



Child Protection Policy 2017

KAJLA JANAKALYAN SAMITY



KJKS

**Kajla
Janakalyan
Samiti**

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GLOSSARY

Definition of words used in the policy:

- **Child:** Any persons below the age of 18 years shall be considered a child.
- **Child protection:** Child protection is the safeguarding of children from any form of violence, exploitation, discrimination and abuse.
- **Child Abuse:** It is the physical, mental, sexual or emotional maltreatment of a child, especially by caregivers.
- **Physical Abuse:** It is the act of deliberately causing physical harm to a child; this includes slapping, kicking, poisoning, etc.
- **Sexual Abuse:** This is the act of engaging in sexual activities with children and/or using children for sexual stimulation. Sexual abuse can include intercourse, touching or exposure of genitals and other parts of the body, producing child pornography, grooming.
- **Emotional Abuse:** This includes behavior and attitudes that harm a child's emotional wellbeing; neglect, deliberate humiliation, threats and withholding affection are all forms of emotional abuse.
- **Neglect:** This is a form of child abuse and refers to the inadequacy of meeting a child's basic needs including nutrition, healthcare, housing, education and emotional support.

a) Vulnerable Children:

Vulnerability can be defined as a high probability of a negative outcome or an expected loss of well-being above a socially accepted norm, which results from risky or uncertain events, and the lack of appropriate means to deal with them. Vulnerability leaves one at risk of exposure to stressful situations. The degree and type of vulnerability however, varies in each context and overtime.

Those children who are lagging behind for social, economic and geographic reasons or forced to be attached with different professions or children with special need or to be addicted to drug are called vulnerable children.

The following categories of children can be considered as vulnerable children:

- Those Children conflict with law or contact with law.
- Orphan and abandoned child.
- Migrating child.
- Child earning money against work.

- Child beggar.
- Those children forced to take profession of prostitution or take this profession at their will.
- Street Children and runaway children.
- Drug addicted Child.
- Affected child in the disaster.
- Infected and affected children with chronic and infectious disease.
- Children with special need - Children who have special educational needs and/or disability
- Children who have mental health difficulties
- Children who have physical health issues
- Children in non-intact families
- Transgender children or children exhibiting non-normative gender behaviour
- Children of women in prostitution
- Children belong to S.C and S.T. family
- Trafficked Children.
- Drop-out children.
- Children affected due to early marriage.
- Children of single parent

b) Child Protection:

The Integrated Child Protection Scheme defines 'Child Protection' protecting children from or against any perceived or real danger or risk to their life, their personhood and childhood. It is about reducing their vulnerability to any kind of harm and ensuring that no child falls out of the social safety net and that those who do, receive necessary care, protection and support so as to bring them back into the safety net. While protection is a right of every child, some children are more vulnerable than others and need special attention. The Government recognizes these children as 'children in difficult circumstances'.

- **Risk:** The chance of a difficult situation happening directly and indirectly related to the school leading to negative outcomes for students. Risk includes
 - The chance of a children experiencing a difficult/troublesome situation;
 - The chance of a children being sexually or physically or mentally abused, or cyber-abused;
 - The chances of the organization authorities being unable to help the children in a difficult situation.
 - The chances of the adverse experience having a long-term or short-term negative impact on student well-being.
- **Life skills:** A set of positive skills that enable people to deal with the challenges and issues of everyday life. Life skills include conflict resolution, communication and active listening.

- **Bullying:** This is a form of physical/mental/sexual aggression used to actively dominate/intimidate a person.
- **Child pornography:** Child pornography is any form of media (visual or otherwise) that depicts the exploitation of children through sexually suggestive activities.
- **Child marriage:** This is the practice of marrying children before they reach legal adulthood; in India, the legal age for girls is 18 and for boys 21 years.
- **Child labour:** Child labour involves children in employment in any business or industry; it is generally considered illegal and exploitative as it usually takes children away from school and their home environments.
- **Gender bias:** The socio-cultural perception of one gender being regarded as superior to the others; it is especially used in the context of preferential treatment towards males.
- **Emergency:** This is a sudden situation that could pose a serious threat to life, environment, safety and property. It is a situation that requires immediate action to avoid further damage. Emergencies include natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis and man-made disasters like wars.
- **Pre-disaster preparedness:** This refers to a set of steps taken to prepare for disasters and reduce their effects on people as much as possible.
- **Psychosocial (aid):** This is a holistic approach to wellbeing and includes psychological as well as environmental and social effects on physical and mental health.
- **Code of conduct:** A set of regulations that govern the behaviour of members of an institution.
- **IEC (materials):** Information, Education and Communication include documents that are printed/broadcast and circulated among people to create awareness on specific issues. IEC materials can include posters, radio messages, flyers and pamphlets.
- **Child Participation:** Child Participation is the right to forming his or her own views, to freedom of opinion and expression, to be heard, to seek, receive and impart ideas, to be informed and seek information, to freedom of association and peaceful assembly, to freedom of thought and conscience, to having his or her points of view taken into account in settings such as the family, schools and other institutional areas and also to taking part in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating.

INTRODUCTION

Aim of the Policy:

The aim of the policy is to introduce child protection in the context of organization and to equip them to implement, monitor and evaluate it on a regular basis. It provides clear direction to staff and others about expected roles and responsibilities in dealing with child protection issues. The authority of KJKS is explicitly expressed in the policy in order to deal with the issues of the child protection with utmost sensitivity, keeping in mind the best interest of the child.

Target Audience:

The policy will apply to all personnel and persons related to Kajla Janakalyan Samity and who come in direct or indirect contact with children of the organization System or any other constituent directly or indirectly engaged in organization system.

A. Direct in touch with children:

Being with and in the physical presence of a child or children as part of their work, be it regular, occasional, temporary or long term. It will include visitor, vendors and others service providing agency or individual.

B. Indirect contact with Children:

Those works do not require them to be in the physical presence of child but encompasses access to personal details and information, data on children including photographs, case file etc.

Child Protection Policy

Part I

A. INTRODUCTION

I. Preamble

Children are the future of the society – civilization. But alas! They become the more vulnerable section of the society especially in third world country as of negligence, abuse, torture or exploitation. Family is safe place to children but safe shelter becomes hell to them because of domestic violence, greed and meanness. Now childhood turns into pressure hood. They haven't right to express their opinion besides victims of insufficiency of nutritious food and inadequacy of proper shelter and dress.

There are frequent incidents of child labor, early marriage and child domestic workers and female feticide in the society in addition to they become the scapegoat of trafficking in the name of early marriage & unsafe migration in the society.

Children are the puppet to adults; there is neither right to express self opinion of children nor child centric behavioral attitude of adult what will must create child centered environment.

Kajla Janakalyan Samity has worked for children, by children and with children since long years. It has decided to frame rectified 'Child Protection Policy' for creating safety-net and child friendly environment within and outside the organization.

1. The organization honors and believes the child centric environment i.e. the work for the children, by the children and with the children by giving importance on their constructive opinion.
2. The organization believes that every child deserves the equal rights irrespective of caste, creed, religions, and sex, rich and poor.
3. The organization is accountable to prevent the children from exploitation, abuse, maltreatment and torture.
4. Employees, well-wishers, partner agency, experts, members, volunteers of the organization those are directly or indirectly involve with Kajla Janakalyan Samity accountable to protect the children, create child friendly environment and always make free they from any type of child centric violence.

II. Policy Statement

Child Protection Policy is a statement of intent that defines the KJKS's commitment to safeguard children from harm and abuse. It helps to create a safe and positive environment for children, shows that the organization is taking its duty of care and protection seriously, and importantly specifies stakeholders' responsibilities and roles in the protection of children.

- The basic principles, standards and guidelines on which 'Child Protection Policy' of Kajla Janakalyan Samity framed is applicable to persons attached to Kajla Janakalyan samity in all direction.
- All persons including and organizations associated with Kajla Janakalyan Samity directly or indirectly must follow the basic principles, standards and guidelines of Child Protection and Child Right.
- All persons including employees and organizations associated Kajla Janakalyan Samity must follow 'Child Protection policy strictly.

III. Objective of the Policy

1. To create child friendly atmosphere and safety net for protecting children from violence.
2. To ensure child friendly attitude and behavior among employees, well-wishers, partner agency, experts, members, volunteers, visitors and others.
3. To provide space for the children to express their opinion within and outside the organization.
4. To define roles and responsibilities and accountability of organization's authorities and other stakeholders
5. To enable staff and others recognize signs of abuse or situation when a child may require protection and help; and importantly enable them to report or bring to the notice of the concerned authority for immediate action
6. To set in place mechanisms for monitoring and review of the implementation of the child protection standards

IV Guiding Principles

The Child Protection Policy is guided by the non-negotiable fundamental principles for realization of the rights of all children and includes in particular -

1. **Principle of Best Interest of the Child:** The right of the child to have her or his best interest taken as primary consideration which is a substantive right, a fundamental interpretative legal principle and a rule of procedure . It also implies that institutions, services and facilities responsible for care or protection of children will conform to standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health and supervision; and reiterates the rights and duties of parents, guardians, other individuals legally responsible for them

2. **Principle of Safety:** (*No harm, no abuse, no neglect, no maltreatment*) All measures will be taken to ensure that the child is safe and is not subjected to any harm, abuse or maltreatment while in contact with the care providers and care givers.
3. **Principle of presumption of innocence:** Any child shall be presumed to be an innocent of any mala fide or criminal intent up to the age of eighteen years.
4. **Principle of non-stigmatizing semantics:** Adversarial or accusatory words are not to be used in the processes pertaining to a child.
5. **Principle of fresh start:** All past records of any child under the Juvenile Justice system should be erased except in special circumstances.
6. Children, especially the most vulnerable deserve the very highest standards of care & protection. In building safe environment in organization for children where their rights are respected and they are protected from harm. Staff and others stakeholder of the organization have important part to play. This means making sure that they are aware of their protection role and responsibilities and that they behave with the utmost professionalism and integrity at all times.
7. The organization should honour and believe in the principle of a child centric environment i.e. the work for the children, by the children and with the children by giving importance on their opinion and participation.

Child Centric Environment consists of the following characteristics:

The organization is child-centered

The adults, who work at organization, should be acting in the children's best interests, help children develop their full potential and be concerned about their health and safety. A child-friendly organization should also care about their children's lives outside organization and things that happen in their family or community.

The organization is inclusive

This means that the organization staff should never under any circumstances discriminate, exclude, and stereotype children based on their differences. The inclusive institution should respect the diversity of its children and treat them all equal, without discrimination towards female children who work, who belong to ethnic minorities, those kids who have HIV/AIDS disease, physically challenged children, victims of violence and exploitation, etc.

The organization is healthy and protects the children

This means that the staff and others are responsible for establishing a safe and healthy environment that meets the sanitary norms. An institution needs to ensure the health policies, for instance, no taking forbidden substances, harassment, and bullying. The physical and emotional health of children and teachers has to be taken care of. Children have to be protected from any kinds of harm and abuse, and they need to remember their being at organization as a positive experience.

The organization is gender-sensitive

Gender equality should be promoted and encouraged, and any kinds of gender-based stereotypes should be eliminated.

The organization is involved with the children, their families, and communities

This means that the organization has to promote the participation of children in all the everyday life aspects, as well as helping children to establish healthy relationships with their parents and encouraging taking part in the life of their local community.

8. The Child group, child parliament, children's club and children panchayat should have a prominent role in awareness generation and
9. The organization is accountable to prevent the children from exploitation, abuse, maltreatment and torture- both physical and mental e.g not to giving offensive nick names etc
10. Staff, members, visitors, beneficiaries, members of EC, CPC and others of the organization are directly or indirectly involve with the organization is accountable to protect the children, create child friendly environment and always make free them from any type of child centric violence.
11. **Principle of Equality and Non-discrimination:** All children shall be treated equal and given equal opportunity and treatment. There shall be no discrimination against a child on any grounds including gender, religion, caste, class, place of birth, disability.
12. **Confidentiality:** The principle that requires service providers to protect information gathered about the children and other involved persons and ensure it is accessible only with their explicit permission. Maintain privacy for protecting dignity of the children.
13. **Informed consent:** The voluntary agreement of an individual who has the capacity to understand and who exercise free choice to receive services requires case workers to share information on services, and the potential risk of such information sharing.
14. **Informed assent:** The expressed willingness to participate in services, for children below the age of 15 years, requires the same sharing of information (in a child friendly format) on services and potential risk.
15. **Mandatory reporting:** The terms used to describe legal or statutory systems that require service providers to report certain categories of crimes or abuse (e.g. sexual violence, child abuse, etc); best interests of the child should be taken into account when agencies are considering whether or not to comply with such policies.
16. The organization should not tolerate any form of child abuse or violation, nor should it tolerate possession or access to any material that is abusive towards children. The organization will not engage with anyone who poses a direct risk to children.
17. The focus of the child protection policy is preventive in nature; ie., the aim is to prevent any violation or abuse from happening with children and taking appropriate measures for preventing and addressing the same. (see Annexure)

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF CHILD PROTECTION POLICY IN ORGANIZATION

I. Applicability of the Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct-

This policy is applicable to the following-

1. All individuals who are in direct or indirect contact with children including staff, members, visitors, partner, beneficiaries and others.
2. Parents, volunteers, consultants, board members and other visitors to the organization. It also extends to vendor and service staffs who visit the organization.
3. Locations which children visit through the organization

This policy must be appended to agreements and contracts signed between the organization authorities and third parties, letters of appointment, service rules etc. Lack of knowledge of child protection policy cannot be used as a pretext to avoid or challenge disciplinary action as laid down in the policy.

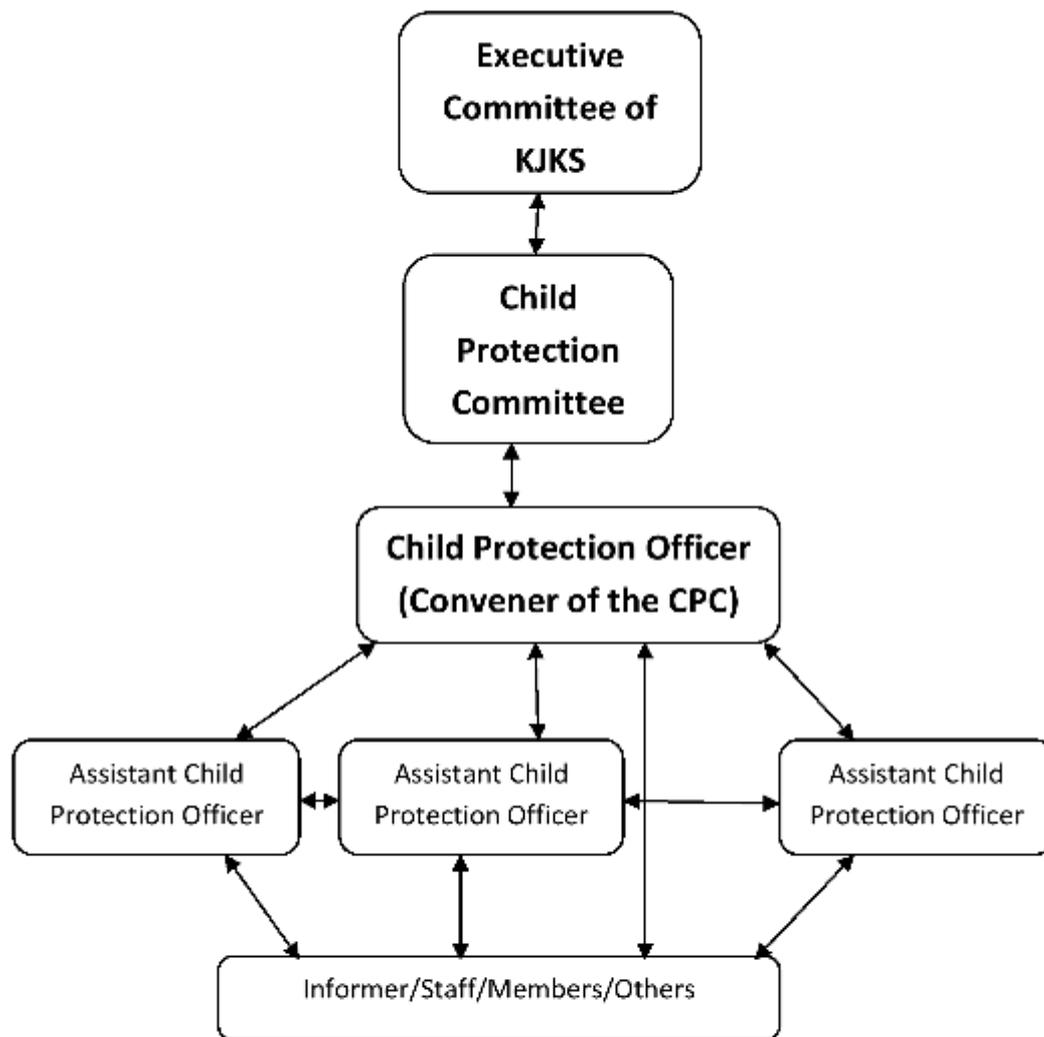
II. Implementation of CPP

The smooth implementation of the policy shall be undertaken through integration across other policies of the organization. The implementation of services shall adhere to the child protection continuum from prevention to response. A Child Protection Committee (CPC) shall be established at the organization to implement and oversee the implementation of the policy, concern persons shall be nominated with responsibility for specific areas of implementation and a clear reporting mechanism shall be developed between concern persons and the CPC. As the policy evolves, the roles for each layer can be detailed further.

III. Structure of Child Protection Committee (CPC):

The process of CPC formation will be initiated by Executive Board of Kajla Janakalyan Samity.

The CPC is a internal committee of Kajla Janakalyan Samity comprising representative of executive committee member, children representatives & staff representatives, who are primarily responsible for creating and promoting a child friendly and safe environment wherein all children's well being, safety and rights are protected. CPCs will be responsible for monitoring, reporting and responding to the issues of child protection within the organization, operational areas and outside of the operational areas. The CPCs will also plan and take up innovative activities to raise awareness in the organization and community about the issues of local child protection concern. The Child Protection Committee will work in close coordination with the Executive Board of Kajla Janakalyan Samity for case management within the organization, operational areas and outside of the operational areas of Kajla Janakalyan Samity. The CPC will refer and report cases to DCPU, administration, judiciary, CWC, JJB, CWO, Child line, local police station for as required Legal matter.



There are 13 members will be associated with the child protection committee. At least six (6) seats will be reserved for female members including two girls as children representatives. The tenure of the committee will be 3 years and will be reconstituted thereafter with due notification from Executive Board of Kajla Janakalyan Samity.

IV. Composition of Child Protection Committee (CPC):

SL No.	Suggested Member	Total Number	Male	Female	Name of Member	Designation
1	Representative of Board Member	1	0	1		
2	Representatives from children club/CCI	3	1	2		
3	Representative of Coordinator	1	1	0		
4	Representative of Supervisor	2	0	2		

5	Representative of Field Staff	2	1	1		
6	Child Protection Officer	1	1	0		
7	Director	1	1	0		
8	Representatives from other district branch office (Jhargram & South 24 Parganas)	2	2	0		
9.	Representative of beneficiaries and general members	2	1	1		

V. Role & Responsibilities of Child Protection Committee:

- Should be conducted committee meeting as regular interval to review the Child Protection Policy of the organization (Quarterly meeting).
- Should be resolved any type of cases within stipulated time.
- Committee should coordinate/informed to the executive body of the organization on different case/incident.
- Committee should analyze the report of CPO & recommended or take decision in regards of legal or non-legal aspect.
- Should be developed different IEC on CPP and disseminated at office as well as operational areas.
- Should be visualized CPP procedures at institutional level.
- Should be organized different awareness generation, capacity building program on child protection policy & different child related act for the staff/members/stakeholders & others to build child safety net in the organization and outside the organization.
- Should be developed better relation with government structure like DCPU, DSWO, CWPO, CWC, Police, GP, BLCPC, VLCPC etc.
- Should be implementing CPP within the organization & influence to others at operational area of the organization.
- Should be monitor & evaluate organization child protection policy and its implementation as quarterly & annual basis & published a brief report as annual basis
- Should be conduct annual review meeting on status of implementation of protection policy.

VI. Role of CPC member:

- Should be followed organization CPP.
- Should be play as an informer at field level.
- Should be participated committee meeting.
- Should be aware to general public & stakeholders about Child Protection Policy.
- Should be communicated with CPO, ACPO & informer with a good manner.
- Should be discussed basic points of CPP in every type of capacity building program of the organization.
- Should be prepared own on the issue of child Rights as well as child protection policy.

VII. Role of CPO:

- Act as focal point in receiving all complaints of child abuse inform to CPC.
- Maintaining records pertaining to the complaints.
- Ensuring mandatory reporting of child sexual offenses and coordinating with the police and local authorities

- Following procedures where there are allegations of child safety violations (including against the CPO and others authority of the organization).
- Facilitating training of CPC and EC, organizational personnel, children, members and others on child rights and Child Protection Policy.
- Guide CPC and EC to taking proper action and timely.
- Formulate plan of action for implementation of CPP.
- Maintaining liaison with children's organization, EC and VLCPC, BLCPC, DCPU, CWC, CWPO.
- Assess Risk.
- Refer the case as per decision of CPC.
- Report to appropriate authorities regarding implementation, assessment and evaluation of CPP.
- Ensuring confidentiality

VIII. Role of Executive Board of Kajla Janakalyan Samity:

- Act as focal point in receiving all complaints of child abuse from concerning district inform to CPO.
- Maintaining records pertaining to the complaints for concerning district.
- Following procedures where there are allegations of child safety violations (including against the CPO and others authority of the organization).
- Facilitating training of CPC and EC, organizational personnel, children, members and others on child rights and Child Protection Policy in concerning district.
- Formulate plan of action for implementation of CPP in concerning district.
- Maintaining liaison with children's organization, EC and VLCPC, BLCPC, DCPU, CWC, CWPO of concerning district.
- Assess Risk.
- Refer the case as per decision of CPC.
- Report to appropriate authorities regarding implementation, assessment and evaluation of CPP.
- Ensuring confidentiality.

IX. Role of Executive Board of Kajla Janakalyan Samity:

- Formation of CPC.
- Monitor, review and evaluation of CPC function.
- Review, Monitor & evaluation of CPP implementation and its result and impact within the organization.
- Undertake decision on critical case which will refer by CPC.
- Capacity building on CPP for the members of CPC.
- Amendment of CPP.
- Guide to CPC for proper functioning.

X. Personal Safety and life skills for children-

This is important towards building organization as safe spaces by informing children about personal boundaries. Children must be informed about the highlights of the policy in simplified language and persons to approach in case their personal safety is violated. Knowledge about life-skills and personal safety must be an on-going process that encourages children to act for themselves as well as on behalf of others. Dialogues with children should be age-appropriate and evolve with time based on needs of children and their surroundings. For example- with increasing access to internet and social media, the conversations around personal safety should help children safeguard themselves from and report instances of cyber-bullying, child pornography, abuse through online media etc.

Part II

A. PREVENTIVE STRATEGY WITHIN SCHOOL:

I. Engaging / Recruiting and selecting or nominating human resources:

At the time of appointment/engage/nominated of staff, consultant, member of EC & CPC, evaluator and experts for organization the following rules to be followed:

- The person who are going to engaging / recruiting/selecting/ nominating for the organization he /she should provide minimum three reference name with his/her application and the authority should verify primarily from the referees. This should be primary criteria to accept his/her application. The references should be specially questioned regarding child protection sensitivity.
- The authority should verify his/ her background in details by their machinery and recommended about she/ he is reliable for children or not. (Develop measuring indicator for assessment of the background)
- To know about behavior/attitude of the applicant from the friends or colleagues if he/she was engaged with any occupation.
- To include some specific questions during interview that draw out people's attitudes and values in the relation to the protection of the children.
- All staff, members of EC & CPC, Experts, Consultant, Evaluator, and others should furnish declaration on abide all norms & regulation which is mentioned in the Child Protection policy in the organization.
- All staff, EC and CPC members, Children and others should furnish self audit tool on the basis of CPP in organization yearly and submit it appropriate authority. This should be part of the yearly performance appraisal with definitive feedback from children.
- Child Protection Policy should be integrated with the standing orders or service rules of employees. "Best interests of the child" will primarily be considered in all actions concerning children

II. Code of Conduct for staff, visitors, evaluator, parents, experts, donor, vendors members of EC, CPC and others.

Kajla Janakalyan Samity believes in and advocates for children's rights to survival, protection, development and participation. To ensure 'Child Protection Policy' Kajla Janakalyan Samity frames code of conduct for all associated within the organization and outside. It has been developed by giving respect to the best interests of children. The persons and organizations associated with Kajla Janakalyan Samity should maintain the below listed conducts:

i. General Guiding Principles for Code of Conduct:

1. To be aware about vulnerable condition, risk factors and its mitigation within local context.
2. To plan and organize the work and work place that should reduce risk factors.
3. To do activity for children openly what will be visible to all.

4. To create fearless and friendly atmosphere in what way they represent as their friend, philosopher and guide where children express their opinion, views, good and bad mental state etc very easily to them.
5. To work with children in a spirit of co-operation and partnership based on mutual trust and respect.
6. To treat children with respect and recognize them as individuals in their own rights.
7. To regard children positively and value them as individuals with specific needs and rights.
8. To provide such type of education what should help children to aware of their right and to access the right and at the same time they will be capable to solve their problem.
9. To create such an environment so that the children can place their problems, grievances demands directly to the teachers, committee and others appropriate place.
10. To hear the words of children with importance and take action accordingly.
11. To take opinion from children to prepare child related development plan.
12. To provide information if child want to know about any subject (age appropriate)
13. To take initiation for protesting against any type of violation of children right such as child labor, child marriage etc. after knowing of such type of incidents and to restrict own for engagement in such type of incident.
14. To be accountable and dutiful for ensuring good behave - manners to children and child protection and should abide child protection policy of the organization.

ii. Don't :

1. Spend time alone with one child for long time away from others.
2. Touch a child unnecessarily except in times of medical emergencies
3. Use children for personal errands (esp for bringing any addictive substances)
4. Take away child in home and spend time alone there.
5. Give importance to one child or more among the children or to buy materials for this particular child or children only.
6. Suppress child to express opinion.
7. Speak false about child and to rebuke for that.
8. Use words to children relating with physique, caste, profession, creed or religions etc.

iii. Unacceptable behavior :

1. To hit, assault or abuse children physically & mentally.
2. To develop physical/sexual relationships with children.
3. To develop mental relationship in such way that can create emotional psychosis.
4. To develop exploitative or abusive relationships with children.
5. To blackmail emotionally.
6. To act in ways that may be painful to children or to keep them in vulnerable place.
7. To drink or smoke in front of children.
8. To engage children to buy addicted articles or particles.
9. To encourage children for drinking or smoking or addicting.
10. To practice of engagement of child labor, initiation of early marriage or female feticide.

iv. Unacceptable behaviours or actions by associated persons of the organization which could create negative impact in society.

- 1) To use language, advice and indication, behavior to children what may be offensive or abuse.
- 2) To develop physical relation with the children what may be treated as sexual engagement and harmful behavior.
- 3) To spend time or night without supervision (CCI)
- 4) To share bed or room at night with children (CCI)
- 5) To do personal work of children which they can do easily for personal interest or much more affection to them.
- 6) To support, condone and participate in such works of, for, by or with children what are illegal, unsafe and abusive.
- 7) To work with children in way to shame, degrade and humiliate.
- 8) To create discrimination among the children.
- 9) To create gender biasness among children.

v. Code of Conduct of Visitors:

During visit of children related activities the visitors, volunteers, parents, apprentice, evaluator and others in the organization will maintain following code of conduct:

1. Converse/ talk with child as much possible in front of all.
2. Don't show discriminating behavior/ attitude towards children.
3. Don't serve food without taking permission from the competent authority.
4. Don't visit, converse, take photograph or bring children alone in own room without taking permission from authority.
5. Don't use filthy bad language and posture to children what effect dignity of children.
6. Don't take away children outside or contact children by getting help of employee without taking permission from the authority.
7. Nobody will be allowed to provoke the child to engage him/her in his (Visitors etc) work.
8. Don't publish any sorts of information that will hamper the dignity of the child.

vi. Code of conduct for the children:

To be mandatorily prepared in the organization with due participation of the children. The process is to lead by the responsible staff of the organization/CPO of the Child Protection Committee with the help of the others experts. Although the policy is suggesting the following norms, it may be consider or may not be consider during preparation of code of conduct for the children...

1. The child has to honor and respect and maintain dignity to the elders.
2. The child must follow the rules of the organization, school and CCI etc.
3. The habit of group play, table sharing, food sharing, live together and group activity in the organization, CCI, schools and etc. will be grown up.
4. The child should inform about own problem at proper place.
5. Children must not do any illegal work, exploit anybody, use dishonorable and filthy words, deprive anybody and use vulgar words. If the elders do such behavior, they will intimate it at the proper place.
6. Those who lead among children will be obeyed.

7. The children will organize wall magazine, gardening and classroom decoration jointly and collectively.
8. Children should expand their hands to support weak in different subjects.
9. Children must not quarrel, not to be violent and not to grouping among them.
10. Children must try to improve their knowledge, efficiency, and consciousness and demand dignity from elder by doing activities.

****This list of conduct is by no means all-inclusive which should not violate the Guiding Principles . Schools are required to modify the above according to the local needs and context of the organization, finalize it and get it notarized by competent authority.**

III. Capacity building

i. Capacity building of the students:

It is very much necessary to build capacity of all stakeholders for proper implementation of Child Protection Policy in the organization, schools and CCI. DCPU, BLCPC and VLCPC should help them to build capacity of the children, students, teachers, parents, all employees, members, beneficiaries and others of the organization and the authority of the organization can allot some in their budget for this.

The following systems with topic may be follows for building capacity of the students which will help to create safety net within the schools....

- a) To teach the students/ children/ inmates regularly by undertaking special class on hand wash, primary treatment, hygiene, control emotion, how to protect themselves from mental and physical violation, how to lodge complain against violator, what is bad & good touch etc.
- b) Conduct workshop on child rights, child protection policy and role VLCPC, CWC, Child Line etc for the students, Children, inmates by quarterly.
- c) Engage the Children, students, inmates for monitoring the class, running the library, publishing wall magazine, conduct different events of the school, CCI, organization, participate in different decision making process, assessment of CPC implementation etc for building self confidence among the Children, students, inmates which will help to prevent violation against children, inmates and students.
- d) Organize children, inmates and student's annual meet on their performance in different sector and how much safety and protection of the organization, CCI and school. This event will conduct under the leadership of the children, inmates and student. Best performer will be awarded. This initiative will help them to build collectivization so that safety will be ensured.

ii. Capacity building of the employees, EC members, CPC members and others committee members of the organization:

- a) The authority of the organization / CPC should organize special training on child rights, child protection related act, policies and rules and child protection policy etc for the teacher. Teachers should be compulsorily trained on positive disciplining and non-violent communication. It will help in building their perspective so that prevention of child protection

- b) The authority of the organization / CPC should organize workshop quarterly on how to monitor the different sector of organization, CCI and school and child protection policy etc for ensuring prevention of children. Inmates and students from any type of violations.

iii. Capacity building of parents, beneficiaries and others:

- a) Discussion about child protection issue as well as child protection policy of the organization in scheduled Meeting and through conduction of special awareness generation meetings which for a better implementation of child protection policy in the organization.
- b) Engage them for monitoring for implementation of child protection policy.

iv. Capacity building of the others staff (clerk, cooking team, gardeners, cleaners, driver and others)

- a) Conduct workshop once in half year regarding child protection policy of the organization and how to deal with children, Inmates and students including skills how to communicate with children
- b) Engage their representative for monitoring on implementation of child protection policy in organization.

IV. Opportunities for easy access to documents for children, inmates and students, employees, EC and CPC members and others

Every stakeholder shall be informed and have access to the Child Protection Policy and all other policy documents of the school. This shall be ensured through the following means-

- Every staff member whether permanent or contractual shall be given a copy of this policy
- Every child in the school, CCI and organization shall know this policy exists and must be explained this in simple language and based on the age of the child. There should be a child friendly version made by competent authority.
- It shall be included as part of vendor agreements with briefing of CPP highlights for all vendors
- It shall be made available to all EC and CPC members and parents, beneficiaries' general members and all children.
- In annual general meeting such policies will be discussed among the members to aware about CPP.

V. Display of important subjects of CPP

Mandatory disclosure of important clauses of the CPP must be made through avenues such as ...

- Boards in common areas
- Child protection Policy will be printed and published as book so that all persons can easily access it.
- Main focusing point of CPP will displayed through posters, boards and wall writing.
- CPP of the organization will be displayed at website also.
- Hand-out of the CPP will develop for dissemination of CPP among the staff, members, visitors and others associates.

Part – III

A. STANDARD FOR COMMUNICATION AND USE OF VISUAL IMAGES OF THE CHILDREN:

General standard protection children, students and inmates in communication process

The general standard for communications within the organization, school, CCI will be governed along certain principles:

a) Best interests of the child are to be prioritized along each step of the way. No action/procedure to be taken that would degrade/victimize or shame any child to preserve their dignity. This principle applies to communication processes with both internal parties and external stakeholders.

b) Privacy and confidentiality of the child is to be maintained at all times; their identity and private details should be sacrosanct in any dealings with external parties including the media. No personal information of children are to be revealed publicly that would enable them to be located physically.

c) Principle of non-stigmatizing semantics: Adversarial or accusatory words are not to be used in the processes pertaining to a child.

d). Children and their caregivers have to give informed consent before any form of information sharing. Children should also have the right to say 'No' to any external communication such as with the media/other organizations.

e) In matters concerning them, children will have the right to participate and have an opinion. To the fullest extent possible, children's accounts should be heard on matters and not have adult figures speaking on their behalf.

f) In sensitive matters, such as incidents of abuse/bullying all data should be kept on a need to know basis, strictly between stakeholders that are legally mandated to know. This would include concerned teachers/head of institution/guardians/law enforcement. All the data is to be stored securely and kept confidential.

G. Standard of principles regarding the use of visual images:

1. In order to keep the dignity of children Kajla Janakalyan Samity follows the following standard norms:

- ✦ To take permission from child before taking photo or video.
- ✦ To take permission from the child and parents before using of photography at the time of ventilating case study. In this case if the child has no power to understand, it is obligatory to take permission from the parents.
- ✦ To maintain dignity of children when depicting and describing the photographs of special need children, disaster affected children, refugees children.
- ✦ While using images, the explanation should be given where possible.
- ✦ If any child does not want to give his/her photography, no pressure should be given to take photography.
- ✦ Not to use the children's images for the interest of Kajla Janakalyan Samity:

✚ Not to influence the child to contaminate the truth or to represent the situation in different way not to relate with truth as for example to enforce for crying before children.

✚ Due to maintain secrecy, never publish full name of the child and his/her family, if needed name and address of child should be changed.

2. To represent fact with balance for the interests of development:

✚ To avoid traditional way of presentation.(Such as showing of sick thin body for arising sympathy)

✚ To highlight the balanced fact to help the poor not to show the victimized persons.

3. Using of visual image of incident :

✚ Don't over colour or fine tuning incident to save the dignity of child and its family.

✚ Don't use images of children for taking benefit by arising interest or influencing others.

✚ Use photographs of same environment for focusing the truth.

✚ Use general photograph with clear caption.

✚ Don't misinterpret the image during the use of image.

4. Maintaining standards of taste and decency on the basis of values and ethics:

✚ Don't use love affairs related, ugly or vulgar photo or picture.

✚ Don't use photo of dead, naked or dishonored child.

✚ Don't use poor wretched or downtrodden picture of children unnecessarily.

✚ Don't use picture of children engaging on stealing unnecessarily.

✚ Don't publish picture where children are the victim of dishonor and lose dignity.

✚ Don't publish children' words what will be harmful in future.

5. Other related rules in using of visual images:

✚ The foreign friends, donors and partners will follow and abide visual image policy of Kajla Janakalyan Samity.

✚ Follow the norms visual image policy to publish different visual materials during disaster and emergency.

✚ Maintain good quality of photograph where child related photo will be used.

✚ Don't collect money by manipulating image of children.

✚ Don't be marketed image of child where the dignity of child may be lost.

B. DATA PROTECTION AND STORAGE

Data Protection of CPP

a. In the event of any incidence no report in any newspaper, magazine, news-sheet or visual media of any inquiry regarding a juvenile or child under this Act shall disclose the name , address or school or any other particulars calculated to lead to the identification nor shall any picture of any such child be published, without permission of appropriate authority.

b. Identity of Child Victim or Child witness should not be disclosed.

c. The data and recording of the CCTV has to be protected and to keep in safe custody so that same could be handed over to the appropriate authority at the time of need.

d. Details of the Child as being mentioned in the admission register, id card etc should not be disclosed.

e. All relevant data should be kept in safe custody for minimum of 2 years , even after completion of investigation.

Part IV

CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCY / DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES:

1. Pre-Disaster preparedness

1.1. Review and understanding of existing legal framework for protection of children

The existing legal framework for protection of children needs to be reviewed and if necessary the provisions available for different child protection issues need to be documented with reference to issues, concerns, provisions available, article no. reporting authority and mode of report.

1.2. Identification of nodal persons for each administrative unit

It is important for all related administrative units to know about child rights and the necessity for child protection, the provisions available and need for convergence. They also need to be aware about the aggravated child protection scenario in the aftermath of an emergency and what to do from their end in that respect. Hence identifying the nodal persons is necessary, so that they may be aware of the complete child protection scenario, their roles and responsibilities, and the provisions available to them in each situation. They also need to be in the information loop to be able to contextualize their roles and responsibilities.

1.3. Convergence of systems

Child Protection is not the responsibility of only one department – though they may coordinate the preparedness and the actions taken for the effective implementation of the required activities. Convergence between related departments prior to an emergency is necessary so that the organizations can work together in the post disaster phase.

1.4. Building capacity on legal framework and use of legal instruments

Understanding the legal framework and the recourses available under the law of the land also helps us to prepare ourselves for any violation of child protection norms / child rights.

1.5. Easy to understand, actionable points for dissemination and demonstration through age and target specific IEC including audio- visual content

IEC materials that have simple, easy to use points on the basis of which necessary action can be taken, including audio-visual content is necessary to update nodal persons of different departments to be on the same page of understanding the core child protection issues as well as child rights.

1.6. Repository of IEC collected from organizations working in CP

There is a vast resource base available with organizations including civil society organizations that have been working in the field of child rights and child protection. These resources can be brought together to form a repository which can then be used by any organization with the intent of understanding or taking action in terms of child rights / child protection issues and violations.

1.7. Child Rights and Risk Analysis (CRRSA) with technical support from competent organizations

CRRSA fulfils a critical need as it helps to understand the context in which we are working, the current status of the child rights and risks inherent within or without the system, and

the measures that can be adopted to remove these risks and to make the system resilient enough to withstand the shocks and stresses of a disaster and provide uninterrupted service delivery.

1.8. Understanding the hazard profile and context analysis – rural / peri-urban / urban, different districts, state wide

At the same time, understanding the hazard profile of the state and understanding the disaster management mechanism available in different contexts, their alignment with the child protection mechanism, and planning preparedness actions accordingly would help the actors concerned to understand and priorities their roles and responsibilities in terms of monitoring, identifying and responding to violations or proposed violations in a timely and appropriate manner.

1.9. Understanding how emergency aggravates CP indicators

This is critical, as the CO indicators that are already less than ideal in a normal situation when there is no emergency can be grossly aggravated in the aftermath of an emergency when even the very basic of safety structures whether social economic or psychosocial, may start to degenerate under tremendous pressure.

1.10. Constant monitoring and data collection system which does not stop during an emergency

It is important to continue to collect data and monitor the situation irrespective of an emergency so that the trend analysis can give us confident result regarding the potential aggravation of the CP issues in the post emergency period and possible ways of overcoming the challenge.

1.11. Even retention data helps to identify several CP issues

School retention helps check a number of child rights and child protection violations, like child labour and other exploitative concerns. When in school, children are also monitored by the teachers as part of the schooling framework which helps identify a number of CP issues like child marriage and / or child exploitation.

1.12. Involving emergency relief operations workers and police functionaries in understanding CP issues

If the emergency relief operations workers and police functionaries who are involved in search and rescue and camp management especially have no prior understanding of the child rights and child protection issues and potential areas of violation and possible ways of redressal, it would be very challenging for them to do so in the aftermath of an emergency. They need to understand the child safety protocols as well as what to do in case there is a missing, separated, unaccompanied, orphaned child or there is a child headed household in the camp.

1.13. Helping CPCs to understand what is an emergency and how to contribute effectively during one

Child Protection Committees as well as the various components of the child protection mechanism in the state should also be aware of the hazard profile of the state and what it means for the child rights and child protection issues. They also need to understand what are the safety protocols that can be used to continue to protect children from further harm

in a post disaster scenario and how to integrate child protection safeguards into the disaster management system.

1.14. Child Safeguarding Policy in Emergency

Institutionalization of child safeguarding policy would allow all stakeholders to be aware of safety protocols when working with or responding to a child in each sector, whether s/he is a protection worker, a police functionary, an emergency relief worker or from any other department / organization.

1.15 NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) building guidelines should be followed when constructing building and related structures and addressing disasters.

2. Post Disaster response management

2.1. Monitor the situation intensively

The basic difference between working in a development mode and working in a humanitarian mode is the degree of intensity, as, in the latter scenario, one needs to work very closely with the target population, keeping in tune with safety protocols and maintaining the strict timeline at the same time. This is critical as survival is of the highest priority in the aftermath of a disaster. The situation needs to be monitored closely and without time gaps to ensure children are safe and as far as possible with the best possible caregiver whom they also trust.

2.2. Collection of data without gaps

Continuous monitoring is critical need as the gaps might mean some violations might go unnoticed.

2.3. Registration should reflect the no. of children, age groups, category of the child present in the camp (unaccompanied, orphaned, child headed household and separated)

Registration data needs to be very specific and targeted to take into account each and every member of the camp to further facilitate the processes of Family tracing and reunification if required. It also helps interventions to be designed specifically around the needs of the child in need or in conflict present in the camp.

2.4. Monitoring formal and informal camps

Both formal and informal camps need to be monitored as CP and child rights violations are always higher when the attention of the authorities are diverted to life saving issues in the aftermath of a disaster in a camp situation. The camp may be formal or informal but the needs of the children remain the same although in an informal camp the risks are higher.

2.5. Working with emergency relief operations workers, VLCPC and police to maintain protection standards in camps

The triad of emergency relief operations workers, VLCPC and police need to function properly and aware of safety protocols for children as well prepared with strong systemic support for monitoring and taking action in child rights and child protection issues.

2.6. Understanding the need for immediate action

In cases of child safety in post disaster situation, there needs to be immediate action to safeguard the child concerned or it may cause irreparable harm.

2.7. Child Friendly Space

Child friendly spaces ensure security for children, with full knowledge of parents and caregivers and can also provide an outlet for the traumatic experiences that the child had through peer support and if necessary through psychosocial support by trained facilitators.

2.8. Psychosocial First Aid

There are children who are severely traumatized by their experiences in the disaster or even in the occurrences after a disaster. These children would need specialized help and they need to be identified immediately so that they can begin to get back to normalcy with little or no loss of time.

2.9. Integrating CP concerns in and responding to them through work in other sectors

Integrating CP concerns in other sectors like sanitation helps actors to safeguard children more effectively. Examples could be provision of lighting in temporary settlements, provision of covered toilets with light and water for girls and women.

2.10. Encouraging children to report any violation by assuring confidentiality

Children and other stakeholders must be provided confidentiality; otherwise we might do more harm than what had been originally done.

2.11. Activate Child Safeguarding Policy

Once child safeguarding policy has been institutionalised, it must be activated to ensure safety for all children in camp or non-camp scenario in the aftermath of an emergency. All stakeholders need to know what to do in case of a safety violation and how to monitor the situation.

2.12. Temporary Learning Centres

Uninterrupted flow of basic services especially education enable the children to stay on their life track and regain normalcy in life sooner. It also helps children gain lost ground in terms of curriculum faster.

2.13. Family Tracing and Reunification

Family tracing and reunification is a critical protocol so that children's families may be traced through camp volunteers and registration data and children may be restored to their families or caregivers while ensuring they are safe and would come to no harm from doing so.

2.14. Involving the state level networks to receive and disseminate relevant data across sectors and support external aid

State level networks can help receive and disseminate critical data on a short notice and specialized external aid can be provided on request if required, for the safety of children.

PART V

REVIEW, MONITORING AND EVALUATION, REPORTING:

I. Monitoring, review and evaluation structure, roles & responsibilities within the school

For an effective child protection policy to be implemented within the organization, it needs to be reviewed and monitored periodically, both within the organization. The levels of intervention should be:

Level 1: CP Committee

▪ Internal Monitoring and Review Process

The organization shall have constituted a child protection committee whose primary role and responsibility shall be the effective implementation of the child protection policy within the organization and outside the organization.

▪ Self-Audit of CPP Compliance

As a first step under the periodic review and monitoring process of the Child Protection Policy, all members of the Committee are required to carry out a self-audit process to gauge compliance of the CPP within the organization. This process is to be done through Safety Checklist which has comprehensive aspects of child safety including physical and emotional security. The members of the committee should conduct individual assessments of the status, progress and implementation of the specified safety measures in the checklist.

▪ Review and Monitoring Meeting

The CPC shall conduct a quarterly review and monitoring meeting to facilitate the following activities:

- i. Reports of any child safety incidents and the actions taken, including child abuse. There should be a discussion on the responses and measures taken with reference to these incidents, including any trainings conducted.
- ii. Assessing any imminent or upcoming safety issues within the CCI, School and the organization and deliberating on potential pre-emptive measures for the same. This is in reference to all forms of safety, including physical and emotional aspects.
- iii. Ensuring that all procedures under the CPP are being adhered to and followed.
- iv. Any required changes or amendments to the existing CPP.
- v. Addressing any queries from the children, inmates and students within the organization/EC & CPC members/parents.
- vi. Submission of a report to the Executive Council/ Annual General meeting of the organization based on the quarterly review, with recommendations and requests for resources/capacity building as deemed necessary.
- vi. Risk management protocols to be approved and signed by the committee.

Role of the CPO/Head of the organization:

The quarterly review of the CPP shall be carried out under the auspices of the CPO and EC of the organization. It will be their responsibility to ensure:

- a. The overall operationalisation and compliance of the child protection policy in the organization.
- b. Preside over the review and monitoring processes of the committee and convene emergency sessions if the need arises.
- c. Ensure that there is complete children's participation in the monitoring and review process.
- d. Act as the liaison between the Committee and the Executive Committee of the organization.
- e. Ensuring that the recommendations of the Committee are followed and forwarded to the Executive Committee and finally incorporated.

II. Children's Participation in Review and Monitoring Process

- Children participation in the review and monitoring process is essential and non-negotiable. The children/ children clubs, children panchayat and child cabinet must be given full space and freedom to act.
- Prior to the quarterly review process, an open discussion should take place among the child Cabinet/Parliament/ children's club/ children panchayat/ children committee that exists in the organization. The child Cabinet/Parliament/ children's club/ children panchayat/ children committee should have a role in the awareness generation. The discussion must primarily be led by the children representatives, to understand the opinions of the children on the status of safety in the organization/CCI/ School and others.

I. Beneficiaries & general members / Interface in Review Process

- The general members & beneficiaries representatives in the Committee are responsible for ensuring that the opinions and perspectives of the general member & beneficiaries' team of the organization are heard in the review and monitoring process.
Prior to the quarterly review process, the general members and beneficiaries representatives must conduct an open discussion among the general member and beneficiaries team of the organization. This discussion should be done to understand the recommendations and grievances (if any) from the general members and beneficiaries.

Part VI REDRESSAL MECHANISM

CASE MANAGEMENT

What is case management?

- Case management is the process of assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and review of CPP. Case management aims to strengthen outcome of CPP.
- Case management is the procedure of managing (including planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) the helping process, addressing cases until the situation better or the problems is resolved. Case management is method for coordinating and keeping track of services in which organization assesses with children what services are needed and obtains and monitor the delivery of those services.
- Case management establishes the procedures and responsibilities at the different levels of service delivery.
- Case Management is first and foremost a structure approach to child protection issues, but also method of providing secondary prevention (preventing further harm to a student and any others students in a family who may be at risk)

Key points of Case Management:

- A focus should be placed on the needs of individual child, ensuring that concerns are address systematically in consideration of the child's best interests.
- The help should be provided in accordance with the established case management process, with a given series of steps for each case, involving the children/inmates/ students meaningful participation and family empowerment throughout.
- It involves the coordination of services and supports within an interlinked or referral systems.
- It requires systems for ensuring the accountability of case management team/committee/agency (within formal or statutory systems where this exists).

Elements of case management:

- The process of case management is interactive, dynamic with an emphasis on ;
- Building relationship with child or young person and their family.
- Developing planning for well being of the child.
- Ongoing analysis, decision making and record keeping ensuring that the identified needs of the child are being met.

The principles driving case management:

Case management should:

- Occur closely as possible to the case arisen from the child or young person;
- Include active involvement and participation of children and young people and their carrier;
- Support self determination for children and young people;
- Be responsive to the cultural beliefs and needs of the child and their family and community to which they belongs;
- Achieve continuity of support.

The following systems will maintain within the organization/CCI/School for lodging complain against violation of CPP and Child protection.....

- File complaints by using drop box. The organization, CCI, school should have drop box and it will maintain under the leadership CPO. CPO will open the drop box minimum once in a week.
- Any person can inform by written or verbal to CPO and others members of CPP about any violation of CPP and child protection.
- Any person can inform by mail or telephone to CPO and others members of CPP about any violation of CPP and child protection.
- Any member of CPP is informed about violation of CPP and Child Protection by conducting class, sports and any others events.
- If protection is neglected or violated the child itself or who has been himself /herself may complain the matter to the child protection Officer and members of child protection committee.
- If any complaint received by anyone other than child protection Officer, the same must be sent to the child protection Officer.
- CPO is prime responsible of the organization to take complain and undertake primary actions.
- Violation case will investigate and fame a report and submit the same to the child protection committee of the organization.
- Investigation will be conducted by the CPO primarily or CPO will nominate to others.
- CPC will depute person or team for investigation.
- During investigation witness, others proof, child's opinion should be taken.
- The investigation report will be discussed in the child protection committee, if it is found that enquiry has been done impartially then child protection committee will be responsible to investigate it again.
- CPO will responsible to discuss with CPC in their meeting regarding case and investigation report.
- Investigation report will submit to CPO of the organization.
- CPC will responsible to undertake final decision.
- Accused person will get the opportunity of defending himself.
- If it is found that matter is violating law of the land then undertake appropriate legal action by getting approval from Executive Committee of the organization.
- In case of violation if it is found that disclose of report will hamper the child, the privacy should be mentioned for the interest of the child.
- The complaint should be addressed at CPC-level within **two weeks** after receipt of complaint.

Rehabilitations & response:

- Psychosocial support
- Medical support
- Physical separation of offenders
- Follow-up visit
- Engage in joyful activity and events
- Counseling to family members.

Miscellaneous:

- If the CPO or the office bearer of the organization or any member of the CPC and organization has violated CPP & CP, then the investigation procedures will undertake by other members of CPC or Executive committee of the organization. The complaint should be placed before the committee within 24 hours. The complaint should be addressed at this level within 30 days.
- VLCPC or WLCPC is government recognized body who is responsible to ensure protection of the children in the Gram Samsad or Ward so they can involve as institution for investigation of the violation case.
- BLCPC is also government recognized body who is also responsible to ensure protection of children in block so they can involve as institution for investigation of the violation case.
- After completion of investigation CPC should indentified the gap in CPP of the organization and recommend some points for inserting in CPP for reducing risk and if found gap implementation, monitoring, evaluation of CPP in the organization then undertake decisions for proper implementation of CPP.

APPELLATE AUTHORITY

In matters that are beyond the jurisdiction of the CPC, the CPC shall forward the case to statutory legal authorities as per existing provision of the law. Otherwise, it should be referred within 7 days from receipt of complaint.

Part VII

I. Understanding Child Protection

The right to protection of children is one of the indivisible rights guaranteed by the UNCRC. The realization of other rights such as the right to survival, participation and development is dependent on the child's right to protection being upheld.

UNICEF uses the term 'child protection' to refer to preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children – including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage.

The Integrated Child Protection Scheme defines 'Child Protection' protecting children from or against any perceived or real danger or risk to their life, their personhood and childhood. It is about reducing their vulnerability to any kind of harm and ensuring that no child falls out of the social safety net and that those who do, receive necessary care, protection and support so as to bring them back into the safety net. While protection is a right of every child, some children are more vulnerable than others and need special attention. The Government recognizes these children as 'children in difficult circumstances', characterized by their specific social, economic and geo-political situations. In addition to providing a safe environment for these children, it is imperative to ensure that all other children also remain protected. This is because Child protection is integrally linked to every other right of the child.

Within the Child Protection framework, specific roles and responsibilities are assigned to all stakeholders to ensure that all the rights of a child rights are met. In case of violations of rights, the perpetrator may be brought to justice through mechanisms within this framework and the child be rehabilitated with strong provisions to ensure s/he does not get victimized again. This framework therefore looks at child protection along a continuum of prevention, response and rehabilitation. Risk assessment and mitigation is thus an important component of ensuring child protection.

II. Relevant policies, law, Constitutional provision and international declarations

- a. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989
- b. ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age for Admission into Employment and Work, 1973
- c. ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999
- d. National Policy for Children 2013
- e. National Plan of Action on Children 2016
- f. National Health Policy 2017
- g. National Nutrition Policy
- h. National AIDS policy 2000
- i. Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009
- j. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of the children) Act, 2015
- k. Child & Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2016
- l. Bonded Labour System Abolition Act, 1976
- m. The Prevention of Child Marriage Act 2006
- n. The Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill