

इन्दीवर पान्डेय

सचिव

भारत सरकार

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय



सुनील कुमार

सचिव

भारत सरकार

पंचायती राज मंत्रालय

Indevar Pandey

Secretary

Government of India

Ministry of Women & Child Development

Sunil Kumar

Secretary

Government of India

Ministry of Panchayati Raj

D.O. No: N-19011/5/2017-e-Panchayat

dated 20th October, 2021

Subject: Integrating Child Protection and Mental Health Services into Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) of Aspirational Districts.

Dear Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary

SAMVAD (Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress), is a National Initiative & Integrated Resource for Child Protection, Mental Health and Psychosocial Care, supported by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India and located in the Dept. of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS. With the aim of enhancing child and adolescent psychosocial well-being, through promotion of integrated approaches to mental health and protection, SAMVAD extends its support and activities to all the states in the country by way of: development of standardized child-centric modules and resources for child protection functionaries and psychosocial and mental health care service providers; training and capacity building activities to strengthen knowledge and skills in child and adolescent protection and psychosocial care at primary, secondary and tertiary care levels of child protection and mental health; research, advocacy and a range of technical support on the aforementioned issues. It thus comprises of a multidisciplinary team of child care professionals, with expertise in training and capacity building, program, policy and research pertaining to child mental health, protection and law.

2. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), Government of India, has recently announced that the existing Central Government schemes pertaining to women and children will be consolidated under three umbrella schemes in mission mode: Mission POSHAN 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti. Under Mission Vatsalya, one plan is to integrate and decentralize child welfare services and child protection services all over the country, through the Panchayat Raj system with priority in 115 Aspirational districts as identified by NITI Aayog. In light of this, the Hon. Minister of Women and Child Development made a request to SAMVAD to initiate child protection work in the Panchayati Raj system.

contd..2/-

3. In response to the above agenda of the MoWCD and the Hon. Minister of Women and Child Development, SAMVAD has undertaken to initiate programs at the panchayat level to integrate child protection and mental health issues into the work of Panchayati Raj systems. The objectives of SAMVAD's program are:-

- Creating community awareness and participation in child protection and mental health issues through community-based functionaries.
- Identification of vulnerable children, including assessment of children at risk.
- Linking vulnerable children (and their families) to relevant social protection schemes.
- Referring children at risk to (district) mental health services as required.

4. In light of the above, we would like to announce that the Ministry of Women and Child Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), will take the issue of Child Protection and Mental health to the communities via the Panchayati Raj System in 115 Aspirational Districts; which will be taken forward as stated below: -

- i. For effective implementation of the collaboration, District Child Protection Units (DPCU) under MoWCD at the district-level, will work with Gram Panchayat Members including Elected Representatives, Panchayat Employees (Panchayat Secretary, Panchayat Development Officer etc.) at the village level for the formation/activation of Village Child Protection Committees (VCPC) as directed in the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS).
- ii. The DCPUs and Panchayat members will prioritise and form/activate VCPCs in their respective villages.
- iii. The DCPU members and the Panchayat members will be trained by SAMVAD on Child Protection and Mental Health and thereby conduct training programs for VCPCs to ensure child protection and mental health of children in their respective villages.
- iv. DCPUs and Panchayat members will disseminate awareness materials (pamphlets, videos, etc.) developed by SAMVAD to ensure that they reach the grassroot-level stakeholders such as Panchayati Raj Institutions who play a major role in the implementation of Child Protection and Mental Health assistance in the community.
- v. Inform State departments of Women and Child Development and Panchayat Raj that SAMVAD will provide assistance and guidance with respect to state-level requirements.

- vi. Inform the DCPUs that SAMVAD will provide assistance and guidance with respect to state-level requirements pertaining to the Child Protection and Mental Health needs and concerns. The contact details are as follows:-
- Email: info@nimhanschilprotect.in
 - Ph No: 080-26972240
- vii. Inform the DCPUs and the Panchayat Members that SAMVAD will assist in the development of any content (IEC materials, training modules, etc.) regarding Child Protection & Mental Health that is to be disseminated within the state based on state-specific needs.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



20/10/2021

(Indevar Pandey)

Yours sincerely,



20.10.21

(Sunil Kumar)

To,

1. Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/Secretary, PR Department (All States/ UTs excluding Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Bihar, Rajasthan).
2. Addl. Chief Secretary/ principal Secretary/ Secretary, D/o WCD (All States/ UTs excluding Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Bihar, Rajasthan).
3. Dr. G Narendra Kumar, DG, National Institute of Rural Development & Rural Development (NIRDPR) with a request to further transmit the letter to SIRDs.