

DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL, GOLE MARKET

REPORT

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)

Date: 16th September, 2023

Attended by: 21 Teachers

Resource Person: Ms Hemlata Shukla Suri

Introduction: A workshop on The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) was conducted on September 16. The objective of the workshop was to acquaint and strengthen teachers with the acts and laws related to child protection, specifically focusing on the POCSO Act.

Workshop Details: The workshop aimed to provide teachers with a comprehensive understanding of the POCSO Act and its implications in ensuring the safety and well-being of children. The following key points were covered during the workshop:

- ❖ **Overview of the POCSO Act:** The workshop began with an overview of the POCSO Act, including its purpose, scope, and key provisions. Participants were introduced to the legal framework and the importance of understanding and implementing the act in educational settings.
- ❖ **Understanding Child Sexual Abuse:** The workshop delved into the various aspects of child sexual abuse, including its definition, types, and signs. Teachers were provided with insights on how to identify and respond to potential cases of child sexual abuse, emphasizing the importance of early intervention and support.
- ❖ **Reporting Mechanisms:** Teachers were educated on the reporting mechanisms outlined in the POCSO Act. They were guided on the proper procedures for reporting incidents of child sexual abuse, including the role of teachers as mandatory reporters and the importance of maintaining confidentiality and sensitivity throughout the process.
- ❖ **Looking for Signs and Change in Behaviour:** Teachers need to be mindful of what children express through the creative media such as art- not labelling bad academic performance, but also treating it as a warning sign of potential abuse or any other psychological distress. Teachers were further advised to look for drastic physical changes like rapid weight loss or weight gain, sleeping in the class, dark circles, early arrival and late departure etc. Respecting the child's confidentiality was crucial in helping him/her recover. The teachers were encouraged to look out for subtle shifts in a child's behaviour.

Conclusion: The workshop on the POCSO Act successfully acquainted and strengthened teachers with the acts and laws related to child protection. By providing a comprehensive understanding of the POCSO Act, the workshop aimed to equip teachers with the knowledge and skills necessary to create safe and supportive environments for children. It is expected that the insights gained from this workshop will enable teachers to effectively respond to incidents of child sexual abuse and contribute to the overall protection and well-being of children in their care.