

# THREE-DAY TRAINING PROGRAM ON LAWS RELATING TO CHILDREN & THEIR IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM IN PAKISTAN FOR CIVIL JUDGES & JUDICIAL MAGISTRATES, BATCH-01

(FROM 06 - 08 JANUARY 2021)



Justice with children defines the process before, during and after trial of children in conflict (child accused, convicts) or in contact (child victims, witnesses) with the law. This process aims to avoid secondary victimization of any child and abides by child sensitive guidelines that rely on four fundamental principles: Best interest of the child; Dignity of the child; No discrimination; and Right to be heard.

In this context, Sindh Judicial Academy in collaboration with Group Development Pakistan (GDP) initiated a criminal justice reform agenda in which several training programs to be arranged for the Judicial Officers of Sindh for enlightening them with the legal framework pertaining to justice with children in the province.

In the first batch, 26 Civil Judge/ Judicial Magistrates including 05 females were provided training on laws relating to Children & their implementation Mechanism in Pakistan.

Mr. Aftab Ahmed Bajwa, Administrative Officer, SJA along with Ms. Valerie Khan, Executive Director, GDP conducted the inauguration session including registration and attendance of participants, recitation, a brief on Code of Conduct & SOPs and introduction of the training program.

Ms. Valerie Khan welcomed the participants to this training. An



introduction of participants and facilitators was also made. She involved the participants in an activity called 'Cards and markers' in which each judge asked his/her neighbor her/his name and his/her

main quality; then each participant introduced his/her neighbor quoting the quality mentioned by the judge. The objective of the session was to: Build the group dynamic; and establish a comfort zone and trust among participants & facilitators.

Mr. Ahad Ahmad, GDP capacity building officer, in the successive session, set up rules and ground principles for the training. He involved the trainees in an activity called 'Markers and a card board' in which participants were invited to suggest rules and the facilitator wrote those rules on the board. He also facilitated the participants with adding whatever was forgotten by participants at the end. The objective of this activity was to ensure that the training workshop is conducted in a decent, healthy, safe, respectful and productive manner and also to allow equal and meaningful participation.

Ms. Valerie Khan delivered a presentation on the context and the overall objectives of the



training for making the participants understand why they are here, what is expected of them and to identify and clarify expectations.

In another session, Ms. Amna Babar of GDP, conducted a pre-training test for the assessment of what judges already know about child rights and child justice.

Ms. Valerie Khan, in the successive session, set up the legal and principles framework of the training content. She shared four guiding principles of child justice including: Best interest of the child; Dignity of the child; No discrimination; and Right to be heard. This interactive session was initiated by the question: what do they think are the 4 main principles of child justice?

An interactive session was conducted by Ms. Valerie Khan and Mr. Sharafat Ali. In the first activity, Neuro-Linguistic Programmatic exercise was done. In the second activity, a brainstorming session was performed to clarify the concept of child versus adult and to understand better concept of child justice.

Mr. Ali and Ms. Khan continued with another session on international framework pertaining to child rights and significance of International

Law. It was an activity-based session. In the first activity, a comparison was done on Pakistani constitution with rights enshrined in UNCRC and UDHR. In the second activity, questions relating to Pakistani judgments quoting international law were discussed. The objectives of this include: to improve knowledge of participants on international legal framework pertaining to child rights; and to raise awareness of direct application of international human rights conventions in Pakistani jurisprudence.

Ms. Amna Babar and Ms. Valerie Khan jointly conducted the final session of the day-one. In this session, feedback was elicited through an activity. One of the purposes of this activity was to get insight on the way participants perceived the session (strengths/weaknesses) to potentially sustain/improve quality standards of the training and another was to acknowledge the participants' efforts and encourage, mobilize, thank them to continue.

The second day started with a recap for assessing level of retention and acquisition of knowledge/skills imparted the previous day.

Ms. Valerie Khan and Ms. Amna Babar conducted this action-based session.

Mr. Sharafat Ali and Ms. Valerie Khan conducted the successive sessions on domestic legal framework pertaining to child rights with a focus on child justice and CSA. Several activities were performed during the session using presentations and charts. A quiz competition was done in the first activity. In other activities, the participants were involved in matching game, ambassador's game and gallery walk. The core purpose of activities was to improve participants' knowledge/understanding of Pakistan's constitutional and legislative framework pertaining to child rights.

Mr. Sharafat Ali delivered a presentation on the Juvenile Justice System Act 2018 followed by a debate after going through the law. The objective of this activity-based session was to improve knowledge & understanding of participants on juvenile justice law in Pakistan.

Respected Additional District and Sessions Judge Ms. Wadeeya Mushtaq Malik conducted an





interactive session via Zoom. She shared her experiences as a presiding judge of the first specific child court in Peshawar.

Like the day-one final session, Mr. Ahad Ahmed and Ms. Valerie Khan conducted a feedback session to get insight on the way participants perceived the session (strengths/weaknesses) to potentially sustain/improve quality standards of the training and to acknowledge the participants' efforts and encourage them to continue.

Ms. Valerie Khan and Ms. Amna Babar conducted the first recap session of the third and final day of this training program followed by another session on Child Sensitive Communication. They delivered a presentation to improve knowledge and capacity of judges to conduct child sensitive trials and to improve judges' knowledge on the impact that CSA has on the child.

In the next two sessions, SOPs for child abuse cases were shared by Mr. Sharafat Ali. These sessions were designed to improve the judges' capacities to proceed in court in line with international standards and counter secondary victimization of the child victim of CSA and to clarify DOs and DON'Ts of the subject. Mr. Sharafat Ali and Ms. Amna Babar then jointly conducted a successive session on mock exercise to improve judges' skills to enforce those

SOPs.

In order to assess impact of the training, post-training questionnaires were distributed. The activity was supervised by Ms. Babar.

In the final session, another feedback activity was performed to: Reinforce trust between trainees and trainers; Create a learning platform and a mobilized and qualified group of judges for child justice; and acknowledge role and efforts of all trainees in protecting and enforcing child



rights in the province.

Upon the completion of the training



program, a certificate distribution ceremony was held. The ceremony was formally started with the

recitation of selected verses of the Holy Quran. Thereafter, Mr. Aftab Ahmed Bajwa, Administrative Officer SJA briefly apprised the audience with the background, purpose and objectives of this training program. He mentioned salient topics which were covered with the gratefulness of worthy speakers.

Ms. Valerie Khan, in her short address expressed hope that the learned judges would implement what they have learnt in this training program. She extended gratitude to Hon'ble DG for taking special interest in arranging the program.

Addressing on the occasion, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Judge High Court of Sindh and acting Director General, Sindh Judicial Academy firstly greeted the participants and thanked Ms. Valerie Khan and her team for organizing this training program. He suggested that there is need of formation of committees at the district level so that the status of cases specially related to children may be monitored. He added that like other laws, Juvenile Justice Law also requires expeditious trial. Later, Hon'ble Director General SJA, awarded certificates to the participants. The session was concluded with a group photograph of the participants with Hon'ble DG and others.

