



Student Police Cadets

Helping adolescents realise their potential

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 Student Police Cadets (SPC).

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)



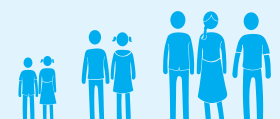
94% literacy rate compared to national average of 74.04% (Census 2011)



3.4 million children

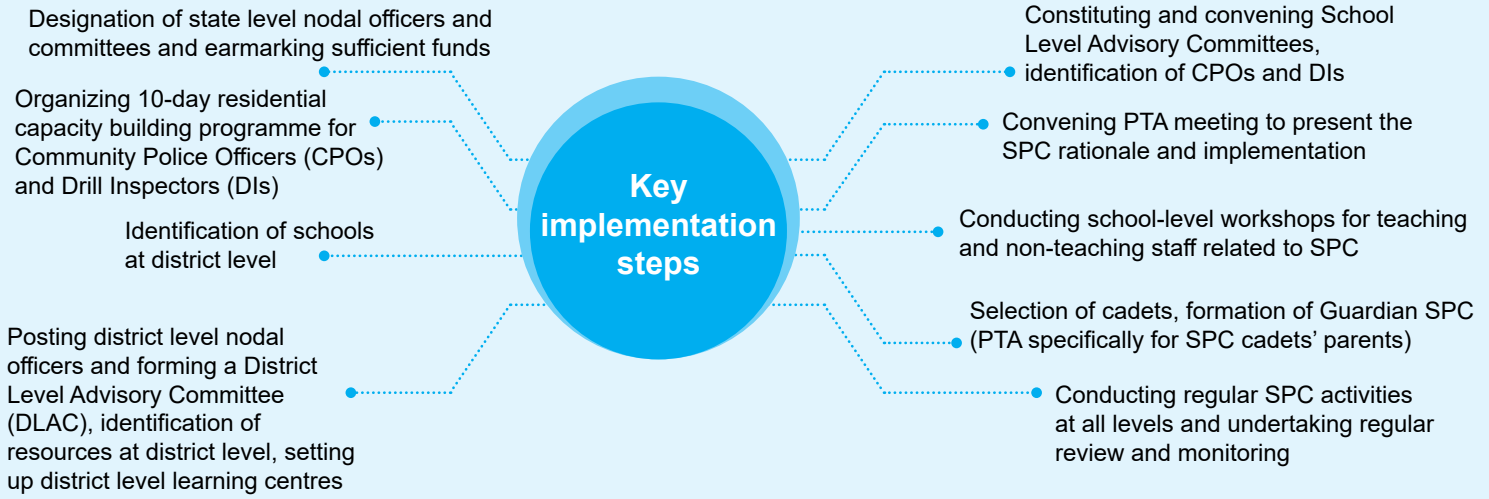


88.68% children between 5-17 years of age in school.

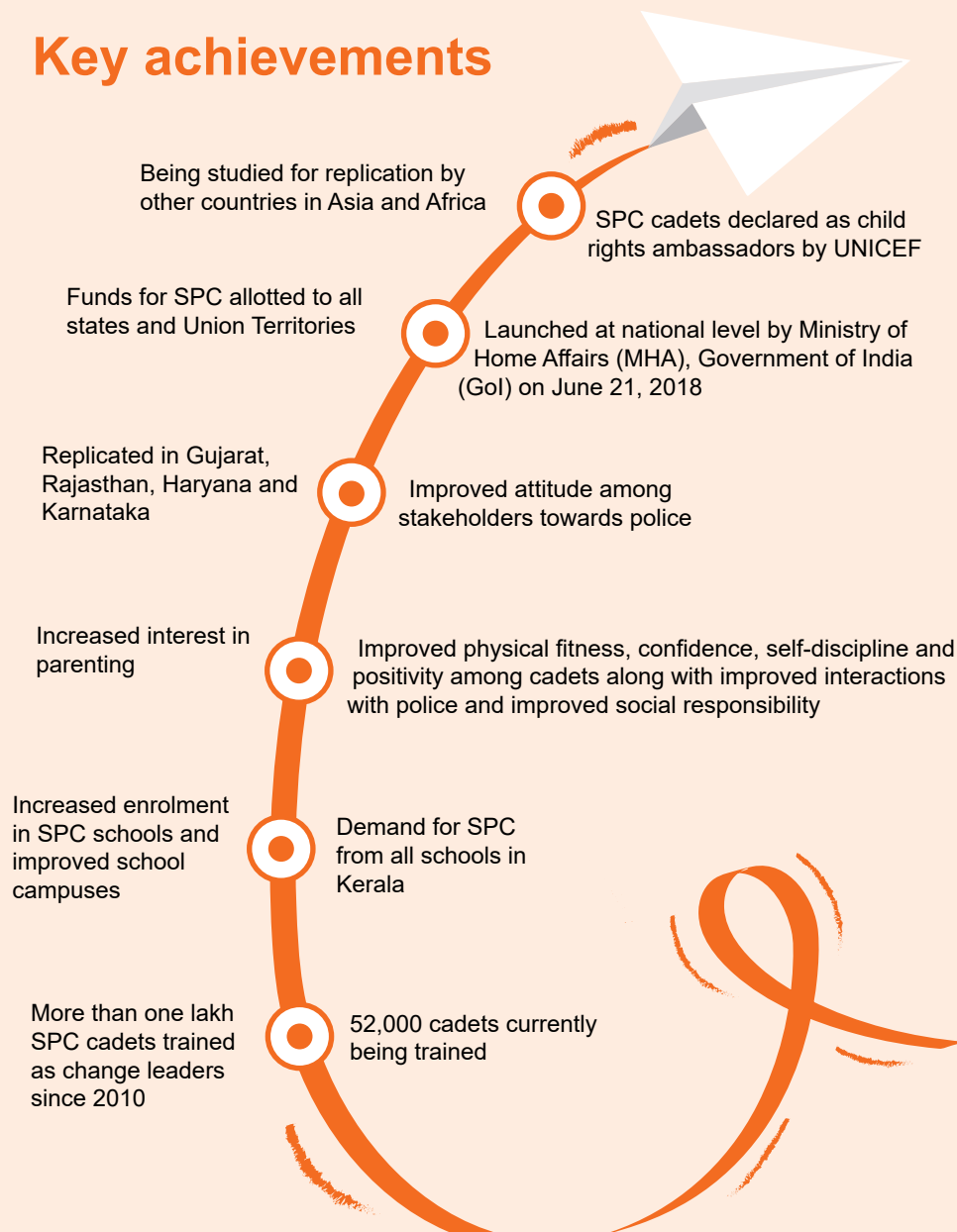


SPC – We learn to serve

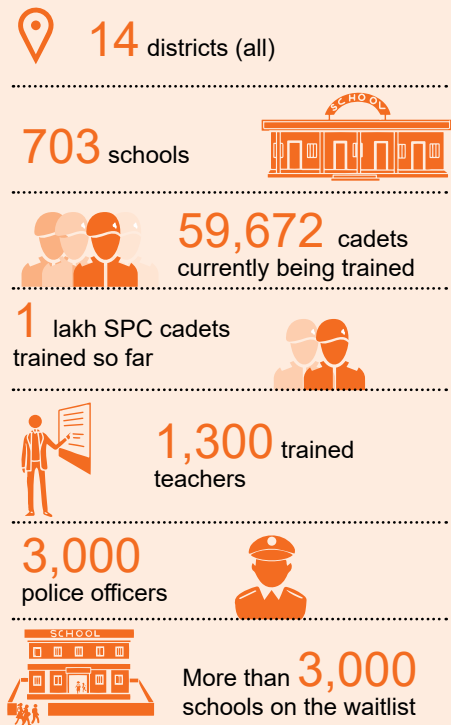
SPC is a leadership building initiative that aims to make children develop their initiative and personality along with physical development which in turn positively influences their academic learning. SPC Cadets are capable of providing peer mentoring to children who are part of ORC in their schools and both ORC and SPC are implemented in a complementary manner at the school level.



Key achievements



Reach



SPC was a stage for me to realise my potential. The number of opportunities and exposure I received during my two years in SPC would not have been possible elsewhere. We also helped out during the 2018 floods. We were thus able to contribute meaningfully to society because of SPC. I became more aware of the fact that I am a social being and have a role to play in society.

Ardra, Student in Grade 11
MVHS Ariyalloor, Malappuram district