

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**DELHI COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS**  
**GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**

2nd November, 2020

**Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights completed its two-part orientation session of members of the School Management Committee (SMC) Cell, an initiative, which aims to further decentralize management of government schools by enhancing community participation and parent involvement**

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**In August, 2020, DCPCR constituted the SMC Cell under Education and Children With Special Needs (CWSN) Division of the Commission**

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New Delhi:

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) completed its two-part orientation session of members of the School Management Committee (SMC) Cell, an initiative, which aims to further decentralize management of government schools by enhancing community participation and parent involvement so that greater accountability and efficacy can be ensured.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Directorate of Education, Municipal Corporations and NGOs, Saajha and Samarthya of Delhi to discuss roles & responsibilities as members of SMC Cell and lay out a clear plan of action, inclusive of monthly goals. For the month of November, 2020, the

members shall track and reach out to at least 250 students in each district, who are enrolled in schools but are not traceable. They shall also assist in enrolling a minimum of 100 children in schools. Through several activities, challenges on the field were highlighted and the potential impact of work of SMC Cell was discussed.

In August, 2020, DCPCR constituted the SMC Cell under Education and Children With Special Needs (CWSN) Division of the Commission. The Cell, chaired by Member (Education & CWSN), DCPCR consists of 5 representatives from SMCs of every district, 3 from SMCs of every zone of municipal corporations and another 2 from non-profit organisations working on parental engagement. Primarily, members of SMC Cell shall conduct field visits, ensuring that children with attendance less than 33 % are reached out and track children who have been absent for 30 consecutive days or more without intimation. They shall also ascertain that no child of any school within their respective district is engaged in child labour. Moreover, they shall fast track grievance resolution at local level by inter-departmental coordination.

Highlighting the essential work and significant contribution that SMC Cell can potentially make, Sh. Anurag Kundu, Chairperson, DCPCR stressed upon the dire need of identifying nearly 2 lakh children who have remained untraceable by the schools since the lockdown due to pandemic.

UNICEF reported that in India, already out of 100 students, 29% drop-out of school before completing the full cycle of elementary education. Now, as a grave fall-out of the pandemic, the number of drop-outs may increase manifold along with exacerbation of the problem of child labour. Thus, DCPCR has been taking several measures to mitigate both.