

Press Release from State Project Office/Samagra Shiksha,  
Education Department,  
Government of Sikkim.

Gangtok, March 23: A State Level Conference on issues related to Child Rights - Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009, Mental Health, Juvenile Justice, and the POCSO Act was organized by the State Project Office, Samagra Shiksha, Education Department, in collaboration with the National Council for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), New Delhi, at the SCERT Auditorium Hall, Burtuk.

The conference was graced by the Chairperson, State Council for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR), Government of Sikkim, Ms. Deepa Khatri as the Chief Guest, while Shri Sandeep Tambe, Principal Secretary, Education Department, attended as the Guest of Honour.

Other dignitaries present included Shri A. D. Chettri, Director, Samagra Shiksha; Shri Shanti Ram Adhikari, Director In-Charge, SCERT; officials from the Women, Child, Sr. Citizen & Divyangjan Welfare Department and SCPCR, along with resource persons from SCERT (Dr. Raju Sharma, Mrs. Ranju Pradhan) & State Legal Service Authority (Ms. Sachina P. Y. Subba, Ms. Prathana Ghataney). Smt. Shaista K. Shah, Senior Technical Expert, Child Health & Child Psychology & Sociology, NCPCR, also joined the programme virtually.

School Heads and teachers from Government Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools from across the state participated in the conference.

The programme began with a welcome address by Smt. Asha Khatri, Additional Director, Samagra Shiksha followed by key note address by Shri Sandeep Tambe, Principal Secretary, Education Department. The Chairperson, SCPCR, also highlighted key concerns related to child protection in her address.

The conference focused on strengthening child rights with special emphasis on safety, security, and accountability in schools. Resource persons deliberated on the roles and responsibilities of School Management Committees (SMCs) and school authorities, while also discussing challenges in the implementation of the POCSO Act and Juvenile Justice Act.

The highlight of the conference was a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Shanti Ram Adhikari, with the involvement of all Resource Persons which had active participation from the attendees.

The event concluded with Vote of thanks proposed by Shri A. D. Chettri, Director, Samagra Shiksha along with a collective commitment by everyone to enhance child protection mechanisms and ensure safer school environments across the state.