

Sneh-Angan



One Stop Crises Management Centre for Children (OSCMCC)

A Joint Initiative of Jaipur Police With UNICEF & RIHR

Children in Crisis

- **5 year old Joy**, lives with his mother and elder sister. He stays alone at home when his mother goes for house help work and his sister to school. In the past few days, his mother started noticing that Joy was behaving differently, as he was not having his meals properly, getting weak and irritated frequently. She also consulted a doctor but nothing much changed. One day when his mother came home, she saw Joy crying, on asking he shared that Keshav Mama slapped him. However, the mother could sense something unusual, so she took him to a one-stop crisis management centre to reach the root cause of the problem. With the help of a counsellor, the family got to know that their neighbour Keshav had been sodomizing the child for the last few months. Considering its seriousness, the mother agreed to file a complaint immediately against Keshav and presently the mother is trying to avail justice for her son Joy.
- **16 year old Shivani**, used to live with her joint family where she was the eldest child. She was an enthusiastic girl who loved exploring new things, making friends and her dream was to become a police officer. However, her parents were forcing her to get married, and knowing this she ran to her grandmother's house, unfortunately, she did not support her and was sent back to her home. After this incident parents immediately got her married. Further, her husband turned out to be abusive, beating and forcefully making physical relations. After a few months, she broke her patience and fled to her parental home. She was mentally tortured by her parents and siblings which led to great disappointment and forced to flee again from her parental home. On the way she met a boy who assured to help her, instead, he sold her to a brothel in another city. Shivani was rescued by a one-stop crisis management center after six months from the brothel and currently living in a government home.
- **4 year old Bhoomi**, lives with her parents in a rented room of the same building where they work as tailors. Bhoomi being the youngest child lives with her parents. When her parents do their work, she stays in the room and plays with neighbouring children. One afternoon while playing, Bhoomi went to the common bathroom located at the end of the corridor, at that time a neighbouring man saw her and followed her inside the bathroom. He tried to charm a young girl by offering chocolates when she came close to him, he grabbed Bhoomi. Immediately he started undressing her and sadistically touching her, which made Bhoomi very uncomfortable, and started shouting loudly. Hearing the painful voice, her mother ran towards the bathroom and rescued her daughter but the culprit escaped. Later, with the help of their building landlord, the mother approached a one-stop crisis management centre, for legal support. After counselling and legal work, that man was taken into custody and granted lifetime imprisonment.
- **16 year old Sunny**, used to live with his parents and younger sister. He was a very joyful, humble, and enthusiastic boy who wanted to fulfil his dreams and make his parents proud. He had many friends in school, including Kiran of the same age group. One day, Sunny saw Kiran crying, on asking she shared her familial problem that girls are married off at an early age. Kiran plotted and shared an escape plan though he got scared but intended to help her. They fled together to another city. Kiran's family filed a complaint against Sunny, alleging that he had taken their daughter forcefully. After some days, the police found them, in the police proceedings Kiran gave a statement against Sunny due to family pressure. As a result, he was arrested, while Kiran went back to her family and resumed her schooling. Unfortunately, Sunny was unable to fulfil his dreams, and he has been living at a rehabilitation home.

**All the stories mentioned above are written with the aim of showing the plight of children. These are inspired by true events and basic details have been changed to protect the identity of children.*

**Names have been changed and locations are kept undisclosed to protect the identity of the children.*

Fact About Crime Against Children

- Total crime against children in India has increased by 67% in the year 2021 from the year 2014, out of which Rajasthan has shown an increase of 97%. Among total cases of crime against children in India, 78% of the victims were girls (NCRB)
- Rajasthan ranks 7th in the country in crime against children reported between 2018-2020. (MWCD)
- POCSO cases increased by 56% in India in the year 2021 from the year 2014. Rajasthan has shown an increase of 132% in the same period. Nationally, the 99% of rape cases involved girl victims (NCRB).
- Rajasthan ranked 3rd in cybercrime with 941 cases in 2016, 1304 cases in 2017, and 1104 cases in 2018. (cybercrime data NCRB)
- Total number of missing children in the state increased by 35% during 2019-2021 (from 3655 to 4936).
- 25.4% girls get married before the age of 18 over past 5 years. (2017-2021 NFHS)
- Rajasthan child sex ratio is 928 for 1000 male. (Census 2011)

What Adds To The Grief of Children

- Apathy, torture
- Indifference of the system
- Lack of clarity on law and process
- Procedural delays and daily hassles
- Attitude to presume children on the other side of law and criminals
- Lack of family support
- Gaps in rehabilitation services
- Prejudice insensitivity and discrimination
- Lack of availability of child friendly structures and environment
- Limited professional experts services (counsellors, lawyers, staff, etc.)

Numerous Children come in contact with the police and law on account of various reasons –

- Child Marriage • Child Labour • Trafficking • Child Abuse (Physical, Sexual & Emotional)
- Missing • Abandoned • Domestic violence • Witness of crime and Children in conflict with law.

A Scenario

Child abuse is rampant, indiscriminate, and cut across class, geography, culture, sex, and religion. It occurs in cities and villages by family members, persons who are in positions of trust and confidence of children and strangers, etc. News of children being abused, exploited, neglected, and tortured often figures in our daily lives. People often feel and show sympathy towards these children, however, the misfortunes that these children have to face and often blame destiny for their condition. But seldom think and take a step ahead to provide a protective environment and legal support.

A number of studies/surveys have revealed that millions of children who are subjugated to one or the other forms of violence and abuse face severe exploitation of their rights. Of these, only a few cases surfaced and registered while others are not allowed to surface. Once the case is registered children come in contact with the police and law. A large number of other children are out in the world to earn a living and often they also come in contact with the police and law either while being rescued or in transit.

It has also been observed that the procedural and legal delay in the children's cases often leads to the re-victimization or secondary victimization of the children, leaving them helpless and hopeless. Children and their families are required to approach different authorities for various purposes, due to the unavailability of centres that can act as focal points to coordinate with authorities to ensure appropriate and speedy action. In such conditions, the subsequent solution often either loses its relevance or solution becomes redundant, or is not in the best interest of the child. Thus, it is important to realize that such children are victimized and in need of immediate care, support, and protection.

Realizing the gaps in the current existing system related to children, and their issues as well as to prevent the re-victimization at any stage, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, its Model Rules, 2016 and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 have made child friendly procedures while dealing with children. This includes the appointment of exclusive Child Welfare Police Officer, Children's Room in police stations, procedure relating to recording of statements and capacity building of police officers etc.

Genesis of OSCMCC

While working for child rights and protection, UNICEF was concerned about the confusion, apathy, and procedural delays that children experienced when they came in contact with the police. Resource Institute for Human Rights (RIHR) also experienced similar emotions and hence, expressed the desire to work towards positive changes for the betterment of the children. On the other hand, the Rajasthan Police was also making efforts to promote child-friendly policing.

Being sensitive, pro-child, and eager to partner in the efforts to improve the situation of children, the Rajasthan Police, UNICEF, and RIHR joined hands together to lay down the foundation of the first such innovative center named “Sneh Angan-One Stop Crisis Management Center for Children” in Jaipur. The main objective of the OSCMCC is to provide all basic facilities and support services for children under one roof. The Centre also housed the office of the Special Juvenile Police Unit and Anti Human Trafficking Unit of Jaipur Police (East).



OSCMCC-Police Station Model

OSCMCC is a Police Station Model based in the premises of the Mahila Police Station (East), Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur. RIHR a right based organization successfully plays the convening role for the smooth and in-tended functioning of OSCMCC. This project is being implemented with agreement between the UNICEF and RIHR.

The centre is fortunate to be centrally situated as different institutions such as the Child Welfare Committee, Child Care Institutions and Government-run dispensary are closely located and easily accessible to provide immediate support to vulnerable children. Along with this, support of the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) and Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of Jaipur (East) is also available at any time.

The centre runs its activities with the help of dedicated human resources including a coordinator and two counsellors along with the support of volunteers. The centre coordinates with different authorities and agencies to provide necessary support such as shelter, protection, medical assistance, compensation and legal support & advice etc.



OSCMCC-Objectives

- Function as a one point contact for children coming in contact with the Police.
- Adopt a case management approach that involves handling each child's case in a coordinated and individualized manner to ensure the necessary support and services.
- Facilitate the handling of children and their cases in a child friendly manner.
- Counselling and motivational services to children and their families.
- Support children in need of care and protection by ensuring the utilization of referral services and social protection schemes /services.
- Establish and strengthen the networking, coordination, and collaborative structure to support children victims of different abuses.
- Promote diversion strategies and restorative justice for children in conflict with the law.
- Facilitate re-integration and rehabilitation of the children with their families and in communities with the support of the State Government.
- Educate children about their rights and also motivate them to live a better and positive life.
- Sensitize duty bearers and stakeholders towards the protection of children and their rights.
- Ensure incorporation of child friendly behavior and techniques in the working and culture of police and other relevant stakeholders.
- Rescue children in any difficult circumstances based on information received.
- Advocate for positive changes in policies and practices related to children coming in contact with police.
- Create awareness amongst the community and general population about the children and their issues through IEC material.

OSCMCC- Core Value

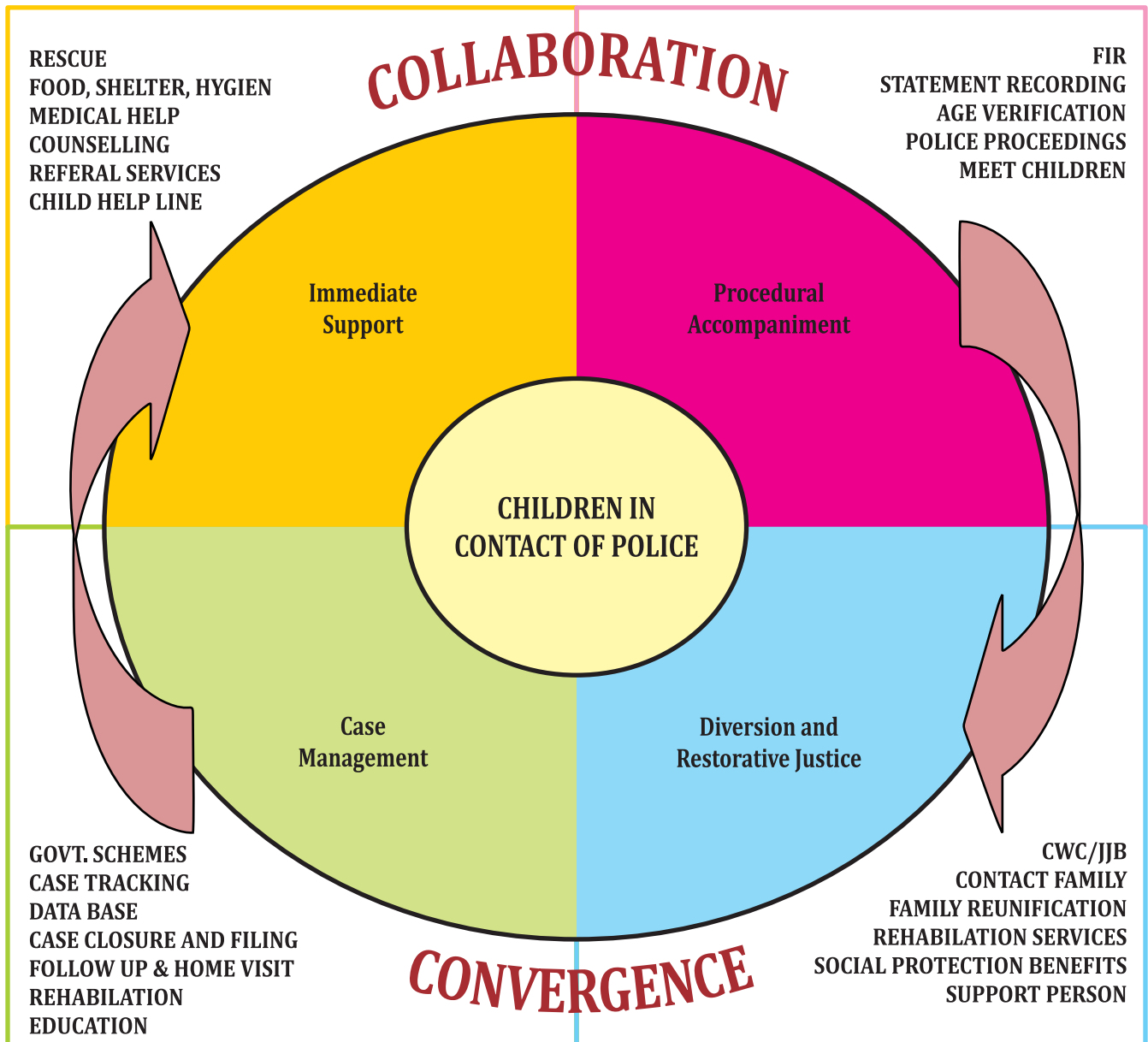
1. Provide immediate relief to children victimized on different account and coming in contact with Police and Law.
2. Engineer collaborative and referral mechanisms to provide sustainable and lasting solutions for children in contact with law.
3. Work towards helping children to cope and facilitate re-integration in the society.
4. Cater to the individual needs of the children.
5. Always act in the best interest of the children

OSCMCC-Framework

- Adopt a case management approach
- Food and relaxation activities
- First aid and referral medical support
- Counselling
- Shelter
- Legal advice and aid
- Documentation of case
- Coordinate with JJ functionaries
- Family contact
- Reintegration and Rehabilitation of children.



OSCMCC - Framework



Journey so far...

OSCMCC so far intervened and supported a total of 3086 children and their cases –

Category of case	Number
Child labour	1999
Missing/destitute/kidnapped children	179
Violence against children	47
Children in conflict with the law	13
Child begging	145
Child sexual abuse	137
Others (Corporal punishment, emotional abuse)	566

In all the cases OSCMCC played an important role –

- Catered to the immediate needs of the children and provided food and temporary shelter.
- Provided counselling services to the children and their families.
- Assisted the Police and Child Welfare Committee in its proceedings while keeping a child friendly approach.
- Facilitated the synergy of different institutions and agencies for various purposes.
- Arranged re-integration and rehabilitation of the children with their families.
- Follow up of the cases and ensured the well-being of children.

Way Forward

- Work towards the realization of child friendly policing.
- Advocacy for changes in policy and practices which are in the interest of children.
- Continue the sensitization and awareness generation programs for different duty bearers on issues related to children.
- Engagement of child protection practitioners and voluntary organizations to assist the JJ functionaries as and when required.
- Adopting an intensive case management approach to upgrade the casework.
- Adopt innovative ways and strategies to prevent crime against children and delinquent behavior.
- Encourage community participation in child related issues and define ways to make the community more responsible towards children and their rights.
- Capacity building of duty bearers and other stakeholders on child rights.
- Upscale of the OSCMCC model in other districts since the centre has emerged as a support agency to Special Juvenile Police Units.





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