

Child Mentoring Programme

The Child Protection (Amendment) Act 2008 makes provision for Child Mentoring Scheme which was initiated as the Child Mentoring Programme in 2009.

The Child Mentoring Programme is a well-structured and well-managed Programme in which children in distress are appropriately screened and matched with trained adult mentors for a one- to- one relationship of emotional reconstruction through meetings and activities on a regular basis (once a week for 2 hrs) between the mentor and the child, to support the latter's need for a caring and supportive adult in his life.

Aims and Objectives of the Programme

- ◆ To help children between the ages 10-16 suffering from **mild behavioral problems** have a stable future then need and deserve.
- ◆ To give children with difficulties the opportunity to have the care and guidance from a role model.
- ◆ To improve the relationship between children and their parents.
- ◆ To cultivate a healthy and trusting relationship between the Child Mentors and the Child Mentees so as to bring about positive changes in the lives of child Mentees.

The Child Mentor is paid a monthly stipend of Rs 2000 per Child Mentee. Presently, the Ministry is in process of scaling up the Programme and 79 Child Mentors have been recruited since 04 August 2017. Additionally, Capacity Development Programme is being conducted for them in 2 batches with effect from 02 October 2017 and the second batch of training is expected to be held in December 2017. It is therefore expected to provide assistance to some 100 children displaying mild behavioural problem. A pamphlet has further been designed for the purpose of disseminating information related to the project targeting key collaborators and public at large.