

SAMVEDNA helpline

May 18, 2021

In news- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is providing Tele-Counselling to children through SAMVEDNA – a Toll-Free Helpline.

More information-

- **SAMVEDNA (Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance)** was launched in September, 2020 to provide psycho-social mental support for Children affected during COVID-19 Pandemic.
- This service is **exclusively for children who are willing to talk and are in need of counseling.**
- When a child/ caretaker/Parent dials SAMVEDNA **1800-121-2830**, they get to speak to a professional counselor in a safe environment.
- Counsellors have been specially trained by the expert team of National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (**NIMHANS**) to address the needs of children in these difficult times.
- Tele counselling is provided to the children under **three categories:**
 - Children who are in Quarantine/isolation/COVID Care centers.
 - Children who have COVID positive parents or family members and near ones.
 - Children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19 Pandemic.
- This Tele-Counselling caters to the children from all over India in **various regional languages.**

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights-

- NCPCR is an **Indian statutory body** established by the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act,

2005.

- It works under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The Commission began operational on 5 March 2007.
- As defined by the commission, a **'child' includes a person up to the age of 18 years.**
- The commission consists of a chairperson, Six members, out of which at least two are women and are appointed by the Central Government.
- The **functions** of NCPCR are-
 - Examine and review the safeguards provided by or under any law for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation;
 - Present to be central government, annually reports upon working of those safeguards;
 - Inquire into violation of child rights and recommend initiation of proceedings in such cases;
 - Examine all factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of children affected by terrorism, communal violence, riots, natural disaster, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, exploitation, and recommend appropriate remedial measures;
 - Look into the matters relating to the children in need of special care and protection including children in distress, marginalized and disadvantaged children;
 - Undertake and promote research in the field of child rights;
 - Spread child rights literacy among various section of society and promote awareness of the safeguards;
 - The Commission shall not enquire into any matter which is pending before a State Commission or any other Commission duly constituted under any law for the time being in force.