

PRESS RELEASE

Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR)

Government of NCT of Delhi

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8 Children coerced into begging and article selling, rescued from Bhikaji Cama Place.

New Delhi

On 24/09/2021, the 160th birth anniversary of the freedom fighter Madam Bhikaji Cama, a rescue operation was conducted at Bhikaji Cama Place. 8 children, including 5 girls and 3 boys, were rescued from begging and selling of lights and roses.

According to a UNICEF report, COVID-19 poses a threat to the future of 600 million children in South Asia. While 240 million children already live in "multidimensional" poverty, the crisis has pushed an additional 120 million children into this state of being. In the National Capital Territory itself, instances of child begging have increased rampantly, raising concerns for children's safety and well-being.

The rescue operation was led by Dr. Nitin Shaya, SDM, Vasant Vihar with the support of Delhi Police (South), District Child Protection Unit - III (South), Childline (New Delhi) and DCPCR representatives.

Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) applauds the remarkable work done by the rescue team in ensuring the safety measures required during the course of the operation. The team made sure that all the rescued children felt secure in the premises, and were well taken care of.

All the children rescued were minors, of which, 7 children were aged between 6 to 17 years and 1 child was 1.5 years old. Post rescue, they were provided with medical care and COVID testing at the office of SDM Vasant Vihar, under the supervision of CDMO. Vaidehi Subramani, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) - II was present till late in the night to personally ensure that all the rescued children are placed securely in the Child Care Institutions (CCIs).

Parents of all the rescued children were counseled on the importance of well-being, safety and education of their children. After deliberate interaction with the parents, the Committee restored 5 children to their respective families. Currently, 3 children have been placed in a Child Care Institution (CCI) and will be rehabilitated or restored after following due procedure.

Shri Anurag Kundu, Chairperson, DCPCR highlighted that *“We should work towards creating a society where the dignity and future of every child is protected and enhanced. I commend the collective effort of all the stakeholders in combating child begging in Delhi. In the past one month itself, 59 children have been rescued from begging, article selling and rag-picking in Delhi. We will continue to work dedicatedly towards the cause till child begging is abolished from the streets of Delhi.”*

We humbly request all the citizens of Delhi to join hands with us to secure the future of these children by reporting child begging on our helpline number +919311551393.

Photograph from the Rescue Operation

Source: Childline

Date: 24.09.2021

