Press release from District Child Protection Unit
Gyalshing District, Sikkim

District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) Gyalshing Conducts Awareness Programme on Foster Care/ Model Foster Care Guidelines 2024.

Gyalshing, Sikkim | October 29th,2026:

The District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), under the Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department, successfully organized a day-long awareness and sensitization programme on Foster Care/ Model Foster Care 2024, and the importance of providing children in need of care and protection with a safe, secure, and nurturing family environment.

The programme witnessed the participation of Ward Panchayats, members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and the general publics.

The programme aimed to enhance awareness and understanding of foster care, the provisions of Mission Vatsalya, the adoption process, and the roles and responsibilities of various child protection authorities in ensuring the welfare and best interests of children.

During the programme, Mr. Mahadeo Sharma, Counsellor (DCPU), delivered a session on Mission Vatsalya and Foster Care, highlighting the objectives of the scheme and the importance of family-based care for children who require alternative care arrangements. He also explained the significance of foster care in promoting children's safety, development, emotional well-being, and rehabilitation within a supportive family environment.

Mr. Yogesh Nerola, Protection Officer (IC) Gyalshing District, spoke on Foster Care and Adoption, explaining the concepts, procedures, and importance of these alternative care mechanisms. He emphasised the need to ensure that every decision concerning a child is guided by the child's best interests, safety, and overall well-being.

Mrs. Roja Rai delivered a session on the Functions and Responsibilities of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). She explained the statutory role of the CWC in dealing with children in need of care and protection, including their care, protection, rehabilitation, and restoration, wherever appropriate, in accordance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, as amended.

At the conclusion of the programme, Ms. Ushnata Gazmer, Project Cordinator(Child Helpline Unit) delivered the vote of thanks, expressing her gratitude to the resource persons and participants.

The programme provided an opportunity for participants to gain a better understanding of foster care, adoption, and the child protection system. It also highlighted the importance of coordination among child protection functionaries and other stakeholders in ensuring that children receive appropriate care, protection, and opportunities for healthy development.