

CHILDLINE NEWSLETTER



16th June 2020

COVID19 - CHILDLINE 1098 Emergency Response: Himachal Pradesh

In Himachal Pradesh, CHILDLINE has worked persistently to provide emergency relief to children and their families in need. Nearly 226 families with children have received dry ration in 9 districts of Himachal Pradesh in collaboration with local administration and police. Besides providing nutritional support, CHILDLINE has also conducted several other activities related to COVID-19 pandemic in the state.

- Around 35 sessions about COVID-19, its preventive measures and importance of social distancing have been conducted in the districts of Kangra, Sirmour, Bilaspur, Solan, Kullu, Mandi and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh.
- In the districts of Kangra, Mandi, Bilaspur and Kullu, CHILDLINE has provided masks, sanitizers and liquid soaps to nearly 68 children.
- Una CHILDLINE distributed nearly 1000 home-produced masks. The team also conducted a session on making mask at home among the local community.
- Kullu CHILDLINE provided braille books to visually – impaired children in the district to help them continue with their class which was not possible due to closure of schools.
- CHILDLINE Kangra and Sirmour provided emotional support and guidance children who were experiencing stress due to lockdown. The team provided them with YouTube arts and craft activity links to keep them engaged during lockdown.



CHILDLINE helps children stranded due to the lockdown

On 28th March 2020, CHILDLINE received a call from Amar, 16, who was on a vacation with his two friends Ali, 18, and Sumit, 17, (*all the names have been changed to protect identity*), in Manali, Himachal Pradesh and were stuck due to the lockdown. They were staying at a hotel and all their money was finished. Upon receiving the details, CHILDLINE contacted the hotel owner and requested him to let the children stay for time being and take care of them. CHILDLINE visited the children on 31st March 2020, to ensure that the children are receiving proper care and attention. The owner of the hotel had the children medically examined to ensure that they are healthy. On 2nd April 2020, CHILDLINE reported the matter to sub-divisional officer and Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and also asked for food support for the children. Due to the pandemic, the hotel staff was limited and they only provided lunch and dinner to the children. The team regularly followed up with the children and their guardian and made sure the ration was available every few days. On 25th April 2020, the hotel manager contacted CHILDLINE asking them to make other arrangements for the children as all the staff was leaving. CHILDLINE informed CWC and after their medical check-up, the children were presented before CWC on 29th April 2020. The CWC referred the children to Bal Ashram Kalehli. In the meantime, coordinator asked the guardian to seek permission to bring children home. On 28th May 2020, Amar's father got permission to take the children home. In order to bring along his friends home, he also got affidavits from their parents. On 30th May 2020, CWC handed over the children to Amar's father to take them home, after the due diligence process was completed.



Resources and information on COVID-19.

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

Donate to support our COVID-19 relief efforts.

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