

CHILDLINE NEWSLETTER



8th June 2020

COVID19 - CHILDLINE 1098 Emergency Response: Goa



In Goa, CHILDLINE teams are providing psychosocial support to all those who are affected by the lockdown in the wake of Coronavirus pandemic. The nodal team coordinators have counseled 28 migrants from Madhya Pradesh with the help of Goa warriors. They also counseled four girls from Chhattisgarh employed as domestic helpers in Dona Paula. The relief activities by Goa include:

- Goa Nodal CHILDLINE provided ration to 17 migrant families (consisting of 21 adults and 26 children = 47 people) from Karnataka and Bihar. In the slum communities, Goa, Nodal CHILDLINE provided ration to 24 families.
- In collaboration with the labour department, North Goa district CHILDLINE distributed relief material to 36 children and their families from Karnataka at Corlim. They also distributed relief materials to 71 children and their families at Corlim Baga Deck, Khobrawado and Calangute. These children and families were migrants from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kolkata as well as Goa. They also distributed face masks and relief materials to 42 children and their families at Khobrawado and Calangute. These migrant families were from Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- Railway CHILDLINE in South Goa distributed dry ration to five families. They also distributed biscuits to 15 children and 30 adults waiting at the railway station to board a train to Madhya Pradesh.
- Railway CHILDLINE in Goa provided ration to 10 needy families near Margao Railway station.
- Goa Nodal CHILDLINE conducted a hand washing session with 39 children in the local community.
- CHILDLINE teams in Goa held COVID-19 awareness session for children in wards 18, 29 and 30 behind the railway station for nearly 30 children.



CHILDLINE rehabilitates a 9-year old abandoned by her alcoholic mother

A year ago, 9 year old Shama (*name changed to protect identity*) had come to Margao Station, Goa with her mother and siblings to beg. The children lost their father a year ago and the mother is an alcoholic. Shama's mother forced her to beg and with that money she would consume alcohol. She would not only abuse Shama physically but also intoxicate her with alcohol. CHILDLINE took the child and the mother to RPF who refused to admit the child in the shelter home as the mother was not ready to separate from the child. Then, CHILDLINE approached CWC (Child Welfare Committee) who refused to admit the child at Apna Ghar as mother was with the child. RPF warned the mother not to beg with the child on Railway station and only then let the child go with mother. After 2 days, the child was again found begging at the railway station and her mother was physically abusing her. The Bike pilots and taxi drivers informed CHILDLINE about the situation. CHILDLINE took the child and went to the Konkan Railway police station along with Taxi drivers who agreed to file a complaint. The inspector refused to file a case as the incident happened outside the police station. CHILDLINE then called 100 to report the case. The police officials came to the spot and took the child and the mother. Upon receiving information about the case, the CWC reached the police station. Once again, CWC refused to place the child in Apna Ghar. After two days, a railway cleaning staff found the child alone on the platform and informed CHILDLINE. The child was alone, crying and unaware about her mother's whereabouts. The team members took the child to the RPF office and told the RPF Commissioner that the child must be admitted in Apna Ghar as she was found alone. This time RPF agreed. CHILDLINE also informed CWC about the developments in the case. Once the child was produced before CWC, they agreed to place the child in Apna Ghar. The mother never came back for the child.



Resources and information on COVID-19.

<https://www.childlineindia.org/a/covid19>

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