

# CHILDLINE NEWSLETTER



13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## COVID19- CHILDLINE 1098 Emergency Response: Chhattisgarh



CHILDLINE teams in Chhattisgarh have undertaken unique initiatives such as wall paintings and enactment to spread awareness about COVID-19 across various districts. All activities have been conducted in collaboration with Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) and Integrated Child Development services (ICDS). They also conducted ration distribution and cooked meals distribution drives for the needy in most of the districts across the state.

- In Kabirdham, Dhamtari and Baloda Bazar, local police helped CHILDLINE to distribute relief materials and COVID-19 precautionary resources to the local communities in different locations.
- In Raipur, CHILDLINE collaborated with Station Director, RPF, GRP and district administration to identify children in difficult circumstances near railway premises and provided them with supplementary food and conduct COVID-19 awareness sessions.
- CHILDLINE Korba, Bilaspur, Kabirdham and Dhamtari collaborated with ICPS, health department and local police to conduct COVID-19 awareness sessions on social distancing and hand washing in slum areas, bus stands, railway stations and marketplaces.
- CHILDLINE teams in Bemetara, Kanker and Baloda Bazaar coordinated with ICPS and ICDS to distribute IEC (Information, Education and Communication) materials on COVID-19 safety measures provided by the Ministry of Women and Child Development among the local people.

In Chhattisgarh, the district administration supported CHILDLINE's activities tremendously by facilitating free movement for intervening cases, executing outreach activities in critical areas and community sensitization programs.

### Child Molestation: A Terrible Crime

In April 2020, CHILDLINE Rajnandgaon received a call from the sub-inspector of Gatapar Police Station who wanted CHILDLINE to intervene and convince a 14-year old victim of molestation and her family to file the report. Priya M, (*name changed to protect identity*) 14, resided in a village in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh with her parents and two siblings. Her parents were farmers and were very supportive of her education. Priya was studying in the 9<sup>th</sup> Std. at a local school. One day, Priya along with her mother went to the nearby river to wash some vegetables. After a while, her mother asked her to return home with half of the vegetables they had washed. On her way back, she was molested by a village boy. The girl was extremely terrified, but somehow managed to escape. She rushed to her mother and explained everything. The family immediately went to the police station and narrated the incident to the sub-inspector. However, they were reluctant to file a complaint fearing the family's reputation and the afraid of hampering the child's image in the society. CHILDLINE immediately intervened and counseled Priya as she was traumatized by the incident. Then, the team spoke to her parents and convinced them to file a report. An FIR was lodged under section 354, 354A of the Indian Penal code and Section 8 of the POCSO Act. The accused is now in jail. Due to the lockdown, the girl was presented before Child Welfare Committee (CWC) via video conferencing. The girl is now healing and CHILDLINE is regularly following up with her and providing complete support.



Resources and information on COVID-19  
<https://www.childlineindia.org/a/covid19>

Donate to CHILDLINE and support our COVID-19 relief efforts.  
<https://www.childlineindia.org/a/fc/168477>