

No.44/523/2019/Adm.I/Vig-Cell/279  
Government of Goa,  
Directorate of Education,  
Porvorim – Goa.

Date:- 20/07/2020.

### C I R C U L A R

In view of making every Institution a safe place for all children and the implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 the Department of Education hereby issues this circular.

Every child has a right to free and compulsory education in a place which is safe and conducive to their overall development.

Issues of eve teasing, sexual abuse and other types of abuse, calls for creating awareness not only amongst the students but also among the teachers, non-teaching staff, Management etc.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012 is a special legislation implemented by the Central Government to protect all children from sexual offences.

Section 21 of POCSO Act mandates that every case of child sexual abuse must be mandatorily reported to the police or Child Welfare Committee or Special Court. Non reporting of any case of child sexual abuse to the above authorities attracts penal provisions for individuals as well as Institutional heads. Under the Act sexual abuse is an aggravated form of offence when the same is committed by a person in the position of trust and custody whereby there is higher punishment for the perpetrator.

It is the responsibility and duty of the administration and school management to take necessary steps in curbing Child Sexual Abuse within the institution and in providing support to every child who takes the courage to come forward to report the same.

In this regard there are some measures suggested to make schools a safer place for children and implementing the act in its true letter and spirit;

- a. Teachers, Management, and all employees must be aware of the provision of Section 19 (1) and section 21 of the POCSO Act 2012 as well as the Provisions of Sexual Harassment at Workplace 2013.
- b. In case of any child reporting an incident of sexual abuse the same should be immediately reported to the counselor to provide psychosocial, emotional support to the child victim.
- c. The Counselors appointed under GEDC shall be duty bound to cooperate and assist every child who report about any incident of child sexual abuse. If the incident of sexual abuse is directly mentioned to the counselor the counselor is duty bound to report in writing the said incident to the Police Station under intimation to the Headmaster of the Institution .....
- d. In case there is no counselor at the school, the incident narrated by the child shall be given in writing by the teacher to the Headmaster / In-charge of the school, who shall then forward the same to the police for the purpose of investigation.
- e. Intimation to the police should be sent immediately by the Headmaster of the School not beyond 12 hours after receiving the information.
- f. "Internal Complaints Committee" nor "Vishaka Committee" constituted under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (POSH) 2013, nor the School Management Committee shall have the right to deal with cases / allegation of Child Sexual Abuse.
- g. It will be the duty of every Headmaster to take the necessary steps mandated under the POCSO Act and intimate the Dept. of steps taken immediately not beyond 24 hrs.



- h. Intimation shall also be given to voluntary organization SCAN-Goa on 9422389926 who is presently running the Victim Assistance Unit for the Govt. and the One Stop Center under notification of dept of Women and Child Development who shall provide free psycho-social, legal and rehabilitative support to the child

  
(Varsha Naik )  
Director (Administration)

To:-

1. The Heads of Govt./Govt. Aided/unaided Primary/Middle/Secondary /Hr. Secondary & Special Schools .
2. Dy. Director of Education, South/North/Central Educational Zone, Margao/Mapusa/Panaji.
3. The Principal, DIET, Porvorim.
4. All Taluka ADEI's.
5. The Nodal Officer (IT) to upload the circular on department web-site.