

A Brief on Proposed 2- Day Training Program for Juvenile Justice Board Members

Community Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service Project

Dept. of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS

In Collaboration with Dept. of Women & Child Development, Government of Karnataka

A. Rational and Objectives

Based on the request received by the Dept. of Women and Child development, Govt. of Karnataka, to conduct training workshop, for the newly appointed Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) members, the Community child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Project, Dept. of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS has developed a 2- day training module. In accordance with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, the module is designed to equip JJB members with skills to make decisions about the care, protection, treatment, and rehabilitation, of children in conflict with the law, from a child psychosocial and mental health perspective.

Most children requiring the assistance of the JJB are from difficult circumstances such as from poor socio-economic backgrounds, dysfunctional families, and contexts of child labour; for various reasons, such as neglect and abuse, adverse peer influences and life skills deficits, these children and adolescents come into conflict with the law. Additionally, these children also suffer from child and adolescent mental health disorders such as anxiety, depression, attention deficit hyperactive disorder, conduct disorders and substance abuse, all of which increase their vulnerability to coming into conflict with the law. It is imperative, therefore, child care service providers, including the JJB to develop a strong understanding of children's pathways to coming into conflict with the law, as well as ways to assess the mental health and rehabilitation needs of such children. Indeed the operationalizing of the concept of child rights, upon which the JJ Act rests, is only possible when we understand situations and realities from the child's (psychosocial and emotional) perspective, including those of children in conflict with the law (CICL)—so that JJB members are equipped to work towards support, rehabilitation services for, and prevention of recidivism in these children.

The objectives of the training workshop are for JJB members to:

- Obtain an in-depth and nuanced understanding of the psychosocial contexts of children in conflict with the law (CICL).
- Identify and analyze CICL's pathways to offence (if any), including their problem areas.
- Develop basic communication skills to enable work with children.
- Understand the mental health and psychosocial problems of CICL, including the assessments and interventions/ treatments that CICL should be provided with.
- Identify criteria for the use of referral (mental health) services for CICL as necessary.

The workshop will use participatory and experiential methods to facilitate reflective and practice-based learning,¹ including visualization, film screening, case study analysis and discussion methods.

¹ The Project refrains from using top-down lecture methods as these methods of training have not generally found to be useful or impactful.

B. Proposed Content

B. 1. Introduction:

The nature and objectives of the 2-day training workshop will be briefly introduced.

B.2. Understanding Pathways to Coming into Conflict with the Law

Objectives: To trace children's pathways to coming into conflict with the law and develop some broad frameworks of analyzing children's pathways to offence—

Content: Narrative and case study methods will be used to enable JJB members to identify children's pathways to offence, namely, psychosocial and environmental factors, and mental health problems that serve as risk factors to coming in conflict with the law i.e. to facilitate an understanding on the contexts and vulnerabilities of CICL, from a child psychosocial perspective,

B.3. Communication Techniques with Children & Adolescents

Objective: To develop communication skills to for interviewing CICL.

Content: Using role plays and case studies to practice the skills listed below.

- i) **Getting to know the Child:** Rapport building it is the first stage towards building a relationship with children. It involves introducing yourself; preliminary establishment of context; getting to know the child.
- ii) **Listening:** involves paying attention to a client's verbal and non-verbal messages and listening in a way that conveys respect, interest and empathy. This form of listening might involve the counselor to respond to the client verbally.
- iii) **Recognizing and Acknowledgement of emotions:** involves recognizing the child's emotions and acknowledging his/her emotions is a powerful technique that reassures children and convinces them that the child worker is empathetic.
- iv) **Acceptance & Non- judgmental attitude:** involves acceptance of the child as a person, irrespective of the problem; and to be non-judgmental means to take a position on an issue means to be able to discuss (difficult or controversial) issues with children based on their realities, opinions and understandings, (i.e. by setting aside the child worker's personal opinions & prejudices) and enabling the child to make decisions about their lives.
- v) **Questioning and Paraphrasing:** entails learning about different methods of questioning and inquiry i.e. how and when to use open and close-ended questions in child interviewing, to allow for children's narratives to emerge freely.

B.4. Assessing CICL

Objective: To understand the purpose of/ how to use the: (a) Detailed Psychosocial and Mental health Assessment of children in conflict with law; (b) Preliminary Assessment Report

Content: Discussing the detailed Psychosocial and Mental health Assessment of children in conflict with law and the Preliminary Assessment Report format developed by NIMHANS, so that, on the basis on these, the JJB is better equipped to make decisions about CICL, including rehabilitation and care plans for them.

B.5. Final Perspectives

Discussion on special issues and sensitive and controversial issues wherein systems often have difficulty in making decisions; use of NIMHANS and past JJB's experiences to take perspective on decision-making in such situations/ cases.

Basic Psychosocial & Mental Health Care for Children in Conflict with the Law

2-Day Training Workshop for Juvenile Justice Board

Community Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service Project

Dept. of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS

Day 1		
9:00—9:30 am	Introduction	
9.30 am to 10:30 am	Children & Childhood	Reconnecting with children and Childhood
10:30 am—1:00 pm	Pathways to Conflict with the Law	Psychosocial Pathways & Contexts of CICL: Understanding Frameworks for How Children Come into Conflict with the Law <i>*Incl. Coffee Break</i>
1:00 pm —2:00 pm	Lunch	
2:00—5:45 pm	Communication Techniques with Children	Skill 1: Getting to Know the Child
		Skill 2: Recognizing and Acknowledging Emotions
		Skill 3: Listening and Interest
5:45—7:15 pm	Film Screening	
Day 2		
8:30 am —12:15 pm	Communication Techniques with Children (Continued...)	Film Discussion
		Skill 4: Non Judgmental Attitude & Acceptance
		Skill 5: Questioning & Paraphrasing
12:15 pm —1:15 pm	Assessing CICL	Psychosocial and Mental health Assessment of CICL <i>*Incl. Coffee Break</i>
1:15—2:15 pm	Lunch	
2:15—4:30 pm	Assessments of CICL (Continued...)	Preliminary Assessment Report for children aged 16-18 years
4:30—6:00 pm	Final perspectives <i>*Incl. Coffee Break</i>	