

# CHILDLINE NEWSLETTER



17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## CHILDLINE protects and supports a minor victim of abuse



On 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020, CHILDLINE Rourkela, Odisha, placed a 13-year old girl, Radha (*name changed to protect identity*) in a shelter home on the orders of Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Radha was rescued from the market place by the Biramitra police station where she was roaming aimlessly. She was kept under the custody of the medical officer at the Biramitrapur Community Health Center (CHC) since she was not feeling well and required medical attention.

On further counseling, Radha revealed some startling details. She had undergone an abortion the previous night. She also mentioned that earlier the Biramitrapur police station officers had tried to admit her at the CHC. As the counseling session progressed further, CHILDLINE realized that the police along with the doctors had violated the MTP Act (Medical Termination Of Pregnancy Act, 1971). They all had given false information to the CWC.

The local newspaper covered this case on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020. Next day, CWC recorded the statement of the child. As per orders from the CWC, the local DCPO (District Child Protection Officer) filed an FIR against six people including two police personnel and a medical officer of the CHC in the Biramitrapur area. Subsequently, the officer in-charge was suspended and his statement was recorded on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

After getting all the necessary information, CHILDLINE immediately removed the child from the CHC and restored her with the open shelter. On the orders of the DGP (Director General of Police), the inspector was dismissed from the duty for sexually abusing a 13-year old girl for a period of four months and later forcefully terminating her pregnancy without informing the District Child Welfare Committee. CHILDLINE is providing emotional support, guidance and counseling to help Radha recover from the trauma.

The DGP shared updates of the case on social media and apologized to the girl on social media.

If you come across any child in distress or trouble, please do not hesitate to call CHILDLINE on 1098.



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