



Project Hope

Instilling renewed enthusiasm among adolescents

Introduction

Children are the future and require opportunities and encouragement for their survival, development, protection and participation to ensure that they realise their optimum potential. This responsibility is vested in the family, the immediate community, the law makers and service providers and the society at large. However, in Kerala, crimes against and involving children were reported to be on the increase. The Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has released recent data showing that 1,029 children in the 15-18 years age group and 800 children in the 10-14 years age group faced sexual harassment.

Children and Police (CAP)

With a farsighted and proactive vision, the Kerala Police developed an umbrella

programme called Children and Police (CAP) which contains several police initiatives to prevent abuse and violence against children and ensure better child protection. CAP aims to create “an invisible wall of protection” around every child and recognises that:

1. The extent of children’s commitment towards responsible citizenship depends on the foundation built during childhood
2. Problems faced by children even if identified, are often unreported or unattended. In some cases, they are attended unscientifically, thus causing a damaging effect
3. The present process of handling youngsters with deviant behaviour needs to be revisited as isolating them from the mainstream may enhance the negative tendencies within.

Within CAP, a basket of unique programmes have been developed, each responding to a particular lacuna/gap in child protection. One of these unique programmes is Project Hope.

Key indicators Kerala

One of the most developed states in India, tied at first place with Himachal Pradesh on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index, 2018

Well performing in indicators related to Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Goal 4 (Quality Education) and Goal 5 (Gender Equality)



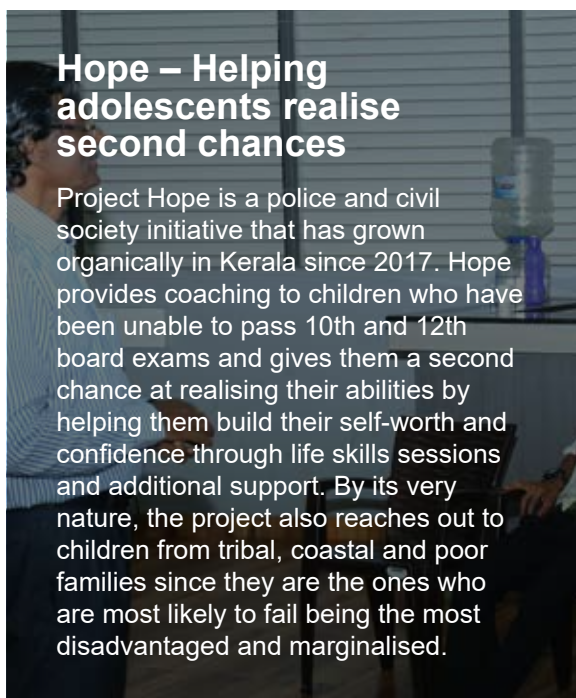
94% literacy rate compared to national average of 74.04% (Census 2011)



3.4 million children



88.68% children between 5-17 years of age in school.



Hope – Helping adolescents realise second chances

Project Hope is a police and civil society initiative that has grown organically in Kerala since 2017. Hope provides coaching to children who have been unable to pass 10th and 12th board exams and gives them a second chance at realising their abilities by helping them build their self-worth and confidence through life skills sessions and additional support. By its very nature, the project also reaches out to children from tribal, coastal and poor families since they are the ones who are most likely to fail being the most disadvantaged and marginalised.



Formation of local Hope units or committees, either by groups of credible individuals, government projects working for the care and protection of children or NGOs

Brainstorming and collaborative meetings to orient the local group on the vision and objectives of the Hope project in the area with participation of Hope team members, education officials, representatives from police and local school authorities

Outlining a plan to prepare a list of children who have dropped out from schools and those who have failed SSLC/+2 examinations

Key implementation steps

Home visits by team members for convincing children and parents about the importance of learning and acquiring skills, and the objectives of the Hope project. A Hope proforma is also filled up by the visiting team, for assessing their present situation and identifying the reasons of their current status. Parents and children are invited to a one-day workshop to orient them about the various aspects of the Hope programme

Three-day training for Hope volunteers on conducting classes and mentoring children enrolled in Hope

One-day workshop for parents and children to orient them about the various aspects of the Hope programme

The Nanma Centre in Calicut city

The Nanma Centre is a Hope learning centre in Calicut city that was set up by the Calicut Hope committee. In the centre, children are taught basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills. They are also given life skills training to

equip them to move forward in life. Vocational training is also imparted to the children. The centre has a full time coordinator who is an ex SPC cadet from the first SPC batch in the city. He regularly keeps in touch with the Hope

students to ensure that they attend the Hope learning sessions. The coordinator speaks to the parents of children and maintains a record of the children, prepares weekly reports and regularly reports to the IGP

(Admin). The Hope committee is divided into three groups – a mentors' group, a teachers' group and a volunteers' group and every member takes up individual responsibilities in an equitable manner.



My town, Maradu is a coastal area with high poverty and illiteracy levels. I know most of the children. In Hope, I had to start by teaching them basic symbols and letters. A student of mine, Habeer called me last week to thank me for giving him Hope to pass. He said that usually people only pay attention to children who pass their examinations and do not bother about those who failed.

Brinsha
Hope Teacher, Kozhikode district