



ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

KING OF KINGS SCHOOL CBSE

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INTRODUCTION

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 was championed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to effectively address the heinous crimes of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children through less ambiguous and more stringent provisions. The Act has been enacted to protect children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography and provide for establishment of Special Courts for trial of such offences and related matters and incidents. The Act was amended in 2019, to make provisions for enhancement of punishments for various offences to deter the perpetrators and ensure safety, security and dignified childhood for a child.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE ACT AND ITS AMENDMENT:

Victim's identity to be kept confidential, Section 23 of the POCSO Act specifies the media procedure and imposes the duty to maintain the victim's identity unless the Special Court has allowed the disclosure.

The Act is gender neutral and regards the best interests and welfare of the child as a matter of paramount importance at every stage so as to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.

The Act stipulates that such steps must be taken which makes the investigation process as child friendly as possible and the case is disposed of within one year from the date of reporting of offence.

The Act defines a child as any person below 18 years of age and regards the best interests and well-being of the child as being of paramount importance at every stage, to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.

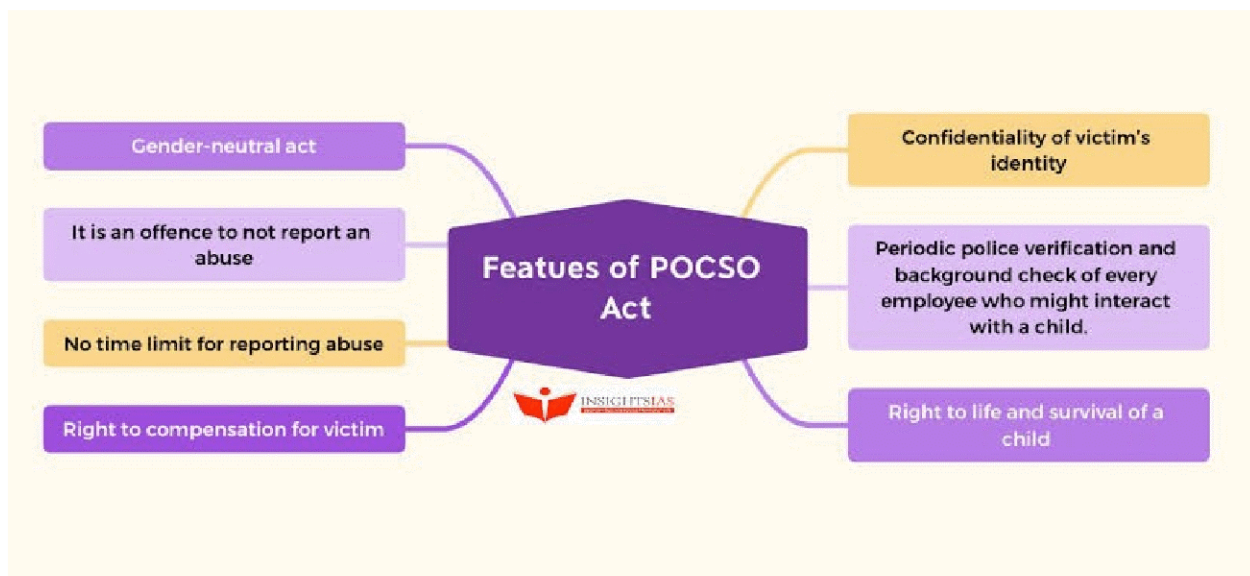
It defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography, and deems a sexual assault to be "aggravated" under certain circumstances, such as when the abused child is mentally ill or when abuse is committed by a person in position of trust or authority.

Adequate provisions are made to avoid re-victimization of the child at the hands of the judicial system. The Act assigns a policeman in the role of child protector during the investigation process.

It defines "child pornography" as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a child which includes photographs, videos, digital, or computer-generated image indistinguishable from an actual child, and image created, adapted, or modified, but appear to depict a child.

The Act provides for the establishment of Special Courts for the trial of such offences and matters related to it. Under Section 45 of the Act, the power to make rules lies with the central government.

To monitor the implementation of the Act, the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and State Commissions for the Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) have been made the designated authority, both being the statutory authority.



FUNDAMENTAL PRICIPLES:

There are some principles in the prevention of child sexual abuse are:

- **Right to life and survival**
- **Best interests of the child**
- **Right to be treated with dignity and compassion**
- **Right to be protected from discrimination**
- **Right to special preventive measures**
- **Right to be informed**
- **Right to be heard and to express view of concern**
- **Right to effective assistance**
- **Right to Privacy**
- **Right to be protected from hardship during the justice process**
- **Right to Safety**
- **Right to Compensation**

RIGHT TO LIFE AND SURVIVAL:

A child must be shielded from any kind of physical, psychological, mental and emotional abuse and neglect.

BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD:

The primary consideration must be the harmonious development of the child.

RIGHT TO BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND COMPASSION:

Child victims should be treated in a caring and sensitive manner throughout the justice process.

RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED FROM DISCRIMINATION :

The Constitution of India Promises every child the right to privacy under Article 21, The right to Equality under Article 14, the rights against discrimination under Article 15 and the right against exploitation under Articles 23 and 24.

RIGHT TO SPECIAL PREVENTIVE MEASURES:

It suggests, that victimized children are more likely to get abused again, thus preventive measures and training must be given to them for self-protection.

RIGHT TO BE INFORMED:

The Child victim or witness must be well informed of the legal proceedings.

RIGHT TO BE HEARD AND TO EXPRESS VIEWS AND CONCERN:

Every child has the right to be heard in respect of matters affecting him/her..

RIGHT TO EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE :

Financial, Legal, Counseling, Health, Social and Education Services, Physical and Psychological recovery services and other services necessary for the child's healing must be provided.

RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED FROM HARDSHIP DURING THE JUSTICE PROCESS :

Secondary victimization or hardships for a child during the justice procedure must be minimized,

RIGHT TO SAFETY :

A child victim must be protected before, during, and after the justice process.

RIGHT TO COMPENSATION:

The children victim may be awarded compensation for his/her relief and rehabilitation.

INTERVIEWING THE CHILD:

The interview stage of the assessment goes beyond the medical history in that it seeks to obtain information directly related to the alleged sexual abuse, for example, details of the assault, including the time and place, frequency, description of clothing worn and so on. Interviewing of children is a specialized skill and, if possible, should be conducted by a trained professional.

Reasons for interviewing the child

- To get a picture of the child's physical and emotional state;
- To establish whether the child needs urgent medical attention;
- To hear the child's version of the circumstances leading to the concern;
- To get a picture of the child's relationship with their parents or family;
- To support the child to participate in decisions affecting them according to their age and maturity;
- To find out who the child trusts;
- To inform the child of any further steps to be taken in the enquiry;

Responsibilities of Teachers and Parents

It is the joint responsibility of teachers and parents to ensure the safety of children from sexual abuse. They need to work together to create a safe environment for children to learn and grow.

Teachers should be able to identify the signs of abuse and know how to respond if they suspect a child is being abused.

Parents should be able to talk to their children about body safety, establish boundaries, and monitor their children's activities and relationships.

Both teachers and parents need to be aware of the policies and procedures in place at their school or childcare center regarding child sexual abuse. They should know who to contact if they have concerns or suspicions about abuse. They should also make sure that their own behavior toward children is appropriate and respectful.

COUNSELING

Counseling session is conducted once in a week . Through the counseling session students get idea about the awareness of the prevention of child sexual abuse. In our school counseling session is conducted by X

REVIEW:

The committee members will meet once in a month and discuss about the issues and precautions related to the students and discuss whether any student has come across this situation. If they faced any situation like this solution for that particular problem is discussed and solved out.

FEEDBACK:

The students were given awareness of the child sexual abuse. None of the students faced this situation in our school campus. The prevention of child sexual abuse were discussed and explained to the awareness to the students.



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