

Press Release

Awareness Programme on Mission Vatsalya Scheme Conducted at Mahabodhi Residential School, Leh

The District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Leh, organized an awareness programme on the *Mission Vatsalya Scheme under the Ministry of Women and Child Development* at **Mahabodhi Residential School**, with the aim of sensitizing children and school staff on key child protection laws and mechanisms. The programme focused on **Child Rights and Duties**, the **POCSO Act, 2012**, the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**, and the **Childline Helpline 1098**.

As part of the session, informative short films — including a **POCSO awareness film in the local language** and short movies on **Child Helpline (CHL)** and **Open Shelter** — were screened to help children better understand these important topics through engaging visual learning.

The awareness session was attended by around **230 children**, along with hostel staff and wardens of the school. The programme began with an informative talk by **Ms. Fariya Rafiq, Protection Officer (NIC)**, who elaborated on various child protection provisions and the objectives of Mission Vatsalya. This was followed by a **PowerPoint presentation by Ms. Stanzin Dolker, Legal-cum-Probation Officer**, highlighting key aspects of the Juvenile Justice and POCSO Acts.

Additionally, **Ms Stanzin Palkit ChildHelpline Supervisor** interacted with the children, emphasizing the importance of the **Child Helpline 1098** as a lifeline for children in distress. The session concluded with the screening of the POCSO awareness film and an interactive **Question & Answer session**, encouraging children to share their thoughts and clarify doubts.

This programme marks the beginning of a broader awareness campaign by the District Child Protection Unit, Leh, which aims to cover **all residential schools in Leh district**, starting with **Block Leh**. A total of **five schools** is targeted for coverage in the month of October.

Through this campaign, DCPU Leh seeks to empower children with knowledge about their **rights, responsibilities, and available protection mechanisms**, fostering a safer and more informed environment for every child.

