

**Press Release**

Under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, the State Project Support Unit, the State Child Protection Society and the District Child Protection Units have been functioning in Tamil Nadu since 2012.

The scheme is implemented in all districts of Tamil Nadu through the Department of Social Defence under the Ministry of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme (SW&NMP) with the aim of protecting children.

The State Child Protection Society (SCPS) has organized training programme on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The programme aims to build the capacity of Protection Officers (Institutional care and Non Institutional care) of District Child Protection Units for giving support to the effective implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 by the concerned enforcement agency.

The training for Protection Officer not only focusing on capacity building but also to make them to know about their roles and responsibilities in terms of handling the Child Sexual Abuse issues as per the provision given in the POCSO Act.

In addition to that, the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders like Police, Child Welfare Committee, Civil Society etc was also taught to the participants and therefore when they return back to the District, the Protection Officers may give training or conduct sensitizing programme to other stakeholder in order to disseminate the content of POCSO Act

The Programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister. Tmt.B.Valarmathi, SW&NMP Department, and felicitated by Tmt. Mrs. Saraswathi Rangasamy B.A., Chairperson, Tamilnadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TNCPCR) and the Director/Secretary, Thiru.N.Mathivanan, I.A.S, State Child Protection Society/ Department of Social Defence on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 at Asha Nivas, Chennai. The Programme was signed off with National Anthem.

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**Issued By:-**

**DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.**