

TAMIL NADU STATE JUDICIAL ACADEMY

in association with UNICEF

Workshop on Protection of Child Rights for the Officials of the Education
Department and Teachers



Teachers Nurture the Future

Event Report

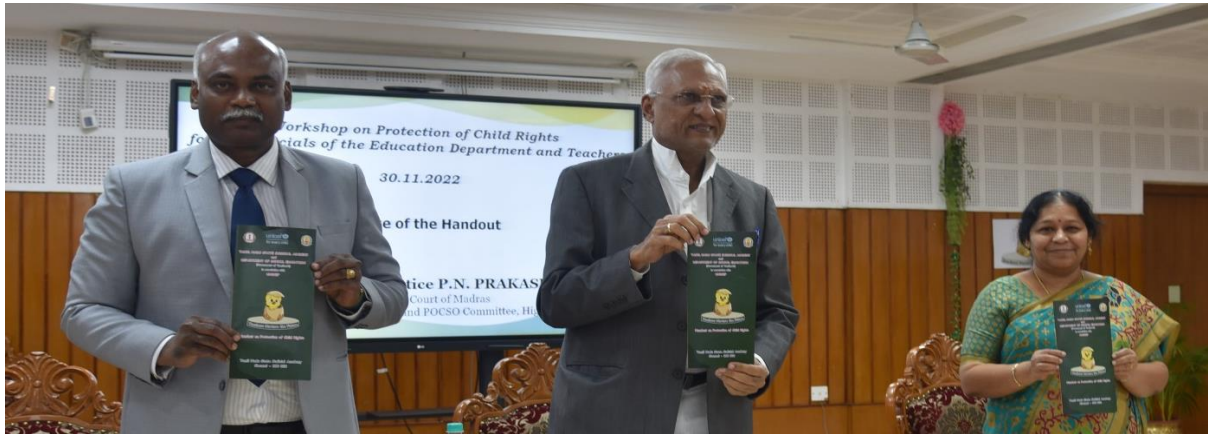
The Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy in association with UNICEF conducted a two-day Workshop on Protection of Child Rights for the Officials of the Education Department and Teachers at TNSJA Headquarters, Chennai on 30th November and 1st December 2022. The programme on 30th November was for the districts of Ariyalur, Chengalpattu, Chennai, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Erode, Kallakurichi, Kancheepuram, Kanniyakumari, Karur, Krishnagiri, Madurai, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Namakkal, Nilgiris and Perambalur and on 1st December was for the districts of Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Ranipet, Salem, Sivagangai, Tenkasi, Thanjavur, Theni, Thoothukudi, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Tirupattur, Tiruppur, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvarur, Vellore, Villupuram and Virudhunagar.

On both the days the programme commenced with the invocation song ‘தமிழ்த்தாய் வாழ்த்து’. Breakfast, Lunch, Tea and snacks were provided to all the participants on both the days.

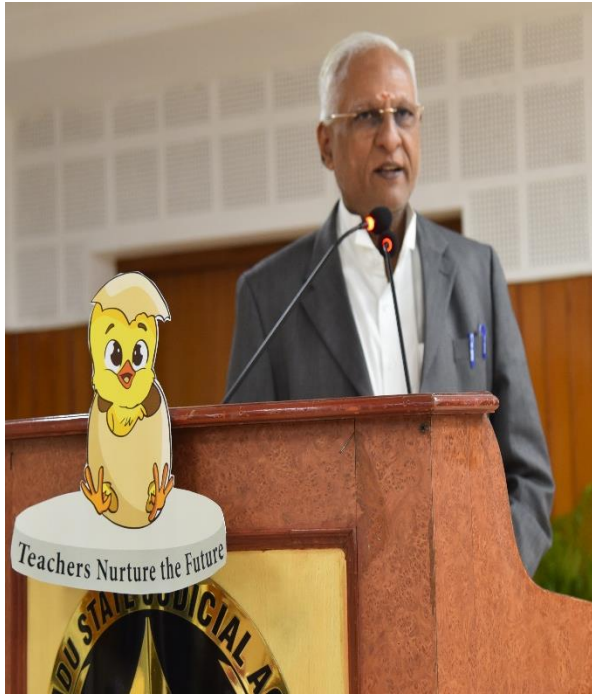
The welcome address of the workshop on first day was delivered by Ms. N. Latha, Director, State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). She emphasized that, the School Education Department also mulling to include Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act in the school education and



teacher’s education curriculum. She also stated that schools have brought in the concept of “Complaint box” which helps in finding out the issues faced by the children and upon which necessary measures can be taken to resolve them effectively. She reiterated that Education department have included many provisions in text book to create awareness on child protection aspects and also on rights of children.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.N. Prakash, Judge, High Court of Madras, Chairman, Juvenile Justice Committee and POCSO Committee, High Court of Madras released the handout ‘Teachers Nurture the Future’. The first copy of the handout was received by Ms. N. Latha, Director, State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT).



The Inaugural Address was delivered by Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.N. Prakash, Judge, High Court of Madras, Chairman, Juvenile Justice Committee and POCSO Committee, High Court of Madras. His Lordship elucidated that Teachers job is vulnerable in the recent days and they work hard to meet the standards and expectations of children with limited resources. His Lordship reiterated that today's generation are

falling prey to social media and are unaware of the ill effects and are casually engaging in contact with strangers who at times exploit these vulnerable children. His Lordship emphasized that life of a child can be changed with positive intervention and also shared few instances of dealing with deviant children and the children in need of care and protection.

The Vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. D. Lingeswaran Director, Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy. The Director thanked His Lordship Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.N. Prakash, Judge, High Court of Madras for sparing his time and gracing the occasion and enlightening the officials of education department on



upbringing children's in the modern society. The Director also thanked Ms. N. Latha Director, State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) for sharing her insights regarding protection measures taken by

Education department. He insisted that protection of child rights as prevention or responding to abuse, violence or neglect of children. Child protection is about ensuring that child is safe and secure at school.



On the second day the welcome address was delivered by Mr. R.A.S. Anandaraj, Deputy Director, TNSJA Headquarters, Chennai. He welcomed all the participants. He introduced the resource persons and various topics that were to be discussed. He insisted that “Teachers nurture the future” it’s been the same for generations and it is the

duty of every teacher to build good values in children and to treat them in an unbiased manner.

Working sessions on both the days:

The first session on both the days was on the topic “Role of teachers under POCSO Act and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act” by Mr. E. V. Chandru @ E. Chandrasekaran, Advocate, High Court of Madras. He stated that children spend most of their day in school and therefore, it is necessary that “Teachers should be a role model”, it is an obligation on teachers to inspire the children and to influence their attitude and behavior. He educated the participants on Legislations which deal with Delinquency in children such as POCSO Act, IPC and JJ Act. For the benefit of the participants,



the resource person also discussed several important case laws pertaining to the Juvenile Justice Act. Some of the important case laws discussed were *Manoharan v. State*, (2020) 5 SCC 782, *Union of India Vs. Ramesh Bishnoi* [(2019) 19 SCC 710], *Manoj Vs. State of Haryana* [(2022) 6 SCC 187]. The resource person also advocated participants for the rehabilitation of children both in conflict with law and in need of care and protection.

The next session was on the topic Faceless Insta Crimes – What’s the trouble? handled by Ms. P. Shanthi Devi, Inspector, Cyber Crime P.S., West Zone, Anna Nagar, Chennai on 30.11.2022 and by Mr. N. Karthikeyan Advocate, High Court of Madras on 1.12.2022.



Ms. P. Shanthi Devi Inspector, Cyber Crime P.S., West Zone, Anna Nagar, Chennai stated that cyber space is being used to radicalize the minds of youth. She stated that nowadays being on social networking sites is a necessity for youngsters and not being present on these platforms is considered a taboo. It has become a common practice for users to use borrowed identity. She emphasized that there are both financial and non-financial fraud committed by young offenders. She shared her experience, the manner in which faceless crimes being handled in case of children on conflict with law.

Mr. N. Karthikeyan Advocate, High Court of Madras had stated that there is an increase in crime committed using a computer or the Internet. The Internet is no longer just a tool for entertainment or communication. The



interned has spiraled people of all ages out of control. He further stated that crimes can be solved with state of art technology. He shared his experience in solving cyber-crime related cases.

After a short tea break the next session was on Challenges faced by teachers in addressing child sexual abuse and psychological needs of children. This session was an interactive discussion session the panelists were Ms. C. Shyamala Devi, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Chennai; Ms. P. Shanthi Devi, Inspector, Cyber Crime P.S., West Zone, Anna Nagar, Chennai; and Mr. E.V. Chandru @ E. Chandrasekaran, Advocate, High Court of Madras on 30.11.2022 and Ms. C. Shyamala Devi, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Chennai; Mr. E.V. Chandru @ E. Chandrasekaran, Advocate, High Court of Madras and by Mr. N. Karthikeyan, Advocate, High Court of Madras on 1.12.2022. The discussions were moderated by Mr. D. Lingeswaran, Director, Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy.



The session was a group discussion. During this session the participants were divided into 6 groups with 9 members in each group and they were given 15 minutes time to list down encounters faced by them in treating sexually abused children and to cater to psychological needs of children. The representatives of each group briefed out the common issues faced by them. Based on issues listed down Director guided the participants the manner in which sexually abused children have to be treated and the panel members imparted legal knowledge to participants on approaching the Police and advocates when required.



Post lunch break the session was on “Identifying signs and symptoms of child abuse and child neglect”. This session was handled by Ms. Kanaga Lakshmi, Clinical Psychologist, Chennai on 30.11.2022 and by Ms. Saadhvi Nirmal, Psychologist, Madurai on 01.12.2022.



Ms. Kanaga Lakshmi, Clinical Psychologist, Chennai stated various reasons that makes the child fall in the trap of predator and the psychological impact of sexually abused children. She stated that in order to prevent traumatization of victim, questioning of victim on multiple occasion should be made

at only one stop.

Ms. Saadhvi Nirmal, Psychologist, Madurai stated that mental health is very important than physical health. Children who have been sexually abused have a wide range of long-term effects in adulthood. She also said that, it is necessary to intervene early to handle mental health of children because the distress level after the incidence is strongly associated with future



Post traumatic stress disorder. She emphasized that participants have to handle sexually abused children in a very careful manner.



After a short tea break the next session was on Readmission of Children into Society – Prevention, Rehabilitation & Reintegration. This session was handled by Mr. G. Kumaresan, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF Office for Tamil Nadu & Kerala on both days. He stated that stakeholders responsibility towards

child protection is increasing and many initiatives at state level is made to bring the dropout children back to schools. He emphasized that positive approach will

have to be followed rather than fearful approach towards Children in conflict with law in order to rehabilitate and reintegrate back to society. He also shared about the road map which is a 5yr plan to unite children with their families.

The next session was on Way Forward: Action Plan for future Training which was handled by Dr. S. Manivel, Deputy Director (Training), SCERT, Chennai on both days. He insisted for preventive measures to be implemented for child protection in school. In case of any child abuse, he insisted to seek the help of District Legal Service Authority.



The programme concluded with the proposal of Vote of Thanks by the Deputy Director, Mr. R. A. S. Anandaraj, Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy, Headquarters Chennai. He thanked all the participants and resource persons for making the Workshop a success.
