

District Institute of Education and Training, Vadalur Cuddalore District

1. Name of the Programme: **DISTRICT LEVEL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (POCSO) TRAINING**
2. Duration : 24-01-2025 to 31-01-2025 (8 Days)
3. Target group : B.T and PG Teachers from High and Higher Secondary Schools in Cuddalore district
4. No. of Participants attended: 42 Teachers taken as RP training from High and Higher Secondary Schools from Cuddalore district
5. **Brief note about the programme:**

At present, one of the most serious issues prevailing in society is sexual abuse against children, which is considered a major concern. As the first phase of the training, an awareness and preventive training program on student safety and prevention of violence against children was conducted for high school and higher secondary school headmasters. This program was organized on 26.11.2024 under the leadership of the Honorable Minister for School Education, with resource persons from the police department and other relevant sectors.

Awareness posters were displayed in classrooms so that students could easily understand them. In addition, helpline numbers such as 1098 (Childline) **and** 14417 (child emergency helpline) were provided to students for their benefit. Following this, a state-level workshop on prevention of violence against children and awareness creation was conducted at the Madurai Pillar Training Centre on 16.12.2024 and 17.12.2024.

As a continuation of the state-level training, it was instructed that district-level training be conducted in respective districts on 21.01.2025 or 22.01.2025, followed by block-level training from 24.01.2025 to 31.01.2025. Accordingly, the district-level training was planned and conducted on 22.01.2025. From each block, three participants attended: one teacher educator, one graduate teacher from a high/higher secondary school, and one postgraduate teacher, making a total of 42 participants. To further enrich the training, POCSO experts and mental health professionals from the concerned departments were invited to serve as resource persons.

6. TIME TABLE

Time	Topic	Resource Person
09.00a.m-09.30a.m	Registration & Inauguration	
09.30a.m-11.15a.m	Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse- Overview of the Module and 3 Videos related to AVAL	KRP
11.15a.m-11.30a.m	Tea Break	
11.30a.m-01.00p.m	Salient Features of POCSO Act Roles and Responsibilities of DCPO & CWC in implementation of POCSO Act	DCPO/ CWC Member/Police Department/KRP
01.00p.m-02.00p.m	Lunch Break	
02.00p.m-03.15p.m	Counseling to victims of Sexual Abuse	KRP/ Psychologist
03.15p.m-03.30p.m	Tea Break	
03.30p.m-04.30p.m	Role of Stakeholders and Rehabilitation of Victims under POCSO Act	KRP
4.30 p.m-5.00 p.m	Assessment and Feedback	

7. SESSION WISE REPORT

Session – I

Dr. S. Vasanthi, Senior Lecturer and Master Trainer, delivered a lecture on the POCSO Act using video-based instruction. She explained that the POCSO Act is a law enacted to prevent sexual offences against children. It provides protection to children from crimes such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, forcing them to view obscene content, or involving them in such activities. This law is known as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO-2012).

The faculty further explained that, under this Act, all individuals below 18 years of age are considered children. The law is applicable to all genders, including boys, girls, and transgender individuals.

Objectives of the Training:

- To understand what constitutes sexual abuse against children.
- To learn about different types of child abuse.
- To understand how the POCSO Act is applied in various situations.
- To learn how to handle cases when children disclose sexual abuse.

- To ensure the safety and protection of children.
- To create awareness about the roles of parents and teachers in protecting children.

The resource person explained various types of sexual abuse against children. She also described how to identify behavioural changes in children that may indicate abuse and explained the necessary protective and follow-up measures to be taken.

Important points to be taught to students to help prevent child sexual abuse were also shared. Guidance was provided on how teachers should respond when children disclose incidents of abuse.

Additionally, clear instructions were given on what actions should not be taken when a child reports such incidents. She explained how to file complaints regarding online disclosures of abuse and provided relevant online links for the same. Further, awareness was created about preventing child sexual abuse, including the roles of headmasters, teachers, and parents.

The resource person also emphasized the importance of teachers building positive relationships with community support organizations and explained how to establish such connections. Finally, she provided important contact details, including police stations, hospitals, Child Welfare Committees, and other helpline numbers that can assist children in need.

Session – II

The resource person, Mrs. K. Jayabharani, Teacher Trainer, explained the definitions of sexual offences under the POCSO Act. She highlighted that the Act not only defines sexual crimes but also prohibits the use of children in pornographic content. She further emphasized that even storing pornographic material involving children is a punishable offence, thereby strengthening child protection.

She explained that individuals in positions of trust—such as police personnel, military personnel, government employees, caretakers, doctors, staff working in hospitals, educational or religious institutions, and even relatives—would face severe punishment if they are involved in sexual abuse of children.

Legal Procedures to be Followed in Cases of Child Sexual Abuse

1. Filing a First Information Report (FIR).
2. Conducting a medical examination of the child.
3. Recording the statement of the child before a Magistrate.

4. Producing the child before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).
5. Guidelines on how the Investigating Officer should initiate the inquiry.
6. Procedures for investigation and filing of the charge sheet.
7. Handling of evidence, witness statements, testimonies of the victim, statements of the accused, and defense evidence.
8. Explanation of final arguments, court orders, judgment, compensation (final and interim), and preservation of evidence.

The session also included guidance on how children can protect themselves and the precautionary measures they should follow to stay safe.

Session – III

From the District Mental Health Programme, Cuddalore, Dr. Aswin Jyothi, a mental health expert from the Department of Health and Family Welfare and the Psychiatry Unit of the Government Hospital, Cuddalore, participated as a resource person. He delivered a clear and informative session on child safety and the maintenance of children's mental health.

He also shared insights from several important case studies he had encountered. He explained how children's mental health is affected when they are subjected to sexual abuse and discussed the appropriate ways to handle such situations. He emphasized the roles of parents, teachers, and society in supporting affected children. Furthermore, he elaborated on how children may experience physical, psychological, and social stress, and how these factors contribute to mental health challenges.

Challenges in Promoting Mental Health

One of the major challenges in improving children's mental health is their hesitation to express themselves. Lack of awareness and the severe psychological impact of such experiences often prevent children from accessing proper mental health services. He noted that, to a significant extent, these stresses are linked with biological, psychological, and social factors, increasing the likelihood of mental health problems.

The doctor also explained:

- Preventive measures to protect children from sexual harassment.
- Methods to restore the mental well-being of affected children and help them return to normalcy.

- The crucial roles played by parents, teachers, and society in both prevention and rehabilitation.

Session – IV

As part of the one-day training program on prevention of sexual abuse against children, the resource person Mr. Arumugam presented his views on the following topics:

1. Rehabilitation of Victims under the POCSO Act
2. Role of Stakeholders under the POCSO Act, 2012

Rehabilitation of Victims

The concept of rehabilitation of affected children was discussed with the participants. Rehabilitation was clearly defined as a process aimed at restoring the physical, emotional, social, and legal well-being of survivors.

The topic was further classified into:

- Immediate Rehabilitation
- Long-term Rehabilitation

Immediate Rehabilitation includes:

- Medical assistance
- Sensitive medical examination
- Treatment for injuries
- Trauma care
- Safe shelter and supportive environment

Long-term Rehabilitation includes:

- Educational support
- Vocational support
- Ensuring continuity of education

- Skill development programs
- Social reintegration
- Legal rehabilitation
- Support persons and facilitation through legal processes
- Assurance of compensation

Role of Stakeholders under POCSO Act, 2012

Under this topic, the roles of various stakeholders and professionals were explained with examples and discussions. These include:

- Police and Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU)
- Judiciary and Special Courts
- Medical professionals
- Child Welfare Committees (CWC)
- Parents and guardians
- Educators
- Communication/media sectors
- Society at large

The session concluded with the emphasis that the various challenges faced by children today—especially sexual, physical, and psychological abuse—can only be effectively addressed through the collective and constructive efforts of families, parents, teachers, society, and the media. Only through such coordinated action can a healthy and safe society be built.

8. PHOTOS



9. FEEDBACK

Respected Madam.

The resource persons and experts who conducted this training performed well and provided appropriate explanations and awareness to the teachers. Overall, the training served as a strong motivation for teachers to understand their responsibilities and how they should act in preventing sexual abuse within schools. It also provided them with a new perspective in carrying out their duties effectively. Thank you one and all.

B. Sudha, PG
GHSS, Vallandhurai
Kumaratchi