

S1/27334/18/PHQ
Police Headquarters
Thiruvananthapuram
Dated: 26/01/2020

Circular No. 07/2020

Sub: State Resource Centre: Project Children and Police (CAP) –
'CAP House' establishing of – instructions issued – reg.

Children are the greatest assets and the most precious treasure of any country. They are the bricks and rocks on which the future is built. They are on their path to assume key positions where they will make important decisions about the future of the country. India's greatest strength is its promising demography with one third of the population being less than 14 years of age. When a child grows in a positive and healthy manner, the entire community benefits; on the other hand, if the child turns out to be a liability, the entire community will suffer.

02. Children require a healthy and supportive environment to grow and develop. All children have a right to live in dignity and to have an environment that is safe, protective and productive. Article 39(e) of the Indian Constitution directs the State Government to work progressively to ensure that the "tender age of children are not abused". Article 39(t) further directs to ensure that "children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against any kind of exploitation".

03. Children are the most vulnerable sections of any society, especially those in societies like ours, that are undergoing rapid social and economic transformations. What a person is and what he/she will become is not solely a function of birth and genetics, but rather shaped by circumstances and personal experiences. According to National Crime Records Bureau, crimes against

children have recently rose by 20 per cent, which is many folds higher than the overall number of crimes which rose by 3.6 per cent. India is among the top five countries with the highest rate of child sexual abuse. Report by the Asian Centre for Human Rights revealed that sexual offences against children in India are at an "epidemic" level. Kerala is also witnessing an alarming rise in sexual offences, against both young boys and girls despite stringent laws enacted to protect children. Perpetrators can be strangers, friends and even family members. Over 3,300 cases booked under the POCSO Act are pending in the State. Conviction rate in such cases is as low as 20%.

04. Children who are victims of violence show continuous symptoms of depression, dissociative reactions, feelings of helplessness, lack of emotional intelligence, and aggression. Emotional and psychosocial maltreatment destroys a child's sense of self and personal safety. Often such children fall into the clutches of anti-social elements and end up in a life of crime and violence.

05. Unhealthy deviations and delinquencies among children are not only on rise but also taking dangerous turns with unprecedented socio-economic transitions. Concern about an alarming rise in sense of insecurity and loss of purpose in life is being voiced from many corners. As per WHO report, about 20% of our adolescents have one or more behavioural problems (WHO). According to the same report, great number of children are indulging in sending sexually provocative images and messages implying the destructive use of ICT. Substance abuse among adolescents is widespread and many are liberally consuming alcohol. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young adults. Many young adults are involved in violent criminal activities including rape, murder, robbery and so on. Tendency for religious and ideological radicalization is also evident among our children.

06. Kerala police instead of standing as mute spectators as the safety net around our children gets broken, has initiated various initiatives for the safety, security, protection and development of children. The nationally acclaimed Student Police Cadets Program (SPC), award winning

program Our Responsibility to Children (ORC) program, Project 'Hope', Child Friendly Police Stations(CFPS)etc are to name a few.

07. *Children and Police (CAP)* is a first of its kind ever initiative of Kerala police based on the fact that it is one of the fundamental duties of Police to create an invisible wall of protection around every child. CAP is a broad platform to strengthen the efficiency and reach of the initiatives mentioned above, so that abuse and violence against children are prevented and, their better protection and development are ensured. CAP facilitates constructive collaboration among police, various departments, governmental and non-governmental agencies working for the welfare of the children, general public and most importantly children. It recognizes the fact that problems faced by our children, most of the time not only go acknowledged, but are often unattended. Even if identified they are often unreported or unattended. In some cases they are attended very unscientifically, causing a damaging effect.

08. *CAP House* is envisioned as state level resource centre of Kerala Police, to further its commitment towards ensuring a conducive and nurturing environment for the children of Kerala by ensuring better implementation and coordination of its child related initiatives. It will facilitate an active interface between Kerala Police and the Women and Child Development Department for mutually strengthening each other's interventions and initiatives.

09. This note briefly describes the various facilities and activities of the CAP House.

09.1 CAP Call Centre

CAP house will function as a call centre providing speedy information on various child related matters, with two distinct objectives for providing support to various functionaries of the CAP initiatives as well as general public.

- Support for functionaries of various CAP initiatives
 - Necessary guidance to functionaries of Child Friendly Police

Stations on investigation of POCSO and other child related cases;

- Information regarding experts who voluntarily promise to support their expertise in child related services such as psychologists, child psychiatrists, legal consultants, paediatricians and so on;
- Linking up resource persons and functionaries of Child Friendly Police Stations and other projects of CAP.
- Information regarding police related matters regarding children below the age of 18 to help better investigation, recording statements, handling children in distress, finding out facilities such as shelter homes, care institutions, counseling centres etc.

For general public, the call centre will provide necessary information on various initiatives of CAP and ways and means to associate with them. The facility will also encourage reporting of grievances and offences against children as well as guidance on child related police matters such as registering FIR, reporting crimes and other matters.

09.2 CAP portal

CAP portal will be an easily accessible digitalized Knowledge Hub that maintains a huge repository of knowledge base of child related matters, for any persons and agencies working for the care and protection of children. The portal will guide police practitioners on affairs related to investigation and other procedures involved in handling child related matters. It will be a referral e-library of important judgements, case study videos on investigations, role-play videos on taking statements and other IEC materials. The FAQ section of the portal is expected to address any queries regarding the CAP projects as well as police interventions in child related issues.

09.3 CAP Internet De-addiction Centre

Compulsive Internet Usage is now recognised as a psychological problem and children in India, especially in states like Kerala with high internet penetration, suffers seriously from this menace. Scrolling

unlimited pages, playing online games and surfing random websites continuously are some of the symptoms found in children who suffer from internet addiction. The CAP house will introduce cutting edge interventions in the case of such addiction with the support of experts in the field. CAP House will work with such children on interactive education, device free retreats and scientifically supported diversions tactics. It will give necessary professional advice to parents, teachers and other agencies dealing with children facing internet addiction disorder.

10. Coordination and supervision of CAP initiatives

The CAP house will centrally coordinate and supervise the CAP initiatives. Details are briefly described below.

10.1. Child Friendly Police Stations (CFPS):

CFPSs are police stations that demonstrate child friendliness in attitude, ambience, infrastructure, procedure and enforcement. They facilitate partnership, function as Knowledge Hubs and perform as strict enforcers of child related laws. After the implementation of the successful pilot project, 110 police stations now are transformed as child friendly police stations in Kerala, after necessary capacity building of the entire police personnel of these stations, through a well organised residential workshop organized in close partnership with UNICEF. CAP house will be responsible for the supervision and overall coordination of the activities of Child Friendly Police Stations. This includes

- Providing necessary guidance for effective functioning of the CFPSs
- Organizing monthly review meeting to assess and ensure the effective functioning of these stations.
- Organizing capacity development programs for resource persons as well as police personnel engaged with the initiative
- Coordinating collaboration between departments such as Women & Child Development, Health, Education, and agencies responsible for the care, protection and development of children such

as UNICEF, KELSA, Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights etc. It will also work in partnership with Non-Government agencies such as Mission Better Tomorrow (MBT), Sri Aurobindo Society, Bridge Institute and so on.

- Collaborating with various social work colleges and institutions to promote internship so that interns are motivated to observe and support the functioning of child friendly police stations.
- Organizing advocacy campaigns and IEC activities for enhancing the efficiency and reach of CFPS activities.
- Construction and updating of CFPS website and social media platforms.
- Documenting good practices and change stories

10.2 Project HOPE:

Project Hope enhances the confidence, self-worthiness and skills of children who fail/drop out of schools before successful completion of Xth/XIIth standard. Hope ensures Strength & Difficulty assessment, mentoring, coaching, skill development and supports job placements. After a successful pilot in selected districts project Hope is now extended to all districts of Kerala as a partnership initiative of Kerala Police. With respect to HOPE project, CAP House will.

- Organize capacity building programs for master trainers, functionaries and other resource persons
- Prepare and update HOPE manual and other IEC materials
- Hold monthly review of activities of the project and issue necessary guidance for enhancing the project efficiency.

Provide guidance on various matters such as registration of the candidates for examination, preparing various documents for higher studies and job placements etc in coordination with agencies such as Education Department, Sakshratha Mission, Pareeksha Bhavan, SCERT and other relevant agencies.

- Promote internships in partnership with social work institutions and teachers' training institutions.

- Develop partnerships with various agencies for supporting the better implementation of the project and support children to imbibe various soft and hard skills.
- Organize advocacy campaigns and IEC activities to promote the furtherance of project.
- Construct and update website and social media platforms
- Document change stories and good practices

10.3 Our Responsibility to Children (ORC):

ORC is an award winning initiative, initiated by Kerala Police and later integrated to the Integrated Child Protection Scheme of Women and Child Development Department. ORC is a school centered project that works for identifying and addressing behavioral, emotional and social deviancies and other vulnerabilities of children and integrate them to the mainstream, through counseling, professional help, enhancing life skills, nurturing strengths, addressing vulnerabilities, and promoting mentoring and good parenting. Along with other department and agencies, Kerala Police continues to function as one of the important partners of the project ORC. CAP house will work in active partnership with ORC to ensure the following services.

- Ensuring technical support for various capacity development programs being organized by CAP house for functionaries of other project such as mentors, master resource persons and so on.
- Ensure availability of various resource materials such as mentors manual, psychological first aid manual etc
- Ensure necessary resource support for grass root level execution of the CAP Initiatives.
- Providing service of experts for counseling and other child related services.
- Strengthening partnerships between Integrated Child Protection Scheme and various schemes of District Child Protection Units.

10.4 School Protection Groups (SPG):

SPG is a unique initiative of Kerala Police to create invisible walls of

protection around every child to ensure safety, prevent truancy, curb tendency for juvenile delinquency as well as to protect them from becoming victims of illegal activities. CAP house will undertake necessary actions to

- Form and strengthen SPGs in as many schools of Kerala as possible
- Organize monthly review to assess the effective functioning of SPGs and provide necessary guidance to enhance scale and efficiency.
- Document impact stories and good practices.
- Organize advocacy campaigns and IEC activities
- Strengthen state level partnerships with agencies such as merchant associations, auto/taxi owner associations, relevant NGO's, LSG's etc for better grass root level implementation of SPGs

10.5 Student Police Cadet Program (SPC):

SPC is a nationally acclaimed initiative of Kerala Police for enabling youngsters to evolve as responsible and capable citizen of a democratic society by inculcating within them respect for the law, inner capability, self-discipline, civic sense, empathy for vulnerable sections of society and resistance to social evils. Student Police Cadets will work as young ambassadors of CAP House to strengthen its overall functioning and ensure that the CAP House is constantly vibrant and active. CAP house will make arrangements to

- Promote cadets as child right ambassadors in and around Kerala
- Ensure that receptions of child friendly police stations are managed by cadets
- Pool support of cadets for the active functioning of other project of CAP
- Maintain a pool of SPC alumni to avail their support for various activities of CAP house.

11. Partnership Hubs:

The CAP house will be a partnership hub of various state level stake holders of the CAP initiatives. This includes state level heads of the respective projects and representatives of Kerala State Commission for

Protection of Child Rights, ICPS, Child Line, CWC, Our Responsibility to Children Project, JJBs, KELSA, Experts, Civil society representatives and other relevant stake holders. CAP house will conduct monthly meeting of these stake holders to assess the working of the CAP House and plan necessary programs and activities.

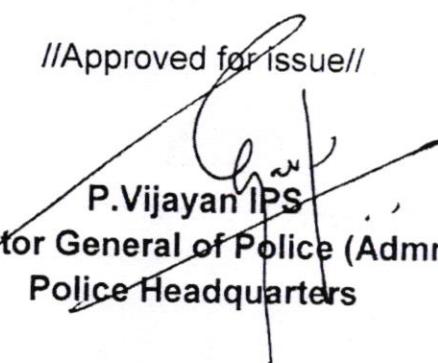
12. CAP House to function with professionalism. The ultimate beneficiary will be the children who are our future.

13. An Officer of the level of DIG or above will be overall in charge of the CAP House, who will function under the guidance and supervision of the DGP and State Police Chief. He will draw necessary strength to run the Centre.

Sd/-(26.01.2020)
Loknath Behera IPS
DGP & State Police Chief

All Officers in List B
CA to SPC/All Staff Officers/Dspace

//Approved for issue//


P. Vijayan IPS
Inspector General of Police (Admn)
Police Headquarters