

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF DCPO NAMCHI

Namchi, 8 September: To strengthen awareness and understanding among parents, teachers, SMC Members and the panchayats, an Awareness-cum-Sensitisation Programme on Child Rights and Legislation was successfully conducted at PM Shri Government Secondary School, Turung, Namchi District on 8/9/2025.

The initiative aimed at sensitising the teachers, parents, SMC members on the importance of protecting and promoting rights of children as guaranteed under various legislations.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Pema Wangmu Bhutia, DCPO Namchi stressed on the importance of creating child friendly environment both at home and in school to ensure the holistic development of every child. She also informed the gathering about the various legislation's such as The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. Further, she also informed the parents and teachers about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding children from exploitation, abuse and neglect.

Ms. Kalden Zangmo Bhutia, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Namchi highlighted that CWC is a quasi-judicial body constituted under The JJ Act, 2015, responsible for ensuring the care and protection, treatment, development, and rehabilitation of Child in Need of Care and Protection. She also urged the parents and teachers to remain vigilant and report the cases of abuse, child labour, child marriage and other forms of exploitation to the CWC or Child Helpline(1098).

Ms. Megha Pradhan, Protection Officer, Namchi, spoke about the common mental health challenges and seeking timely help. She also underscore that mental health is just as important as physical health and urged not to hesitate in sharing their problems. Teachers and parents were also requested to observe behavioural changes in children and provide a supportive atmosphere for them to grow with confidence and resilience.

The resource persons, while addressing the participants, laid strong emphasis on the importance of adopting preventive measures to combat various forms of child abuse and neglect. They stressed that parents, teachers, and Panchayat members play a crucial role in safeguarding children within the community and encouraged them to make use of the services offered by the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) whenever cases related to child protection arise.

Furthermore, the resource persons underlined the need for Panchayats to strictly follow the correct procedures while handling child-related issues. They pointed out that adherence to proper protocols not only ensures timely intervention but also strengthens the overall child protection mechanism at the grassroots level.

Key note address was also delivered by Shri. Tika Ram Chettri, Principal wherein he has mentioned that the session is not just about the child rights but also understanding various responsibilities that comes with them. As an educator teachers must create a safe and supportive environment within the school. It is imperative for all the stakeholders to work in hand to ensure that no child is deprived of their rights.

The programme concluded with a call to action urging all stakeholders to act as a protector of children's right to cooperate with the DCPU/ CWC for the best interest of the children.