school diary. This was sent to the concerned departments and all the existing school boards in the state.

Re-looking of POCSO Act, 2012

WBCPCR organised an Inter-State Consultation on the POCSO Act, 2012 in collaboration with Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking, West Bengal, to put together a studied proposal for required changes of the POCSO Act on 25th February, 2020 at Satyajit Ray Auditorium.

The Chairpersons and members of eleven State Child Rights Commissions, NCPCR along with representatives of police enforcement, Judiciary, medical field, Child Protection units, JJB, SLISA, NGO/s and other pertinent stakeholders participated in the Consultation & came out with a bouquet of recommendations on much required amendments of POCSO Act, 2012.

Prevention of Child Marriage

It was 15 August 2019, the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights' WhatsApp Helpline number received a complaint regarding a child marriage to be solemnized on that evening at South 24 Parganas. The information was immediately communicated to the concerned district officials (District Social Welfare Officer as well the District Child Protection Officer). The district administration further communicated with the local Police station and a rescue team including police officials and officials from the district administration visited the residence of the minor.

When the officials reached the site the minor was not present. WBCPCR was getting the updates from informants that the minor girl had been taken to her uncle's place to avoid the police action. This message was communicated to the concerned officials and the whole team went to the 2nd location. But the minor was still not found as again she had been transferred to a 3rd location. Continuous communication process and follow up with the rescue team were on and finally the minor was recovered from the 3rd location late evening before the marriage ceremony. The father and uncle were arrested, along with the priest and the minor was placed at the CCI.

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

Applications under RTI Act, 2005 received in the year 2019-2020

No. of RTI applications received	No. of RTI applications disposed of
16	13
Cases related to:	
a) JJ Act: 7	
b) RTE: 2	
d) Others :7	

Chapter 8 : Role of the Commission in the Time of CORONA

In January, 2020 most of the World was unaware of CORONA. In the second half of March, the virus spread to almost every country causing deaths of more than several thousand people all over the world.

It crashed economies and broked health-care systems, filled hospitals and emptied public spaces. It separated people from their workplaces and friends leading to a total disruption of modern society on a scale that most living people had never witnessed before.

Government of India declared total lockdown of 21 days. Government of West Bengal under the leadership of the Hon’ble Chief Minister Smt. Mamata Banerjee fought out this CORONA crisis bravely.

The entire team WBCPCR worked actively from home & addressed all complaints received by the Commission including suo motu cases & took steps amid the lockdown.

1. The cases addressed amid the lockdown (from 23 March- 31st March).
2. **Helpline:** WBCPCR launched a helpline for children under stress amid the lockdown and circulated it to all District Officials, police stations in Kolkata & West Bengal. The objective was if children felt stressed or faced mental health problems, they and their guardians could consult doctors & professionals whose numbers were given in the Helpline chart issued by the Commission. Responding to the request of the Commission a group of doctors, physicians & professionals extended their support for children completely free of cost.
3. **Activity Chart for children:** WBCPCR also prepared a routine to keep children happy amid the lockdown. These were circulated through WBCPCR’s website & social media & news papers.
4. **Diet chart for children:** WBCPCR shared a balanced diet plan to keep children healthy amid the lockdown. It was prepared by Smt. Shampa Chakrabarty , Consultant Dietician & circulated through the Commission’s website and social media.

Chapter 9 : Publications of WBCPCR

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 society, including CCL (Children in Conflict with Law) and CNCP (Children in Need of Care and Protection) children can voice their opinions, depict their dreams and illustrate their aspirations side by side with celebrities like Sankha Ghosh, Sourav Ganguly, Ruskin Bond or Bachendri Paul.

It 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 Ruskin Bond story or a Sourav Ganguly's interview or to get in touch with Chiranjit's paintings which they get here.

Children get the flavor of wildlife of Masaimara, Kenya or Bandhabgarh, Madhyapradesh through the lens of eminent actor and wildlife photographer Sabyasachi Chakrabarty. At the same time, Bachendri Pal, the first Indian woman who reached the summit of Mount Everest tells them about the golden rules of how to scale mountains, as well as unprecedented obstacles in life.

Simultaneously, there are several sections like the Cover Story or Counselling which deal with child rights issues like Right to Education, Trafficking, Kanyashree, Right to Play, Child Marriage. Hullor introduced a new comic strip "Dhishum" where children, dare and confront various obstacles to protect child rights. They represent all brave children of Bengal.

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

Other Publications

- i. A booklet on Cyber safety was formulated & published by WBCPCR on the International Child Rights Day Carnival 20 November, 2019 at Mohor Kunja.
- ii. WBCPCR's booklet on Child Marriage- "Ekhoni biye noy" was released by the Hon'ble Minister of West Bengal Sri Gautam Dev on 9th June, 2019 at Siliguri at the State Child Protection Day Programme.
- iii. WBCPCR's calendar of 2020 was released by the Hon'ble MOS (IC), DWCD & SW Dr. Shashi Panja at the Conference Room, WBCPCR. The 2020 Calendar was based on Sukumar Ray's Abol Tabol. It gained tremendous popularity among children as well as a huge cross section of the Bengali society.

Chapter 10 : Recommendations by WBCPCR (2019-2020)

1. POCSO RELATED ISSUES:

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 was passed to provide a robust legal framework for the protection of children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interest of child at every stage of the judicial process. With its implementation over the years, it was realized that not all issues could be addressed by the same act and need for modifications, additions, alterations and amendments to POCSO Act, 2012 was felt. Since it is a central act, amendments are to be made by the parliament, but the recommendations need to be provided to the legislature. Therefore, WBCPCR proposes the needed recommendations as follows.

- i. The 3 stages of childhood, viz, early childhood, mid-childhood and adolescence need different kinds of handling. There should be different categories or provisions for each category under the POCSO Act.
 - a. India is a country of diverse cultures, practices and customs. The POCSO Act needs to recognise these diversities and adapt accordingly.
 - ii. A professional committee of support persons is a must to handle the social, legal and other kinds of trauma for the victim and family and these need to be factored into the POCSO Act.
 - iii. Legal action should not be imposed on everybody at the time of reporting. This might aggravate the trauma of the child. In the best interest of the child, trauma management and healing of victims should take precedence over legal procedures under the POCSO Act. The child and the family must be made ready to face the legal process after adequate counselling.
 - iv. Whether reporting is mandatory or not, investigation must be started.
 - v. POCSO needs to look into situations not only through the legal lens but also factor in the psychological and sociological context.
 - vi. There is a need to recognise the existence of adolescent sexuality and decriminalise consensual sexual acts. It is naive in this day and age to assume that children are asexual beings till the age of 18 and suddenly become ready for marriage, sex and parenthood immediately on turning 18. POCSO needs to come out of this denial and recognise the difference between a sexual act and a sexual offence/ exploitation.

- vii. While the POCSO Act may continue to cover all individuals till the age of 18, the age of consent needs to be lowered to 16.
- viii. The Judiciary needs to be given the discerning authority under POCSO to differentiate between cases of romantic relationships leading to elopement and genuine POCSO cases.
- ix. The medical examination of the victim is critical. There is a dearth of female doctors in hospitals for this purpose. There needs to be a window that allows male doctors to examine the victim in case of a male victim, and examine a female victim in the presence of a female nurse/female family member, in cases where a female doctor is not available.
- x. Apart from the physical evidence, there is a need to examine the emotional and psychological damage of the victim. The POCSO Act needs to factor in NGOs, Social workers, counsellors to examine the victim.
- xi. Issuance of notice to the victim should be mandatory in bail/anticipatory bail cases.
- xii. Effective coordination of the stakeholders is needed in post cognizance stage.
- xiii. There must be more female lawyers in handling POCSO cases – Both as Special Public Prosecutor and representing the child.
- xiv. Victim protection scheme needs to be factored into the POCSO Act. Security and shelter must be provided to the victims and their kin wherever required. Extra security must be provided when accused person gets bail.
- xv. Provisions for video conferencing.
- xvi. Need for more Forensic Laboratories – for submission of on-time FSL Reports – to expedite filing of Charge sheet .
- xvii. Compensation to be paid from the Perpetrator is Additional to Scheme– which needs to be informed to the victim child
- xviii. Need to sensitize all stakeholders regarding compensation schemes.
- xix. There is a need to have dedicated child friendly police.
- xx. There is need for one dedicated support person from the point of taking cognizance till the disposal of the case. The cost of that must be borne by DLSAs.
- xxi. There needs to be specific SOP / guidelines for medical practitioners for mandatory reporting of POCSO cases.
- xxii. The medical kits should go directly from the hospital to FSL to prevent any damage to evidence.

2. RTE RELATED ISSUES

Age Limit of Compulsory Education may be extended: The Commission has been receiving several complaints from the pre-primary schools where the issues regarding admission, fees, school safety are raised. But the Commission cannot intervene in the cases, as RTE starts from the age of six. So, it is recommended that the age of RTE may be lowered to two and a half years of age.

3. MID DAY MEAL

The Commission has noticed that there are several siblings who study in the same Government school and they come from an under-privileged background. One of them may study in class 7 and another may be in class 9. Therefore, as per the rule, one gets mid-day meal and other does not. This is not desirable. So, the Commission recommends that the RTE may be extended till class X, along with the provision of mid-day meal.

4. FEE STRUCTURE OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Charging of exorbitant fees by private schools is a major cause of concern. In the past few years, the Commission has had to deal with a considerable number of such cases. So, the Commission has come up with following recommendations.

- i. There is a need to formulate guidelines in the State Rules to curb the tendency of arbitrary increase in admission fees by private schools as it adversely affects the spirit of RTE. There may be a ceiling in admission and session fee hike.
- ii. Re-admission fee in every class is not acceptable and this issue needs to be addressed by the School Education Department.

5. MENTAL HEALTH RELATED ISSUES

It has been observed by the Commission that due to increased pressure in schools, 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 is recommending the following.

- i. Teachers need better orientation: The teachers of every school need to be properly oriented and sensitized to nurture and safeguard the mental health of their students.
- ii. An Advisory Guideline for Parents/Guardians should be provided: Parental conditioning is also necessary to maintain a healthy environment for a child. The Guideline may cover the dos and don'ts for the parents/guardians, for their child's welfare. The Guideline should be included in the school diaries and be circulated to all parents/ guardians during the admission procedure.

6. Introduction of Edutainment Based Workshop In Child Care Institutions

Child Friendly Corner of WBCPCR in Kolkata International Bookfair had a huge impact among children visiting the fair as well as the children of Child Care Institutions who participated in various edutainment workshops organized by the Commission at the corner. They wrote poems, made stories on the spot. It seemed they enjoyed storytelling and poetry making sessions & acting workshops thoroughly. Thus, the Commission recommends that this kind of workshop needs to be introduced in Child Care Institutions also. Celebrities & noted professionals of different fields may be engaged in such projects. It will help them enhance their motivation in life.

Chapter 11 : Auditor's report and Balance Sheet

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

Report & Accounts
Year ended 31st.March, 2020.

GAUTAM BASU & CO.
Chartered Accountants
6-B, Sevak Baidya Street;
Ground Floor,
Kolkata - 700 029



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, 2020, 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, 2020; 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


(GAUTAM BASU)

Proprietor

Membership No.050924

UDIN - 20050924AAAAFE1288



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

- 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.
- i.

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 2019-2020 Govt Grant received and credited to the bank for an amount of Rs. 31376000.00 . Other Grants received by the Commission during the year 2019 - 2020 was Rs.4324140.00 .

NOTES OF THE ACCOUNTS

- a. Cash balance as on 31.03.2020 Rs. 15943.00 has been certified by the Management of the Commission.
- b. Depreciation/ has been provided on Furniture. @ 10% AC Machine @ 15% & on Computer @ 20%.



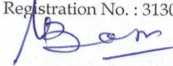
GAUTAM BASU & CO.
Chartered Accountants

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, 2020.

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<u>Capital Fund :</u>			<u>Furniture :</u>		
As per Last A/c	8836649.59		As per Last A/c	1214118.00	
Add : Surplus Transferred from I & E A/c.	<u>6494526.00</u>	15331175.59	Less : Depreciation	<u>121412.00</u>	1092706.00
<u>Liability for Expenses</u>			<u>AC Machine :</u>		
Program Expenses		350806.00	As per Last A/c	308004.00	
TDS & GST (Net)		21598.00	Less : Depreciation	<u>46201.00</u>	261803.00
			<u>Computer :</u>		
			As per Last A/c	726415.30	
			Add : Addition during the year	<u>131950.00</u>	
				858365.30	
			Less : Depreciation	<u>339846.00</u>	518519.30
			<u>EPBX Machine :</u>		
			Purchased during the Year	49755.00	
			Less : Depreciation	<u>3732.00</u>	46023.00
			<u>Advance for Programme</u>		580000.00
			<u>Closing Balance as on 31.03.2020 :</u>		
			Cash in hand (As certified)	15943.00	
			Balance with Bank	<u>13188585.29</u>	13204528.29
		<u>15703579.59</u>			<u>15703579.59</u>

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



(GAUTAM BASU)

Proprietor

Membership No. : 050924
UDIN - 20050924AAAAFE1288



Dated; 24 th September, 2020



Chairperson
West Bengal Commission for
Protection of Child Rights
Govt. of West Bengal

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, 2020.

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi		35143.00	Donations From Individuals		17000.00
Annual Report & Magazine Printing		994374.00	Grant From Department (W & CD and SW)		31376000.00
Bibi Russel & Liluah Expenses		376000.00	Grant From NCPCR		20000.00
Car & Telephone Allowance of CP & Members		264972.00	Grant From UNICEF		4304140.00
Child Protection & Child Rights Day		3039529.00	Interest From Banks		86268.00
Electricity & Water Tax		420168.00	Reimbursement of Consultant &		540000.00
Car Hiring Charges of Office		1485795.00	others from UNICEF		
Honorarium to Consultants		3073118.00			
Honorarium to CP & Members		2119655.00			
IEC Printed Materials		1915654.00			
Meeting & Seminars/ Research / W.Shop etc		3649783.00			
Office Exp & Other Charges		2195008.00			
Office Telephone Charges		303405.00			
Public Hearing / Home Visit / School Visit		315061.00			
Office Rent		3906706.00			
UNICEF Kolkata		4578198.00			
Wages of Group D		665122.00			
<u>Depreciation on</u>					
Furniture	121412.00				
AC Machine	46201.00				
Computer	339846.00				
EPBX	3732.00	511191.00			
Surplus - Transferred to Capital Fund Account		6494526.00			
		36343408.00			36343408.00

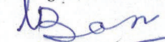
Dated; 24 th September, 2020


Chairperson
West Bengal Commission for
Protection of Child Rights
Govt. of West Bengal



As Per Our Report Annexed
for GAUTAM BASU & CO.

Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No. : 313010E


(GAUTAM BASU)
Proprietor


Membership No. : 050924
UDIN - 20050924AAAAAFE1288

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, 2020.

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Opening Balance as on 01.04.2019			150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi	35143.00	
Cash in hand	3866.00		Annual Report & Magazine Printing	994374.00	
Balance with Banks	5795246.29	5799112.29	Bibi Russel & Liluah Expenses	376000.00	
Donations From Individuals		17000.00	Car & Telephone Allowance of CP & Members	264972.00	
Grant From Department (W & CD and SW)		31376000.00	Child Protection & Child Rights Day	3039529.00	
Grant From NCPCR		20000.00	Electricity & Water Tax	420168.00	
Grant From UNICEF		4304140.00	Car Hiring Charges of Office	1485795.00	
Interest From Banks		86268.00	Honorarium to Consultants	3073118.00	
Reimbursement of Consultant & others from UNICEF		540000.00	Honorarium to CP & Members	2119655.00	
Advance for Programme (Net)		209000.00	IEC Printed Materials	1915654.00	
Liability for Program Expenses		350806.00	Meeting & Seminars/ Research / W.Shop etc	3649783.00	
TDS & GST (Net)		21598.00	Office Exp & Other Charges	2195008.00	
			Office Telephone Charges	303405.00	
			Public Hearing / Home Visit / School Visit	315061.00	
			Office Rent	3906706.00	
			UNICEF Kolkata	4578198.00	
			Wages of Group D	665122.00	
			EPBX	49755.00	
			Computer	131950.00	
			<u>Closing Balance as on 31.03.2020 :</u>		
			Cash in hand (As certified)	15943.00	
			Balance with Bank	13188585.29	13204528.29
		<u>42723924.29</u>			<u>42723924.29</u>

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


(GAUTAM BASU)

Proprietor
Membership No. : 050924
UDIN - 20050924AAAAFE1288



Dated; 24 th September, 2020


Chairperson
West Bengal Commission for
Protection of Child Rights
Govt. of West Bengal

Chapter 12 : Photo Gallery



Chapter 12 : Photo Gallery



Chapter 13 : WBCPCR in Media

শিশুদের সমস্যা মেটাতে শিশু অধিকার সুরক্ষা কমিশন

রিমা ভট্টাচার্য

কালীঘাটের যৌনপল্লীর মা ও শিশুদের জন্য খাবারের ব্যবস্থা করল রাজ্য। পাশাপাশি ঘরবন্দি অবস্থায় রাজ্যের কোনও শিশুর মানসিক সমস্যা হলে কাউন্সেলিংয়ের ব্যবস্থাও করা হল। এর জন্য একটি ওয়েবসাইটও খোলা হয়েছে। একটি খেছাসেসী সংগঠনের সহযোগিতায় কমিশন শনিবার থেকে সেখানকার সব শিশুর দু'বেলা ভাত-ডালের ব্যবস্থা করেছে। কমিশনের চেয়ারপার্সন অনন্যা চক্রবর্তী বলেন, 'শিশুরা কোনওরকম সমস্যায় পড়লে আমরা সবসময় সাহায্য করতে প্রস্তুত। অফিস বন্ধ রয়েছে। কিন্তু ফোন, এসএমএস, হোয়াটসঅ্যাপ, ই-মেলের মাধ্যমে সবসময় যোগাযোগ করা সম্ভব। কালীঘাটের যৌনপল্লীর মায়েরা কালীঘাট থানায় তাদের সমস্যার কথা জানিয়েছিলেন। থানা থেকে আমাদের কাছে খবর আসে। আমরা সঙ্গে সঙ্গে ব্যবস্থা নিয়েছি।'

আমাদের ডাকে সড়া দিয়ে আসাযেবলি অফ গড চার্চ মা ও শিশুদের খাবারের ব্যবস্থা করেছে।'

শুধু কালীঘাটের যৌনপল্লী নয়, রাজ্যের যে কোনও প্রান্তের শিশু, এমনকী পশ্চিমবঙ্গেরও সমস্যা হলে কমিশন ব্যবস্থা নেবে। করোনো মোকাবিলায় গোটা দেশে লকডাউন চলছে। একই পরিস্থিতি এ রাজ্যেও। স্থল বন্ধ। খেলার মাঠে যাওয়া বন্ধ। এমনকী পাশের বাড়ির শিশুর সঙ্গে খেলাও বন্ধ। এই পরিস্থিতিতে কোনও শিশু যদি মানসিকভাবে অসুস্থ হয়ে পড়ে তাহলে তাদের কাউন্সেলিংয়ের ব্যবস্থা করেছে শিশু অধিকার সুরক্ষা কমিশন। এই সংস্থার ওয়েবসাইটে মনোবিদ এবং মনোরোগ বিশেষজ্ঞ, শিশু চিকিৎসকের নাম ফোন নম্বর ও কখন যোগাযোগ করা যাবে তার বিস্তারিত তথ্য দেওয়া আছে। কমিশনের চেয়ারপার্সন বলেন, 'দীর্ঘদিন ঘরবন্দি থাকলে শিশুদের সমস্যা হতে পারে। তাই আমাদের এই প্রয়াস।'

<p>মনোরোগ বিশেষজ্ঞ</p> <p>ডাঃ রিমা মুখার্জি : ৮৯৬১৫৭৩৪৪০ ডাঃ অরবিন্দ ব্রহ্ম : ৯৮৩০০৬৬৮৬৯ ডাঃ কুমারকান্তি ঘোষ : ৯৪৩৩০৬০০২৭ সমীক্ষনী: ৭০৪৪০৮৭৯৪৯ ডাঃ দেবপ্রত মজুমদার: ৯৮৩০৪৯৩৮৩৬ ডাঃ অভিরুচি চ্যাটার্জি: ৯৮৩০১৭২৭২৮</p>	<p>অনিন্দিতা মুখার্জি: ৯৪৩৩০৯৫৩৫৯ সুশিতা চ্যাটার্জি: ৮২৯৬১৫৪৮৯৯</p> <p>মনোবিদ</p> <p>ডাঃ সুবর্ণা সেন: ৯৮৩০৪৭৭৪২০</p> <p>শিশুরোগ বিশেষজ্ঞ</p> <p>ডাঃ নীলাঞ্জন ঘোষ: ৮৩৩৪০১৭৫৫৭ ডাঃ শমীক ঘোষ : ৯৭৪৮৪৮৭৭৬৭</p> <p>ঔষধিগ বিশেষজ্ঞ</p> <p>ডাঃ জয়দীপ বসু: ৯৮৩০১০২৪৪০৬</p>
<p>কাউন্সেলর</p> <p>ডাঃ নীলাঞ্জন সানাল: ৯৮৩০০২২৬১৫ পারমিতা চৌধুরি: ৯৪৩৩১৬৬৬৮৪ সুপর্ণা রুস্ত: ৯৭৪৮৭৬৫৫০৫ ডাঃ রেশমি দত্ত: ৯৮৩০২৪৮৫১৮ ডাঃ উজ্জ্বলিতা মুখার্জি: ৯৮৩০১১৫৮৭৮ স্বপনজা: ৯০৫১৩৯৩৭১৬</p>	

নাবালিকার বিয়ে রুখল প্রশাসন

রাজগঞ্জ, ৬ মে : নাবালিকার বিয়ে রুখল প্রশাসন। সোমবার রাজগঞ্জের চান্দারবাড়ি গ্রামের ঘটনা। এদিন উভয় পরিবারের কাছ থেকে নাবালিকার বিয়ে না দেওয়ার ব্যাপারে লিখিত মুচলেকা নিয়ে বিয়ে বন্ধ করে দেওয়া হয়। এই অঙ্গীকার লঙ্ঘন করা হলে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া হবে বলে প্রশাসনের পক্ষ থেকে জানানো হয়েছে। এদিন নাবালিকার বিয়ের জন্য প্যাডেল, ছাঁদনাতলা তৈরি সহ আমন্ত্রিতদের জন্য রামাবামা শুরু হয়ে গিয়েছিল। এই খবর পেঁছায় প্রশাসনের কাছে। খবর পেয়ে বিয়েবাড়িতে যান এলাকার

প্যারালিগ্যাল ভলাদিয়ার দিলীপ সরকার, ইয়াসিন আলি, বিশ্বজিৎ রায়, জলপাইগুড়ি জেলার চাইল্ড প্রোটেকশন ইউনিটের অফিসার জয়দীপ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়, ব্লক ওয়েলফেয়ার অফিসার নিরঞ্জন রায়, সমাজকর্মী কাবেরী গুহমণ্ডল এবং রাজগঞ্জ থানার পুলিশ। স্থানীয় জনপ্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে উভয় পরিবারকে নাবালিকা বিয়ের কুফল সম্পর্কে বোঝানো হয়। উভয় পরিবারের কাছ থেকে নাবালিকা মেয়ের বিয়ে না দেওয়ার মুচলেকা নিয়ে বিয়ে বন্ধ করে দেওয়া হয়।

ঝড়ে যেন শিশু না হারায়, জেলা প্রশাসনকে সতর্ক করল শিশু কমিশন

নিজস্ব প্রতিনিধি, কলকাতা: ঘূর্ণিঝড় ফণী নিয়ে সব মহল থেকেই নানা সতর্কতামূলক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের সুপারিশ করা হচ্ছে। বিদ্যুৎ সংস্থা থেকে শিশু কমিশন—সবারই নানা প্রস্তাব রয়েছে। যেমন রাজ্যের যে সব জেলায় ফণী আছড়ে পড়বে, সেখানে শিশু হারিয়ে যাওয়ার মতো ঘটনা যাতে না ঘটে, তার জন্য সজাগ থাকতে হবে জেলা প্রশাসনকে। এই মর্মে শুক্রবার জেলাশাসকদের চিঠি পাঠিয়েছে কমিশন। এর পাশাপাশি কমিশন এও বলেছে যে, ঝড়ে শিশু হারিয়ে গেলে বা তারপর পাচারের মতো ঘটনা যাতে না ঘটে, তার দিকে লক্ষ রাখতে হবে। এর আগে আইলার সময় এমন পরিস্থিতি তৈরি হয়েছিল। তার পুনরাবৃত্তি যাতে না হয়, তার জন্য আগে থেকেই সতর্ক করে দিল শিশু কমিশন।

এদিকে, এই ঝড়ের মধ্যে বিদ্যুৎমন্ত্রী শোভনসেন চট্টোপাধ্যায়ের তরফেও সতর্কবার্তা দেওয়া হয়েছে। এক বিবৃতিতে বলা হয়েছে, তীর ঝড়ের সময় দুর্ঘটনা এড়াতে অস্থায়ীভাবে বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ বন্ধ করা হতে পারে। প্রাকৃতিক দুর্ঘটনার কারণে ভেঙে যাওয়া পোল বা হেঁড়া তারে হাত না দেওয়াই ভালো। ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত ইলেক্ট্রিক লাইনে বিদ্যুৎকর্মীরা কাজ করতে এলে বাড়ির ইনভার্টার বন্ধ রাখার আবেদন করা হয়েছে। কারণ, ইনভার্টার চালু থাকলে ব্যাকফিড লাইনে কর্মরত কর্মীর প্রাণনাশের আশঙ্কা থাকতে পারে।

ফণীর মোকাবিলায় তৈরি সিএসসিও। তারা এক প্রেস বিবৃতিতে বলেছে, বিদ্যুৎ সংস্থার বিপর্নয় মোকাবিলা দলকে তৈরি রাখা হয়েছে। কলকাতা পুলিশের কন্ট্রোল রুম, কলকাতা পুসভার কন্ট্রোল রুমে সিএসসিওর প্রতিনিধিরা থাকবেন। বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহের উপর কড়া নজর রাখা হচ্ছে। গ্রবল ঝড়ের সময়ে নিরাপত্তার খাতিরে বিদ্যুৎ সংযোগ সাময়িকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্ন করা হতে পারে বলেও তাদের তরফে জানানো হয়েছে।



Chapter 13 : WBCPCR in Media

School writes to parents

SUBHANKAR
CHOWDHURY

Regent Park: A city school, where a student was found dead last week allegedly with self-inflicted wounds, has reached out to parents to discuss with them "...issues concerning your child's mental and physical well-being".

A letter addressed to the parents says that the school vice-principal "is always present in the school to talk to you..."

Though such a notice is construed as common practice, the letter stands out considering allegations that several Calcutta schools do not communicate with parents when it comes to dealing with a student's mental and physical well-being.

After the Class X student was found dead on June 21, several guardians of the GD Birla Centre for Education had alleged that the school had always declined to interact with the guardians' forum despite being approached repeatedly.

A parent of a Class IX student said this was the first such notice from the school.

"I don't recall receiving such a notice earlier. I guess last week's incident must have prompted the school to send the notice," the mother of the Class IX student said.

The letter was circulated among the students of the senior section from classes VI-X on June 25.

The letter states that parents may meet the vice-principal on any working day between 1.30pm and 3pm or on Saturdays between 10am and

1pm with prior appointment.

The fact that mental health of students is posing a challenge became evident when more than 100 principals from schools across the city had attended the session on the issue last Saturday.

At the event, several principals approached psychologist Parveen Shaikh, who had stressed the need to develop a closer interaction among parents and schools on mental health.

Farishta Dastur Mukherji, a counsellor of Calcutta International School, said the letter recognised the fact that issues such as mental health could not be handled in isolation.

The West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights on Monday had written a letter to the GD Birla Centre for Education in which, among other things, they had advised interaction between guardians and the authorities on issues such as mental health and safety.

The chairperson of the child rights watchdog, Ananya Chatterjee Chakraborti, said: "The school seems to be opening up to the fact that they need to start communicating with the parents on the issue of mental health. I sincerely hope the move bears fruit."

Repeated calls to principal Sharmila Nath went unanswered. She also did not reply to text messages.

Sanjay Bhattacharya, the spokesperson for the guardians' forum, said they would soon write a letter to the school authorities to convene a formal meeting.

Kids' routine

JHINUK MAZUMDAR

Calcutta: The state commission for protection of child rights has published a routine for children to keep them happy during the lockdown.

Live in the "now", be positive and stay connected with one another, is the panel's advice. The commission has suggested a list of activities on its website and social media.

এক নজরে

ছোটদের পরিচিতি প্রকাশে নিষেধাজ্ঞা

► কলকাতার একটি স্কুলে এক ছাত্রীর অপমৃত্যুর ঘটনার পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে তার পরিচিতি তথা ব্যক্তিগত তথ্য প্রকাশ অনুচিত বলে জানিয়েছে রাজ্য শিশু অধিকার রক্ষা কমিশন। 'জুভেনাইল জাস্টিস অ্যাক্ট, ২০১৫'-র ৭৪ নম্বর ধারা অনুযায়ী, কোনও অপরাধের শিকার নাবালকের পরিচিতি চিহ্নিত করা শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ। ফলে তার নাম, ঠিকানা, ছবি, স্কুলের নাম সংবাদমাধ্যম বা অন্যত্র প্রকাশ করা যাবে না। নাবালক অপরাধী বা বিপন্ন শিশুদের ক্ষেত্রেও এই আইন মানতে হবে। কমিশনের চেয়ারপার্সন অনন্যা চক্রবর্তীর মতে, সঙ্কটের সময়ে শিশু বা কিশোরের পরিবারের ব্যক্তিগত পরিসর লঙ্ঘন করাও অসংবেদনশীল। তবে তদন্ত-পর্বে পুলিশি পদক্ষেপ, ফরেনসিক বা ময়না-তদন্তের রিপোর্ট সংবাদমাধ্যমে প্রকাশে বাধা নেই।

নাবালিকার বিয়ে বন্ধ করা হল

বস্ত্রিহাট, ২৪ এপ্রিল : পুলিশ ও ব্লক প্রশাসনের সহযোগিতায় নাবালিকা স্কুল ছাত্রীর বিয়ে রুখল চাইল্ড লাইন। মঙ্গলবার বস্ত্রিহাট থানার দক্ষিণ রামপুরের বাসিন্দা তথা সিঙ্গিমারি হাইস্কুলের দশম শ্রেণির ছাত্রীর সঙ্গে জালধোয়া নিবাসী এক যুবকের বিয়ে হওয়ার কথা ছিল। খবর পেয়ে চাইল্ডলাইনের কোঅর্ডিনেটর রুঙ্কু ঘোষ, বস্ত্রিহাটের বিডিও এবং পুলিশ ঘটনাস্থলে পৌঁছে বিয়ে আটকে দেন। রুঙ্কুদেবী বলেন, 'মেয়েটি প্রাপ্তবয়স্ক না হওয়া পর্যন্ত বিয়ে স্থগিত থাকবে বলে মুচলেকা নেওয়া হয়েছে।'

Drawing by Children





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