

CHILD PROTECTION BULLETIN

STATE CHILD
PROTECTION
SOCIETY, ASSAM

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES CONCERNING CHILD PROTECTION IN ASSAM

EDITORIAL

Juvenile Justice System aims at rehabilitation and social reintegration of juveniles by helping the children in restoring their dignity and their self worth and to mainstream them within the family or through alternate care programmes. One such programme is the Aftercare. In essence aftercare is a forward step in the direction of complete rehabilitation of the institutionalized persons and as a form of post-release assistance.

Aftercare programme helps a child in conflict with law or a child in need of care and protection to face the challenges of the world outside the institution by making himself/herself equipped to be self-reliant. Assam has started implementing aftercare programme with the help of Snehalaya and there are success stories emerging out of this programme.

This month's issue of the Child Protection Bulletin deals with rehabilitation and social reintegration of the children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection residing in institutions. Rehabilitation and reintegration are the rights of the children and therefore, let us give a thought to ensure their rights to pave their future.

Editorial Board,
State Child Protection Society, Assam

AFTER CARE : FOR REINTEGRATION OF CHILDREN IN SOCIETY

After Care is the provision of care for all children, including children with special needs, after they have attained the age of 18 years, and are discharged from Children's Homes/Special Homes. The Programme is adhered to the guidelines based on the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2000, Integrated Child Protection Scheme, UN Guidelines for Alternative Care 2009 and on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. These guidelines have been formulated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development after consultations with key stakeholders, NGOs working on the issue, experts, academicians and officials from various States.

Children who have completed 18 years are referred to as "young adults" and in all After Care procedures; the best interest of the child shall be the paramount consideration. It is to help prepare these young adults to sustain themselves during the transition from institutional to independent life. The objective of after care is to enable such young adults to adapt themselves to society and to encourage them to move ahead from institution based life by being self-reliant. After care is an important final stage in the continuum of care, as it ensures smooth rehabilitation and reintegration of a child in need of care and protection/conflict with law as she/he steps into adulthood.

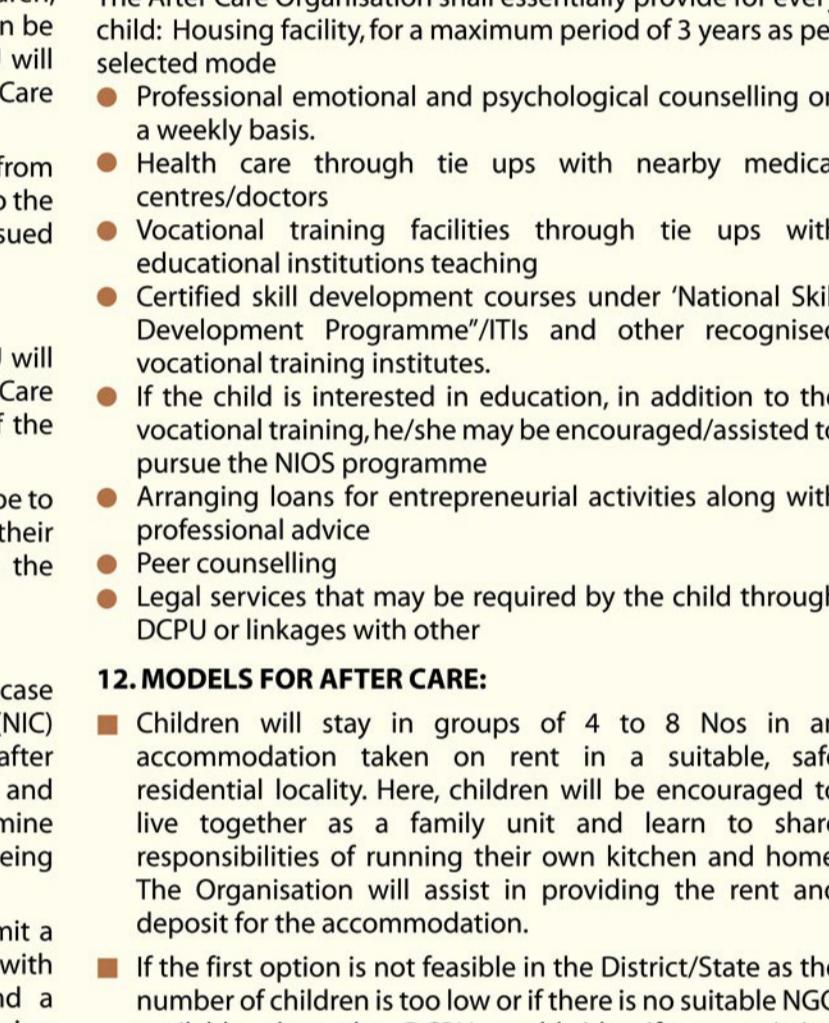
CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF CHILDREN/YOUNG ADULTS:

Children going to complete 18 years of age in the Children's/Special Home, without any family fit to take care of them will be considered for After Care programme. This service may be availed by children until they have attained 21 years of age or up to a period of 3 years, whichever is earlier.

PROCEDURE RELATED TO PLACEMENT IN AFTER CARE PRE PLACEMENT SERVICES:

i) Identification and recommendation for After Care by Child Care Institution (CCI)

When any child in the Child Care Institution (CCI) completes 17 years of age, the CCI would assess whether he/she would be able to adjust to an independent life in the society once he/she leaves the Institution. In case, it is felt that a young adult would find it difficult to live without support, such a young adult would be considered for After Care services. The CCI will prepare a list of such young adults every quarter and send a



Girls from Nagaon Children's Home placed under After Care Program.

request to the DCPU for arranging support under the After Care component to the Protection Officer, Non Institutional care (PO-NIC)/Probation Officer, details of which are at Annex II.

ii) Preparation of young adult by CCI:

The CCI shall, through counselling support and other programmes, prepare the young adults for life outside the Institution and for the After Care programme. The process of transition from institutional care to after care should take into consideration the gender, maturity and particular circumstances of the child. Young adults leaving institutional care should be encouraged to take part in the planning of their own after care.

iii) Scrutiny of Documents by DCPO:

Protection Officer (Non Institutional Care)/Probation Officer will scrutinise the documents for eligibility of children, recommended by the CCI. The list of children would then be finalised and sent to the DCPO for approval. The DCPO will inform the CWC/JJB when the child is approved for After Care programme.

The placement order issued by CWC/JJB after approval from DCPO, the list of young adults will be given by PO (NIC) to the CWC/JJB and accordingly the placement order will be issued by CWC/JJB followed by the approval of DCPO.

8. POST PLACEMENT SERVICES

Once the CWC/JJB has approved the case, the DCPO will release the grant on a quarterly basis to the After Care organization for each child, and maintain records of the same.

While preparing the care plan the main focus should be to help the young adults gain skills for increasing their employability and enable them to adapt to life in the society.

9. MONITORING AND REVIEW

The After Care organisation will maintain individual case files for each young adult placed in after care. PO (NIC) /Probation Officer will make quarterly visits to the after care facilities and assess the social, vocational and educational progress of the young adult to determine whether necessary and appropriate services are being provided.

The After Care organisation will be required to submit a statement of accounts to the DCPO every six months with an annual audited statement. They will also send a quarterly progress report on each child with the following information about educational status (If child is studying), health status, vocational training, trainings attended, employment status etc.

The PO (NIC) of the DCPO will maintain a Master Register of young adults covered under the After Care program. This register should provide a disaggregated picture of the whole process.

The PO (NIC)/Probation Officer of the DCPO will prepare a consolidated annual report which will be placed before the District Child Protection Committee (DCPC) and the

State Child Protection Committee (SCPC) for review in order to ascertain the young adult's progress under the After Care Programme.

10. TERMINATION OF AFTER CARE:

- When the young adult completes 21 years of age, regardless of whether he/she has got employment or not.
- If the young adult, despite receiving counselling / assistance displays lack of interest in vocational training/education etc. - Regularly breaks discipline, spoils the atmosphere of the Home by his/her behaviour.
- In case the girl/boy gets married.
- If the young adult is absent for more than 15 days without information.

11. SERVICES AND MODELS OF AFTER CARE

The After Care Organisation shall essentially provide for every child: Housing facility, for a maximum period of 3 years as per selected mode

- Professional emotional and psychological counselling on a weekly basis.
- Health care through tie ups with nearby medical centres/doctors
- Vocational training facilities through tie ups with educational institutions teaching
- Certified skill development courses under 'National Skill Development Programme'/ITIs and other recognised vocational training institutes.
- If the child is interested in education, in addition to the vocational training, he/she may be encouraged/assisted to pursue the NIOS programme
- Arranging loans for entrepreneurial activities along with professional advice
- Peer counselling
- Legal services that may be required by the child through DCPO or linkages with other

12. MODELS FOR AFTER CARE:

- Children will stay in groups of 4 to 8 Nos in an accommodation taken on rent in a suitable, safe residential locality. Here, children will be encouraged to live together as a family unit and learn to share responsibilities of running their own kitchen and home. The Organisation will assist in providing the rent and deposit for the accommodation.
- If the first option is not feasible in the District/State as the number of children is too low or if there is no suitable NGO available, then the DCPO could identify an existing children's Home which is run by the Government / NGO, where a portion will be earmarked for After Care. The children can stay in groups of 4 to 8 Nos. There will be a common kitchen for all the children.
- In metropolitan cities a dedicated institution for After Care can be considered in case it is available. The children will stay in larger accommodation, with dormitory style arrangements. There will be a common kitchen for all the children.

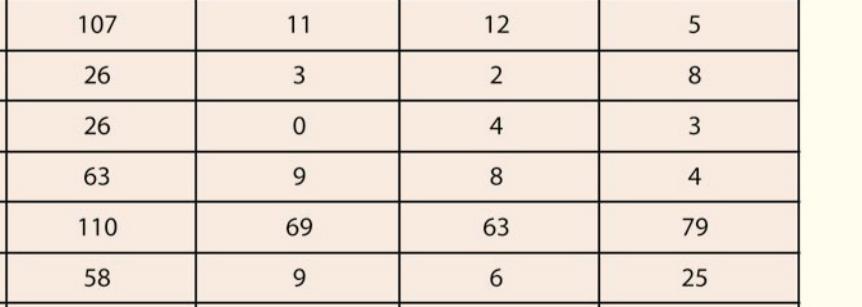
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After care programme implementation in Assam

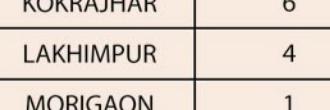
After Care Programme for the successful social reintegration of the institutionalised children into the mainstreamed society was first launched in Assam in September 2014. The State Child Protection Society, Assam had identified Snehalaya, a Charitable Society that is running 5 Children's Homes in Guwahati for the children in need of care and protection to run the Programme in the state.

Till now a total of 11 numbers of children are covered under this Programme and 6 of them are placed for higher education, 3 are receiving vocational training and 2 are given job placement in Kerala after successfully completing the vocational training courses.

The beneficiaries are able to gain life skills & skill trainings through various courses like tailoring, motor mechanics, mobile repairing, computer/DTP courses with necessary guidance and support which is helping them to become self reliant and responsible member of the society.



News Corner



Sweta is adopted from Matri Mandir (Specialised Adoption Agency) on 17/10/15 by Mr. Ennio Paleri & Mrs. Veronica Varaci from Milano-Italy

State Convergent Plan of Action on Child Labour

State Convergent Plan of Action on Child Labour was notified on 19th September, 2015. The main objectives of the SCPOA are: prevention of children from being engaged in any form of child labour; track, detect and identify children engaged in various occupations and processes; to rescue the children from exploitative situations; to ensure quality post- rescue care and protection services to children; to ensure justice to children through timely prosecution and convictions; to ensure timely and appropriate social reintegration of the child; to prevent re-entry into child labour through social protection and rehabilitation mechanisms; and to establish a MIS mechanism to ensure effective implementation of the State Convergent PoA on child labour. The SCPOA will bring together all the line departments to combat Child Labour and to eliminate it by 2021.

State Advisory Board (SAB)

The State Advisory Board as per the rule 93 of Assam Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Rule 2011 is constituted under the Chairmanship of Director, Social Welfare, Assam vide notification No. SWD 332/2009/107 dated 11th August 2015.

The Board will advise the State Govt. on the matters relating to inspection of various institutional & non institutional services, maintenance of Homes, resource mobilization, provision of facilities for education, training, rehabilitation of children in need of care & protection & children in conflict with law.

Status Report on the functioning of the Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in Assam for the month of September 2015

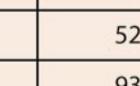
Sl.No.	Districts	Juvenile Justice Boards			Child Welfare Committees		
		No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending	No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending
1	BAKSA	Cases are jointly dealt with Nalbari JJB			0	0	0
2	BONGAIGAON	12	5	24	5	2	8
3	BARPETA	5	7	127	4	3	14
4	CACHAR	7	1	72	5	6	5
5	CHIRANG	2	7	50	0	0	4
6	DARRANG	2	9	89	1	5	14
7	DHEMAJI	22	2	52	1	2	3
8	DHUBRI	5	28	93	1	3	17
9	DIBRUGARH	4	5	79	11	11	4
10	DIMA HASAO	1	0	16	0	0	0
11	GOALPARA	11	9	107	11	12	5
12	GOLAGHAT	8	1	26	3	2	8
13	HAILAKANDI	0	1	26	0	4	3
14	JORHAT	3	7	63	9	8	4
15	KAMRUP (M)	5	6	110	69	63	79
16	KAMRUP (R)	2	5	58	9	6	25
17	KARBI ANGLONG	3	0	36	0	0	2
18	KARIMGANJ	2	6	56	0	3	31
19	KOKRAJHAR	6	1	127	2	1	10
20	LAKHIMPUR	4	8	16	6	7	15
21	MORIGAON	1	0	6	5	1	26
22	NAGAON	0	15	244	23	16	18
23	NALBARI	13	6	52	3	2	37
24	SONITPUR	2	9	128	11	17	35
25	SIBSAGAR	0	5	62	1	11	45
26	TINSUKIA	5	9	67	12	3	20
27	UDALGURI	0	5	17	4	4	13
Total		125	157	1803	196	192	445

Source: MIS Cell, SCPS, Assam

For any feedback, write to :

Chairperson, Editorial Board,

State Child Protection Society, Assam



DSW, Government of Assam

46, Survey Bus Stop, Beltoha, Guwahati-781028, Phone: 0361-2229275, Email: scpsassam@gmail.com, Website: assam-scps.com/termsofuse.php

Lokonya Press, Guwahati-7

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