

GIST OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE HELD ON 07.04.2020 AT 12 NOON THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING.

In the wake of spurt in COVID-19 cases and to ensure the effective implementation of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 3rd April, 2020 in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No.4 of 2020 : In Re Contagion of Covid-19 Virus in Child Protection Homes, the Juvenile Justice Committee of this Court convened a meeting of all the stakeholders, through video conferencing, on 07th April, 2020, to assess and review the ground situation obtaining in the CCIs in Delhi. The Committee expressed its concern on the increasing number of COVID-19 positive cases in the country and felt that it was important that timely steps are taken on priority to prevent the spread of virus to the Child Care Institutions.

The Committee interacted with all the concerned stakeholders, viz. the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi through its Director Mr. S.B. Shashank; the Juvenile Justice Boards through their Principal Magistrates; the Child Welfare Committees through their Chairpersons; the Superintendents of the government run CCIs in Delhi; and Dr. Rajesh of SPYM. The Superintendents of the CCIs informed that there has been no Covid-19 case in any CCIs so far and that they have sufficient availability of masks, sanitizers, soaps and other hygiene related items and have also created a buffer of food items and other essential commodities. Social distancing was stated to be strictly being adhered to. It was also informed that juveniles involved in petty offences have been released on bail by the JJBs and restored to their families. This position was confirmed by the Chairpersons of the CWCs in respect of the government run homes as well as those being run by the private NGOs.

Mr. Shashank informed that they have issued advisories to all the CCIs and regular and close watch is being kept on them, including those being run by the NGOs, to keep them safe from Covid-19. He further stated that there have been adequate provisions of all essential items in each of the homes and that they have not received any demand or report of shortage of any item from any of the CCIs. He assured that there is no dearth of funds and that any requirement expressed by any CCI will be fulfilled at the earliest possible.

Based on the inputs received from the participants and having regard to the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Committee issued the following directions :-

1. All the CCIs, Government as well as NGO run, to ensure that they have sufficient numbers of masks, sanitizers, soaps as also buffer stock of food and essential commodities to cater for next six to eight weeks.
2. DWCD to identify and earmark suitable space for quarantine in case any child is found to be Coronavirus positive.
3. The Superintendents of each of the Homes shall lay special emphasis on cleanliness within and around the homes by using appropriate disinfectants. Special emphasis shall be laid on spaces frequented by the children, especially the kitchen area, bathrooms, dormitories, etc,
4. The Superintendents shall chalk out a routine/ time table for all the children which should include exercise, yoga, counselling sessions, educational as well as on-line schooling activities, keeping in mind the requirement of social distancing.
5. The Superintendents shall regularly counsel all children about the pandemic as also the preventive measures necessary, such as maintaining social distancing, washing hands at regular intervals, sanitization, hygiene etc.
6. The JJBs and CWCs to take regular feedback from all the CCIs about the health of the children and to inspect the CCIs through video conferencing and, if need be, through physical visits to the CCIs.
7. To make arrangements for education of children through digital mode.
8. All the Superintendents to ensure that proper hygiene is maintained in the CCIs and that Doctors/ Nurses are available for regular medical check-up of the children
9. Random medical check-up of the children be undertaken, preferably at the Home itself by the Doctors/Staff Nurse.
10. All the advisories to be shared with the children through audio and video representation.
11. Weekly inspection reports be submitted by the CWCs and the Principal Magistrates to the Director, DWCD with a copy to the Juvenile Justice Committee. Director DWCD shall immediately address the issues flagged in the reports.