

# CHILDLINE NEWSLETTER



12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## COVID19- CHILDLINE 1098 Emergency Response: Tamil Nadu



In Tamil Nadu, CHILDLINE initiated a unique approach to engage children since their schools were closed due to the lockdown. CHILDLINE organized sessions which were a combination of safety measures and games for children in tribal settlements of the Dindigul district. Approximately 60 children participated in this activity. All the activities were conducted as per COVID-19 protocols. In the Vellore district, CHILDLINE co-ordinated with the Village Administrative Officer (VAO) and conducted a drawing competition on child protection issues and COVID-19 through WhatsApp. Around 20 children participated in this activity.

CHILDLINE also conducted drives to distribute relief materials and precautionary resources to the needy.

- In the Kancheepuram district, masks and sanitizers were distributed to nearly 300 people in the rural areas.
- Thiruvannamalai CHILDLINE and the health department jointly conducted COVID-19 awareness sessions for local people and provided soaps and sanitizers to 150 families.
- In Krishnagiri, CHILDLINE spread awareness among street children by showing a short film on COVID-19.
- Sivagangai CHILDLINE coordinated with the police department and the Municipality to conduct awareness on COVID-19 among the local people.
- CHILDLINE provided masks and soaps to 170 conservancy workers in three divisions of the Nagapattinam district.

CHILDLINE teams in Tamil Nadu received support from local district administration to conduct COVID-19 surveys, receive inter-district passes, provide dry ration to migrant families and get wheelchairs for the disabled.

### One more Child Marriage prevented

“My parents planned to arrange my wedding with Rama, 29, a relative of mine.” “My interest lies in studies, please stop my marriage”, said Rita, 13, to the CHILDLINE Intervention Unit members. During the lockdown, CHILDLINE received a call from a concerned adult requesting to stop the marriage of a 13 year old girl studying in the 8<sup>th</sup> Std. in a Government school in Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu. After the initial conversation with Rita, CHILDLINE interrogated the parents who confessed their plans for the child’s marriage. CHILDLINE educated the parents about the ill-effects of child marriage and the Child Marriage Act. They also stressed that anyone found guilty of marrying their child under the age of 18 can be punished under this law. Rita’s parents realized their mistake and gave a written statement that they will not get their child married before she turns 18. Following this, the intervention unit allowed the child to stay with her parents.

*\*names have been changed to protect the identity.*



Resources and information on COVID-19  
<https://www.childlineindia.org/a/covid19>

Donate to CHILDLINE and support our COVID-19 relief efforts.  
<https://www.childlineindia.org/a/fc/168477>