

# Juvenile Justice Newsletter

Monthly Newsletter of Activities Concerning Child Protection in Assam

## Editorial

The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is a centrally sponsored Scheme, with the primary aim of establishing a safety net of dedicated and quality personnel, structures and services for Child Protection across the country. The Objective of the Scheme is "to provide a safe environment for the development and well being of children in difficult circumstances. It seeks to reduce vulnerabilities to situation and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation and separation of children from their families..."

State Child Protection Society, Assam is an implementing organisation which is responsible for establishing all the service delivery structures in the state and district levels. In Assam, almost all service delivery structures are in place and are functional. During the last four years of the existence of State Child Protection Society many activities have been undertaken and SCPS is marching ahead in its mission to fulfil the objectives of Integrated Child Protection Scheme. This month's issue of newsletter brings before the readers the theme of Integrated Child Protection Scheme and its roll out in the State.

**Editorial Board,**  
State Child Protection Society, Assam

## ICPS and its roll out in Assam

**Introduction:** The constitution of India recognizes the vulnerable position of children and their Right to Protection. In view of this concern, the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India launched a centrally sponsored scheme in 2009 namely the 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme' (ICPS) with a commitment to ensure a safe and secure environment for all children for their all round and healthy development.

Subsequently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on the 11th day of December 2009 between the Government of India and the Government of Assam to roll out this centrally sponsored programme. The Department of Social Welfare, Govt. of Assam subsequently notified State Child Protection Society vide notification no SWD 168/2009/pt-1/306 dated, on 12th July 2010, as the nodal society to roll out ICPS in Assam.

The Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India provides funds for the implementing all components of 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme' in accordance with the cost sharing ratio of 90:10 as laid down in Para 3.9 of the MOU and the State Government is primarily responsible for the effective implementation and monitoring of the scheme in the State.

The Scheme intends to bring together multiple vertical schemes under one comprehensive child protection programme and integrates interventions for protecting children and preventing harm. It also promotes partnership of Government and Civil Societies/NGOs enabling the concerted approach to address the issues of care, protection and well being of children.

### Service Delivery Structures

The following service delivery structures of the scheme are in place in the state and are fully operational with adequate staffing and infrastructural facilities in accordance with the norms for augmenting Integrated Child Protection Scheme in the State:

### District Child Protection Unit/Society

District Child Protection Units/Society in all the 27 districts have been constituted vide notification no. SWD.168/2009/pt-I/305 dated 12th July, 2010 to act as the Nodal Unit in the Districts for implementation of Integrated Child Protection Scheme. The DCPU is headed by the District Child Protection Officer.

### Juvenile Justice Boards

There are 27 Juvenile Justice Boards in Assam constituted u/s 4 of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000, and its Amendment Act 2006, each consisting of one Principal Magistrate (Judicial Officer) and two Member Social Workers. All the 27 JJBs have been fully equipped with structural logistics and adequate human resources.

### Child Welfare Committee

The Department has constituted 27 Child Welfare Committees u/s 29 of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act 2000, its Amendment Act 2006 for dealing with children in need of care and protection. All the CWCs have been provided with proper staffing and infrastructural facilities. Each CWC has 1 chairperson and 4 members and a single term of the committee is of 3 years.

### Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU)

In order to coordinate & upgrade the police interface with children, Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU) in all the districts have been set up in the State of Assam and all Second Officers in every police station have been designated as Child Welfare Officers. Two paid social workers, one of whom is a woman have been appointed in all the districts for discharging their duties as members of SJPU.

### Institutional Services :

#### Children's Homes

There are three Govt. run Children's Homes and 23 NGO Run Children's Homes to cater to the services and needs of children in need of care and protection (CNC). They serve as a home away from home and provide comprehensive child care facilities to children for ensuring their all-round development. They shall work towards enhancing the capabilities and skills of children and work with their families with the view of facilitating their reintegration and rehabilitation into mainstream society.

#### Govt. run Children's Homes

S.N	Institution	Location	Capacity
1	Children's Home for Boys	Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati	50
2	Children's Home for Girls	Jalukbari, Guwahati	50
3	Children's Home for Girls	Nagaon, Assam	50

#### NGO run Children's Homes

S.N	Institution	Location	Coverage	Capacity
1	Mission North-East	Baksa	Baksa, Nalbari	25
2	Students Welfare Mission	Barpeta	Barpeta	25
3	Nischima Orphanage Home	Chirang	Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar	25
4	Sri Sri Sewa Ashram	Dhemaji	Dhemaji	25
5	Fulkumari Bapiji Club	Dhubri	Dhubri	25
6	Mrinaljyoti Rehabilitation Centre,	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	25
7	Service With Smile,	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	25
8	Integrated Development Association,	Goalpara	Goalpara	25
9	Bokakhut Nirman Gut,	Golaghat	Golaghat, Karbi Anglong	25
10	WODWICHEE,	Hailakandi	Hailakandi, Karimganj, Cachar, N.C.Hills	25
11	IMPACT – N.E.	Jorhat	Jorhat, Sivasagar	25
12	SOS Children's Village, Guwahati	Kamrup	Kamrup(M&R)	25
13	Assam Sishu Kalyan Sadan,	Kamrup	Kamrup(M&R)	25
14	Snehalaya, Centre for Child Rights,	Kamrup	Kamrup(M&R)	25
15	Bikalanga Kalyan Kendra	Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur	25
16	Gramya Unnayan Sanstha,	Morigaon	Morigaon	25
17	Gram Vikash Parishad,	Nagaon	Nagaon	25
18	SOFTSEED,	Nagaon	Sonitpur	25
19	Shanti Seva Ashram,	Tinsukia	Tinsukia	25
20	Holy Child Children Home,	Udalguri	Darrang	25
21	Shape	Sivasagar	Sivasagar	25
22	Destination	Guwahati	Guwahati	25
23	SOS, Children Village Hojai	Hojai	Nagaon	25

#### Observation Homes

### Observation Homes

This is a residential care for Children in conflict with law who enter the juvenile justice system through the Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and are in need of adequate residential care and protection during the pendency of any inquiry. There are four observation homes in the state of Assam. These are Government run Observation Homes. They located at:

1. Observation Homes for boys at Jorhat
2. Observation Homes for boys at Bumunigaon
3. Observation Homes for girls at Nagaon
4. Observation Homes for girls at Jalukbari, Kamrup.

The Govt. will very soon inaugurate a new Observation Home in Silchar, Cachar District to provide care services to children from Barak Valley.

### Open Shelter

A large number of homeless children, pavement dwellers, street and working children, child substance abusers and child beggars, left on their own and they reside in Urban Areas without any care and support. They live in conditions of extreme deprivation compounded by lack of shelter and access to basic services like sanitation, safe drinking water, education, health care, recreational facilities, etc. Subsequently these children end up at traffic intersections, railway stations, streets, sabzi mandi (vegetable market), etc. begging for alms, wiping automobile windscreens, rag picking, vending wares. These children are also found victims of adult abuse of all kinds: physical, sexual, emotional as well as economic exploitation. Amongst these children, a large number of child substance abusers are also found.

ICPS caters to the needs of such children through flexible mechanism of Open Shelters in catering the unique needs of these children particularly in urban areas and aims to harness their talent and potential, thus giving them the opportunity to become productive citizens. Open Shelters are community based safe spaces which provide a space for children where they can play, study, use their time productively and engage themselves in creative activities through music, dance, drama, yoga & meditation, computers, indoor and outdoor games, etc. in a safe environment and located within their own community. There are three recognised NGO run Open Shelters in Assam. They are:

1. Indian Council for Child Welfare, Assam Branch, Kamrup
2. Gram Vikas Parishad, Nagaon
3. Gramya Unnayan Sangstha Puthibharal, Kamrup

### NON-INSTITUTIONAL CARE

#### Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA)

The JJ Act empowers the State Government to recognize one or more of its institutions or voluntary organizations in each district as SAA in a manner for the placement of orphaned, abandoned or surrendered children for adoption in accordance with the provisions of various guidelines on adoption. ICPS supports State and NGO run Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA) where adoptable children of below six years of age are provided residential care. There are 9 Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAA) and a Recognized Indian Placement Agency (RIPA) in the state of Assam to promote in-country and inter-country adoption in the country.

S.N	Name of Agencies	Location
1	Missionaries of Charity	Bharalumukh, Guwahati
2	Nivedita Nari Sanstha	Silchar, Cachar
3	Matri Mandir	Ulubari, Guwahati
4	Indian Council for Child Welfare (RIPA)	Ambari, Guwahati-
5	Sarvangi Vikash Trust	Bongaigaon,
6	Bajaligaon Unnayan Samity	Barpeta, Assam
7	North East Voluntary Association of Rural Development	Bidyapara Church Road, Dhubri
8	Jagriti Sanmilita Unnayan Kendra,	Bongalmora, Lakhimpur,
9	Morigaon Mahila Mehfil	Civil Hospital Road, Morigaon

Source: MIS Cell, SCPS, Assam

### Block Level Child Protection Committee

It is a dedicated structure for monitoring ICPS at the block level, Block Level Child Protection Committee is headed by an elected representative, Block Development Officer as the Member Secretary. BLCPG has been notified and formed in the State.

The rollout of ICPS in the State has been steady since signing of the MoU with Government of India. The setting of the service delivery structures till the Block Level is complete. All offices at the Districts and State is well infrastructurally equipped with adequate human resource. SCPS has also taken up the initiative of filling up of all vacant posts in the entire state, for which advertisements were floated and applications were received. Trainings of Staffs under ICPS are going on at regular intervals. Other activities like Need Assessment in districts are being carried out by external technical agency in collaboration with SCPS and DCPS. In time ICPS will further penetrate and will reach out to every Children in Need of Care and Protection, so as to avoid them from falling out of the family safety net and entering into the Juvenile Justice System.

## JJ NEWS CORNER

- On 17th and 18th February, 2014 a two day training programme was held for the District Child Protection Officers, P.O. Cum District Child Protection Officers and District Social Welfare Officers i/c District Child Protection Officers at Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara.

- The Integrated Child Protection Scheme went through major revision in terms of salaries and some components to make the scheme more practically implementable in its true spirit.

Sl. No.	Districts	Juvenile Justice Boards			Child Welfare Committees		
		No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending	No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending
1	BAKSA	Cases are jointly dealt with Nalbari JJB			0	0	23
2	BONGAIGAON	0	0	38	3	2	7
3	BARPETA	2	8	90	1	0	2
4	CACHAR	2	7	93	2	3	4
5	CHIRANG	1	0	30	3	0	3
6	DARRANG	5	2	143	3	2	7
7	DHEMAJI	0	0	35	4	4	13
8	DHUBRI	4	0	192	0	0	6
9	DIRUGARH	4	4	65	26	25	4
10	DIMA HASAO	0	0	2	0	0	0
11	GOALPARA	3	2	105	5	8	4
12	GOLAGHAT	3	1	33	1	2	1
13	HAILAKANDI	0	1	11	2	1	8
14	JORHAT	5	1	32	7	10	8
15	KAMRUP (M)	3	7	190	34	38	31
16	KAMRUP (R)	Cases are jointly dealt with Kamrup (M) JJB			0	0	14
17	KARBIA ANGLONG	0	0	41	0	0	0
18	KARIMGANJ	2	1	34	0	1	1
19	KOKRAJHAR	7	0	142	1	0	10
20	LAKHIMPUR	2	7	37	2	4	14
21	MORIGAON	2	1	2	0	3	10
22	NAGAON	5	11	212	4	5	14
23	NALBARI	1	2	24	1		