## **Press Release**

## MULTIPURPOSE -RESOURCE CENTRE

Multipurpose Resource Centre is established in the campus of the Government Children's Home for Girls, Kellys, Chennai. The Centre aims at bringing all relevant stakeholders at one place to facilitate child friendly proceedings for children in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law. The centre is designed to uphold the dignity and privacy of a child during the entire process of enquiry and to prepare an effective action plan at once by having a group consultation with various stakeholders.

There will be a designated room for the inquiry process where one designated person shall interact with the child and the other stakeholders such as Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, Probation Officer, Police, Public Prosecutor, Medical Officer, Officials of Education Department and other service providers could see, hear and observe the process from a different place located in the same campus through video conferencing facility.

This Interpreter, male or female shall be nominated depending on the gender of the child. The stakeholders / service providers observing the proceedings could interact with the child for clarification if any or seek additional information from the child through the person in dialogue with the child without directly asking the child.

The Multipurpose Resource Centre has been developed by the Department of Social Defence in collaboration with Save the Children at a cost of Rs.11.50 Lakhs. The Hon'ble Ms.Justice Indira Banerjee, Judge, Supreme Court of India inaugurated the Multipurpose Resource Centre and the Hon'ble Tmt.Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani, Chief Justice, High Court of Madras laid foundation stone for the proposed new annexe building for the Centre on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

Further, the Hon'ble Judges of the Juvenile Justice Committee, State Legal Services Committee, Principal Secretary to Government, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department, Commissioner of Social Defence, Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy, State Human Rights Commission, Officials from the Police Department, Education, Health, Chairperson and Members of the Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Chairperson and Members of Juvenile Justice Board, Members of Child Welfare Committee and other stakeholders participated in the Inaugural Programme.

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