

No. CDN/77/2021-Coord.
Government of India
Ministry of Women & Child Development

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 27th April, 2021

Circular

To:

Staff of One Stop Centres

District Child Protection Units; Staff of Child Care Institutions & Other Services

Providers under Integrated Child Protection Scheme

Child Welfare Committees & Juvenile Justice Boards

Sub: Support for Child Psychosocial Care & Counselling during COVID-19 Pandemic

The second wave of the COVID pandemic, given its rapid spread and severity, has created much anxiety and panic across the country. As you are aware, children have been particularly vulnerable to the psychosocial and mental health impacts of the pandemic. Under the circumstances, service providers might also be finding it challenging to support children with their psychosocial and mental health care needs, including to make related decisions on placement and safety.

2. In the light of the above, this is to inform you that you may avail of assistance from SAMVAD (Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress), a National Initiative & Integrated Resource for Child Protection, Mental Health, & Psychosocial Care, which is supported by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.

3. Located in Dept. of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, the SAMVAD team provides assistance (including training and capacity building support) to various State child protection and mental health systems. In recent months, they have especially focused on supporting child care service providers in child care institutions, schools, secondary health care facilities and vulnerable communities, to address psychosocial and mental health issues in the COVID context.

4. You may contact SAMVAD (as below) for any support and advise you require on provision of assistance to children in need, particularly in the context of the COVID pandemic.

5. Guidelines of COVID-19 issued by Ministry of Home Affairs **vide letter No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 23rd March, 2021** has also been **Annexed** for ready reference.

E-mail: info@nimhanschildprotect.in

Tel No: 080-26972240 (9 am to 6 pm, Monday through Saturday)

SD/-
(Rupesh Kumar Sinha)
Under Secretary to Government of India

Copy to :

Dr. Satish Chandra Girimaji, Director, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Hosur Road, Near Bangalore Milk Dairy, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 5600029