



# Central Board of Secondary Education

## Circular

### **Protection of Children from Sexual Offence (POCSO) Act 2012**

All children have an equal right to access education in an environment that is safe, protective and conducive to the overall development. The challenges of gender inequality, eve teasing and sexual abuse in school environment call for increased awareness and creating synergy among parents, teachers and schools.

In order to ensure strict compliance of the Protection of child from sexual offence (POCSO) Act 2012, CBSE has taken several initiatives and actions for creating awareness about sexual exploitation among the school children.

#### **Gender sensitive Learning Material**

Under the Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) Scheme, 23 modules based on Life Skills have been prepared for the trainers to give an insight to the growing up issues, managing emotions, gender, social and other issues of discrimination.

Reinforcing its commitment towards gender sensitivity and equality, CBSE has developed Educator's Manual and Cards on Gender sensitive teaching in classes' 1-XII. The Manual is designed to be a practical guide for making teaching and learning processes gender friendly. A new elective subject at +2 is also being provided as Human Rights and Gender Studies to reinforce gender equality and harmony.

#### **Role of Schools**

1. Teachers, Management and all employees of institutions need to be made aware about the provisions of the Act, some of which cast a duty on them to report instance of child abuse, as in Sections 19(I) and 21.

2. **In- house induction sessions should be held** for all teachers to include a specific module on gender sensitization.

Sexual offences committed by the persons who are in the ownership, management of staff of education institutions and persons in positions of Trust and Authority over children are liable for higher punishment as per the provisions of the Act.

#### **3. School/Classroom Environment**

Schools must ensure and promote a harmonious school/classroom environment and inclusiveness.

#### **4. Provision for guidance and counselling facilities in schools**

Teachers in general should be trained to attend to adolescent (gender) related issues, conduct of adolescent education programmes and special activities that promote gender equality and sensitivity.

## **5. Programmes for empowerment of girls**

Camps on sensitization of girls on health and sanitation issues, karate/ self defence training of girl students should be conducted at regular intervals. Programmes like folk dance, nukkad natak, poster competitions, quiz, debate, exhibition can also be conducted to foster gender equality.

## **6. In Residential Schools**

Training programmes for House Masters / House Mistress that inter-alia, cover emotionally disturbed students, counselling of students and preparing children for meeting challenges of adolescences. Personal care and guidance to girl children needs to be given, female Matron be provided for girls' dormitories.

**7. School Complaints Committee** consisting of Principal/Vice- Principal, one male teacher, one female teacher, one female student, one male student and one non-teaching staff member must be set up to serve as complaints and redressal body. An improved response system and alert administrative machinery is required to take immediate action on reported cases of misbehavior.

**8. Complaint / Suggestion box** should be provided in each school so that students can make written complaints. Any complaint of sexual abuse, whether received through the drop box or otherwise needs to be acted upon immediately.

**9. Provision for CCTV cameras** should be made in school premises at all strategic places along with the warning.

## **10. Monitoring and Identification**

Close monitoring of academic performance and psychological behaviour particularly in cases of sudden decline in performance, lack of interest, depression and aloofness should be noticed to give proper counselling to the children.

Informal conversations with the students by way of discussions with peers and planned observations in hostels, classrooms and playground can also be helpful.

**11. Toll Free number and child helpline** may be provided and made known and displayed on notice board along with names of teachers designated to handle such cases. Centralised Child helpline number 1098 must be popularised and displayed at prominent places in the schools.

School management and staff are expected to create awareness and participate in averting such offences as part of their foremost duty.

**Rama Sharma**  
**PRO & Addl. Public Grievance Officer**

**To**

**All heads of institutions / school managements**

**Enclosed:** Suggestive advocacy material which may be used as Posters, Hand bills or in any other format.

Lately, your happy child is not his usual self. Did you ask why?



This could be a sign of a much serious problem.  
Try to find out the reason behind this.

### Schools

- Take all necessary measures for complete security of children
- Do not encourage gender discrimination in school
- Do not ignore sudden change in a child's behaviour
- Make teachers and staff aware about THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (POCSO) Act
- Install a Complaint Box inside school
- Boarding schools should arrange for a Matron and a Counselor
- Talk to parents on the subject of child sexual abuse from time to time
- Constitute a committee for handling complaints

### Parents/ Guardians

- Pay Special Attention: when your child feels reluctant to go to school; when the child shows a sudden lack of interest and poor performance in studies; when the child stays aloof, upset and depressed
- Aware them about the difference between 'good touch' and 'bad touch'
- Encourage the child to share and talk

### Students

- Understand the difference between 'good touch' and 'bad touch'
- Report immediately to school authorities if someone behaves inappropriately with you
- Drop your complaint in the Complaint Box
- Inform your teacher and parents about the complaint

**Child Sexual Abuse** is a serious issue.  
Protect children from this evil.

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (POCSO)  
Act came into force in the year 2012

Do you know: Sexual offence against children is punishable with imprisonment of 3-10 years with maximum penalty of imprisonment for life.



**Save Smiles Mission**

Central Board of Secondary Education



CHILD Helpline (toll-free no.): 1098

क्या कुछ दिनों से आपका हैसमुख बच्चा कुछ परेशान सा है?



यह किसी बड़ी समस्या का संकेत हो सकता है।  
इसका कारण जानने की कोशिश करें।

### विद्यालय

- बच्चों की सुरक्षा का पूरा इंतजाम रखें
- विद्यालय में लैंगिक भेदभाव को बढ़ावा न दें
- बच्चों के व्यवहार में अचानक आये बदलावों पर ध्यान दें
- लैंगिक अपराधों से बच्चों का संरक्षण अधिनियम से शिक्षकों एवं कर्मचारियों को अवगत कराएं
- शिकायत पेट्री की व्यवस्था करें
- आवासीय स्कूलों में मैट्रन एवं परामर्शदाता की व्यवस्था करें
- माता-पिता के साथ मिलकर समय-समय पर इस समस्या के बारे में संवाद करें
- शिकायत कमेटी का गठन करें।

### अभिभावक

- खास ध्यान दें: क्या आपका बच्चा स्कूल जाने से कतराता है, उसकी पढ़ाई में रुचि अचानक कम हो गई है?
- क्या वह परेशान, अकेला और गुम सुम रहता है?
- 'अच्छे स्पर्श' और 'बुरे स्पर्श' से बच्चे को परिचित करायें
- अपने बच्चे के साथ परस्परता बनाएं।

### विद्यार्थी

- 'अच्छे स्पर्श' तथा 'बुरे स्पर्श' को जानें, यदि विद्यालय में किसी का व्यवहार अनुचित लगे तो तुरंत रिपोर्ट करें
- शिकायत पेट्री में शिकायत डालें
- अपने शिक्षक तथा माता पिता को इस बारे में जरूर बतायें

बाल यौन शोषण एक गंभीर समस्या है।  
बच्चों को इससे बचाएं।

वर्ष 2012 से देश में लैंगिक अपराधों से  
बच्चों का संरक्षण (पोक्सो) अधिनियम लागू है।

क्या आप जानते हैं: बच्चों का यौन उत्पीड़न करना एक दंडनीय अपराध है,  
जिसके लिए 3 से 10 वर्ष की कैद अथवा आजीवन उच्च कैद की सजा हो सकती है।



मुरकान बचाओ अभियान

केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड



चाईल्ड हेल्पलाइन (टॉल फ्री नंबर): 1098

Is your extrovert child now suddenly scared around strangers?



This could be a sign of a much serious problem.  
Try to find out the reason behind this.

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क्या आपका मिलनसार बच्चा अब अजनबियों से घबराता है?



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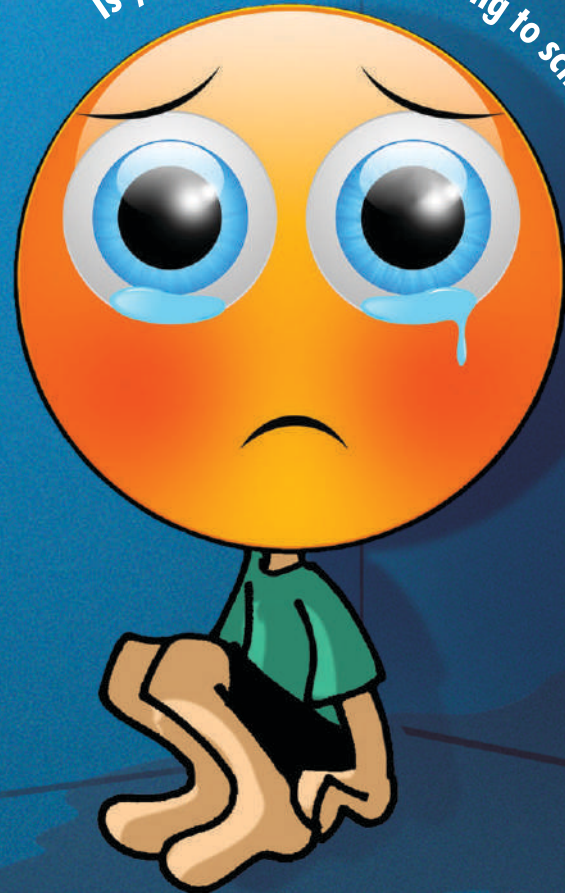
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Is your child scared of going to school these days ?



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