

## **GOA SCPCR CALLS FOR PROHIBITION ON ENGAGING CHILDREN IN SELLING RAFFLES AND LOTTERIES FOR SCHOOL FUNDRAISING**

Panaji: [March 14, 2024](#)

Phlguna 24, 1945

The Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (GSCPCR) committed to the welfare and rights of children, recommended a crucial directive to the Directorate of Education, Government of Goa prohibiting the engagement of children in selling raffles and lotteries for school fundraising activities to immediately halt the practice across all educational institutions under its jurisdiction and to take comprehensive measures to enforce this prohibition effectively. This directive is not only a legal mandate but also a moral imperative to protect the innocence and rights of children.

The significant decision comes after numerous complaints were reported by concerned parents and educators, highlighting the coercive nature of these practices where children are coerced into selling raffles and lotteries, often with assigned sales targets. Such activities not only subject children to undue pressure and humiliation when they fail to meet these targets but also expose them to significant risks and vulnerabilities, including the misuse of proceeds for inappropriate purposes.

The practice of engaging children in commercial activities such as the selling of raffles and lotteries for school fundraising contradicts the very essence of GSCPSR commitments to their rights, dignity, and well-being. It is imperative that GSCPSR cease these activities immediately, ensuring children's environment is one of learning, safety, and growth, free from undue pressure and exploitation.

The Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the protection and promotion of the rights of every child within the state's jurisdiction. This directive is a testament to the Commission's dedication to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all children.

An action taken report on this matter is expected from the Directorate of Education within 15 days, reaffirming the urgency and importance of this directive.

**DI/NB/AXP/PRD/RN/2024/2473**

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Issued by the Department of Information & Publicity

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Udyog Bhavan, Third Floor,  
Near Azad Maidan, Panaji – Goa.