

Press Release from Women, Child, Senior Citizen & Divyangjan Welfare Department-Mission Vatsalya Scheme
Report on Capacity Development Workshop on “Strengthening Aftercare Systems” under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme, WCSC&DWD

The Women, Child, Senior Citizen & Divyangjan Welfare Department, in collaboration with WeLive Foundation, Bengaluru, successfully conducted a Capacity Development Workshop on “Strengthening Aftercare Systems” under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme on 24th and 25th August 2026.

The workshop was conducted at two locations to cover all six districts of Sikkim. The first workshop was held on 24th August 2026 at the Conference Hall, WCSC&DWD, Lumsey, Tadong, covering Gangtok, Mangan and Pakyong districts. The second workshop was held on 25th August 2026 at the Conference Hall, District Administrative Centre, Namchi, covering Namchi, Soreng and Gyalshing districts.

The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Ramya Sundararajan, CEO, WeLive Foundation, and brought together representatives from the District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and Open Shelter Homes under Mission Vatsalya Scheme from all the six districts. The session was opened by the welcome remarks from the Deputy Director Shri. Pempa Tshering Bhutia. Further, Scheme In-charge Ms. Manisha Century, addressed the house on the importance of such trainings and workshop for strengthening the aftercare under the scheme, expressing her gratitude towards We live Foundation

The workshop focused on understanding the needs of youth in institutional care, strengthening transition planning, and developing effective aftercare mechanisms for young persons leaving institutional care. Through interactive discussions, reflective and role-playing activities, brainstorming exercises and peer exchange, participants were encouraged to share their field experiences, identify challenges and develop practical approaches for better preparing youth for transition and independent living.

Key sessions included “WHY & WHAT? – Understanding the Needs of Youth in Institutions” and “HOW? – Brainstorming and Action Planning”. These sessions enabled participants to understand the needs of youth in institutional care and collectively identify practical measures to strengthen transition and aftercare systems.

The workshop also included a pledge under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, focusing on awareness regarding substance abuse and promoting a healthy and addiction-free society.

Participants were further introduced to various aftercare support services and opportunities, including education support, fellowships, First Job Fellowship and the WeLive Residential Bridge Programme. The discussions highlighted the importance of providing continued guidance, opportunities and support to young persons during their transition from institutional care towards independent living. The workshop provided participants with greater clarity on implementing robust aftercare mechanisms and reinforced the importance of developing appropriate systems within CCIs for preparing youth for transition. The need for follow-up meetings and continued implementation of transition and aftercare systems at the CCI level was also emphasised.

The two-day workshop provided a valuable platform for stakeholders from Gangtok, Mangan, Pakyong, Namchi, Soreng and Gyalshing districts to come together, exchange experiences and strengthen their understanding of transition planning and aftercare support under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme.

The Women, Child, Senior Citizen & Divyangjan Welfare Department expresses its sincere appreciation to WeLive Foundation, Bengaluru, the facilitator, and all the DCPUs, CWCs, CCIs, Open Shelter Homes, Special Schools and other representatives who participated in the workshop for their valuable contribution and active engagement towards strengthening child protection, transition planning and aftercare systems in Sikkim.