

REPORT ON THE SESSION – POCSO ACT

- Reshma Lakra [Sy.B.Ed] -



The session on **Pocso Act** was conducted by **Fr. Savio Silvera SDB** on 16th February 2017. He dealt with the theme – “POCSO ACT” (Protection of Children from sexual Offence). He emphasized and explained very well.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) 2012 was formulated in order to effectively address sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 received the President’s assent on 19th June 2012 and was notified in the Gazette of India on 20th June, 2012.

The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age. It defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography. It deems a sexual assault to be “aggravated” under certain circumstances, such as when the abused child is mentally ill or when the abuse is committed by a person in a position of trust or authority like a family member, police officer, teacher, or doctor.



Fr. said that when children are sexually abused, harassed, ill-treated and so on. It is not only ethically or morally wrong, but it's a CRIME.

The Act also casts the police in the role of child protectors during the investigative process. Thus, the police personnel receiving a report of sexual abuse of a child are given the responsibility of making urgent arrangements for the care and protection of the child, such as obtaining emergency medical treatment for the child and placing the child in a shelter home, and bringing the matter in front of the CWC, should the need arise.



Absence of violence and presence of justice is the Juvenile Justice Act. **The Act** further makes provisions for avoiding the re-victimisation of the child at the hands of the judicial system. It provides for special courts that conduct the trial in-camera and without revealing the identity of the child, in a manner that is as child-friendly as possible.

Hence, the child may have a parent or other trusted person present at the time of testifying and can call for assistance from an interpreter, special educator, or other professional while giving evidence. Above all, the Act stipulates that a case of child sexual abuse must be disposed of within one year from the date the offence is reported.

The Act also provides for mandatory reporting of sexual offences. This casts a legal duty upon a person who has knowledge that a child has been sexually abused to report the offence; if he fails to do so, he may be punished with six months' imprisonment or a fine.

Objective:-

- **A Child Friendly Processes – Medical examination, recording the statement of the child by the police and magistrate, as well as the during examination of the child in the court.**
- **Emergency Medical Care – Within 24 hours.**
- **Care and Protection – To make arrangements to give the child such care and protection.**
- **Punishment – Punishment for offenders who commit sexual offences against children.**

Procedure for reporting of cases:-

- **The special Juvenile Police Unit or**
- **The local police.**

Fr. Savio spoke briefly about the false complaints on children. Any person, who makes false complaint or provides false information against any person, in respect of an offence committed under sections 3,5,7 and section 9, solely with the intention to humiliate, extort or threaten or defame him, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine or with both.

Where a false complaint has been made or false information has been provided by a child, no punishment shall be imposed on such child.

Whoever, not being a child, makes a false complaint or provides false information against a child, knowing it to be false, thereby victimizing such child in any of the offences under this Act, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.

Conclusion:-

Education aim at moving from creating selfish intellectual giants and to sensitive human beings who can reach out, touch and heal the broken world. Fr. Concluded the session by saying that as an educator must be watchful, prudent, decent and dignified in one's own profession.

Let us ignite the big dream for a better world, better country, better society and a better person.



**Let's raise children who
won't have to recover
from their childhoods.
-Pam Leo**