

# **Child Protection Policy**



**Of**  
**Sabuj Sangha**

**Vill & P.O.: Nandakumarpur**  
**Dist: South 24 Parganas**  
**West Bengal**

## **An Overview**

Sabuj Sangha, as a non-governmental organisation, started its journey for the overall upliftment of the underprivileged population of the Sundarban delta regions of South 24 Parganas in the year 1975 in People's Participatory mode. In the subsequent years Sabuj Sangha expanded in all dimensions and extended its developmental activities with the poorest of the poor at considerable cross-sections of South 24 Parganas and Southern half of Kolkata Metropolis. The focus areas being:

- Child Education.
- Child Protection.
- Health Care Services.
- Women's Empowerment and Entitlement.
- Environment.
- Human Rights.
- Advocacy.

### **With child being the niche issue of all our interventions.**

In the course of work, at one point Sabuj Sangha felt, in order to safe guard and protect the interests and safety of children, we are working in, declared Child Protection Policy for Sabuj Sangha is a must.

The Child Protection Policy of Sabuj Sangha includes guidelines to be abided by all associated with the organisation setup for mandatory protection of Child Rights.

**SABUJ SANGHA believes that a child needs to be protected according to his/her felt need in a holistic way.**

We define a child to be a person below 18 years of age.

1. Protection of every child from any sort of social injustice and discrimination.
2. Registration of birth as a mandate to give the child constitutional right to be protected.
3. Basic needs like food, clothing and shelter are addressed for every child ensuring mental and physical well being.
4. Every child should have access to necessary immunization, nutrition, and basic health services.
5. Child friendly atmosphere for every child at home, at school, at any other social milieu.

6. Every child should have access to education as per need.
7. Every child should be at school atleast upto 14 years of age.
8. Restraining Child Labour, Child Trafficking, Physical, Mental and Sexual Abuse.
9. Equipping children with vocational skill development on need.
10. Protection of children from any sort of natural or manmade calamities.
11. Family and community sensitization on child's right to protection irrespective of gender.
12. Networking/Advocacy.

### **A.Application of the Child Protection Policy:**

- The Child Protection Policy of Sabuj Sangha applies to all the children, staff of Sabuj Sangha (from management to all levels of functionaries), donors, suppliers, contractors, parents of children, and community stakeholders who may have contacts with children directly or indirectly.

#### ***Explanation:***

- *'children'- all children of the schools, coaching centres, preparatory centres, platform children, child domestic workers, out-of-school children, residential and non-residential camp children and all those under the age of 18 years within Sabuj Sangha's area of operation.*
- *'management'- all management level functionaries.*
- *'staff'- all permanent and contractual staff, project personnel, community volunteers, coaching teachers, health workers, community mobilizers, Sishu Sathis and those who are directly or indirectly involved with the developmental activities of Sabuj Sangha.*
- *'donors'- all who support for developmental activities of Sabuj Sangha directly or indirectly.*
- *'suppliers'- who supply materials directly or indirectly to Sabuj Sangha.*
- *'contractors'- who are deployed in any constructional and allied activities by Sabuj Sangha.*
- *'parents'- parents of all children of the schools, coaching centres, preparatory centres, platform children, child domestic workers, out-of-school children, residential and non-residential camp children and all under the age of 18 years with the areas of operation of Sabuj Sangha.*

- *'community stake holders'* - all community members who are involved directly or indirectly with Sabuj Sangha in extension of developmental activities in the operational areas of Sabuj Sangha at rural, semi-urban and urban areas.

## **B. Mandatory Behavioural Attitude for whom Child Protection Policies apply:**

The policy ensures that all personnel understand and comply the following behavioural pattern in dealing with children:

### **I. Mandatory Behavioural Policy for Staff:**

- No child should be neglected.
- A child's dignity has to be acknowledged.
- Not to use derogatory language in presence of children.
- No child be discriminated irrespective of gender, caste, creed etc.
- Share empathetic feeling towards children.
- No child be abused physically, mentally or sexually.
- No child be deployed for domestic help or any other labour.
- No child to be subjected to physical punishment.
- Children should be encouraged for expression of their feelings.
- No child be humiliated by any means.

### **II. Mandatory Behavioural Policy for Visitors/Donors/Suppliers/Contractors:**

- All visitors/donors to secure prior permission of concerned authority for visit.
- Not to use derogatory language in presence of children.
- Keep in mind the local sentiments, proper dress code should be maintained.
- Not to make donations or gifts directly to children.
- Not to involve children in unscrupulous activities.
- Have a child friendly attitude.

### **C. The Dos for all who are in the race for protecting Child Rights:**

- Awareness generation among all community cross-sections on Child Rights.
- Say no to verbal abuse, ridicule, insult and isolation of child.

- To be vigilant and ready to protest against all sorts of physical abuses arising out of stigmas and ill practices in the society.
- Endeavour should be there from every quarter to provide a good environment for every child to grow.
- Not to ignore if children are seen in substance abuse and to help those children quit substance abuse.
- Ensuring security and safety of a child from any sorts of exploitation and hazards.
- Say no to CHILD LABOUR.

#### **D. Reporting Format on incidences of Violation of Child Rights:**

- In cases of incidents amounting to violation of Child Rights, the reporting staff, of what so ever category, should inform his/her concerned Line Managers either through written report or Telephonic mode in cases of emergency interaction.

Report should clearly indicate the following informations:

- ☞ Nature of Child Rights Violation.
  - ☞ Name of the Victim.
  - ☞ Age.
  - ☞ Sex.
  - ☞ Address.
  - ☞ Suspected offender (if any).
  - ☞ Immediate steps taken.
  - ☞ Type of assistance requested from Line Manager.
- For major or strategic interventions the Line Manager must have the prior acquiescence of the Chief Functionary through the Administrative Officer.

