



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
VIMALA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), THRISSUR
KERALA, INDIA

STATE LEVEL SEMINAR ON CHILD
PROTECTION: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Date: 22nd November, 2019

Venue: Silver Jubilee Hall, Vimala College (Autonomous), Thrissur

Context of the Seminar

Children are part of an unparalleled effort to establish and maintain a global community based upon universal but evolving standards of human decency, morality and dignity. The development of children is the first priority on the country's development agenda, not only because they are our supreme assets but also because they constitute the the most significant future human resource of the country. The best possible investment – the investment that promises the highest returns is to ensure that every child grows up in an environment conducive to his or her development. While India has, over the last few decades, made considerable progress in ensuring child survival and basic education, much remains to be done. When the major indicators for the Indian child's development – maternal mortality, birth weight, immunization, nutritional level and basic education are compared with these of other developing countries, it is clear that the Indian child urgently needs better interventions.

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. Building a protective environment for children that will help prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation involves eight essential components:

- Strengthening government commitment and capacity to fulfil children's right to protection; promoting the establishment and enforcement of adequate legislation;
- addressing harmful attitudes, customs and practices;
- encouraging open discussion of child protection issues that includes media and civil society partners;
- developing children's life skills, knowledge and participation;
- building capacity of families and communities; providing essential services for prevention,
- recovery and reintegration, including basic health, education and protection; and
- Establishing and implementing ongoing and effective monitoring, reporting and oversight.

Significant numbers of social workers practise in child wellbeing and protection settings in a range of roles including direct case work, case management and policy level interventions. No other professional discipline is so immersed in the areas of knowledge that are essential

for quality relationship-based child protection practice. As a result, social workers are recognised throughout the world as the core professional group in child protection policy, management and practice. Social workers offer a unique and valuable contribution in providing appropriate and targeted child-centred services as well as facilitating referral pathways that ensure the linking of services, access and equity. Social workers offer a unique role within the social services with their holistic approach to assessment and their commitment to human rights and advocacy within a multidisciplinary and multi-agency environment. They make valuable contributions in providing appropriate and targeted services to children and their families when there are concerns about a child's wellbeing or safety, mindful of trauma-informed frameworks and intergenerational links. Importantly social workers help reduce the incidence of abuse and neglect, support families to raise their children to their full potential. They also assist families to relate in more positive ways and children to thrive in their parental care wherever possible.

The present seminar will review child protection mechanisms available in our country on a critical perspective. The opportunities and challenges in working with child protection will also be explored. The deliberations and discussions are expected to enlighten the social workers and inspire them to reaffirm their roles and responsibilities in child protection.

Objectives of the Seminar

- To discuss the evolution and significance of Child Protection in Kerala
- To survey on the functioning of various mechanisms for child protection in our state
- To critique the legal and institutional framework for children and their effective implementation
- To discuss the opportunities and challenges in the area of child protection

Registration Fee

The venue of the seminar is Silver Jubilee Seminar Hall, Vimala College (Autonomous), Thrissur. The registration fee is Rs 100 which covers refreshments and resource materials. The timing is 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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Department of Social Work
Vimala College (Autonomous), Thrissur
State Level Seminar on
Child Protection: Challenges and Prospects

On 22th November 2019, Friday

Venue: Silver Jubilee Seminar Hall

Programme Chart

Registration	: 09.00 to 09.30 am
Inaugural function	: 09:30 to 10:45 am
Prayer	
Welcome Speech	: Dr. Jaya Cherian (Associate Professor, Dept. of Social Work)
Presidential Address	: Dr. Sr. Beena Jose (Principal, Vimala College)
Lighting the Lamp	
Inaugural Address	: Dr. M P Antony (Member, State Child Rights Commission, Kerala)
Vote of Thanks	: Dr. Asha P Rao (HOD, Dept of Social Work, Vimala College,
Tea Break	: 10.45 am to 11:00am
Session 1	: 11.45 am -1:00 pm
Topic	: Child Protection in Kerala: Evolution and significance
Resource Person	: Mr. Subair K K (Special Officer for Probation, Social Justice Department, Govt of Kerala)
Lunch	: 1.00 pm to 1.45 pm
Session 2	: 1.45 pm to 3.45 pm
Topic	: Programmes for Child Protection in Kerala
Resource Person	: Mr. Sreenesh S Anil (Programme Officer, KAVAL)
Feedback and Evaluation	
National Anthem	
