

**CENTRE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH
JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA
National Resource Centre on Foster Care (NRCFC)**

National Resource Centre for Foster Care (NRCFC) trains top district level government officials in Delhi on ‘Family Strengthening and Alternative Care’.

New Delhi, India | 16 September 2017 - The Centre for Early Childhood Development & Research, Jamia Millia Islamia in collaboration with the Department of Women & Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi, conducted the first of four consecutive trainings on September 16, 2017 for government officials from two districts (West & South West) of Delhi on ‘Family Strengthening & Alternative Care’.



Prof Zubair Meenai, Honorary Director, CECDR welcomed the participants by sharing the field-leading work of the NRCFC which is housed at the Centre for Early Childhood Development & Research (CECDR) at Jamia Millia Islamia. He pointed out that the CECDR is the first and only organization in India to be empaneled to support the government in foster care programme implementation as on date and is fully committed to creating a favourable environment for all children in the country.

The training was aimed at empowering the Child Welfare Committees (CWC), District Child Protection Units (DCPU) and Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAA) to work in the field of alternative care and family strengthening. One of the important aspects was to familiarize the participants to the Govt of India’s Model Guidelines on Foster Care 2016.

Interactive sessions included a discussion on family & vulnerability of the children led by Dr Rekha Sharma Sen, IGNOU, specific roles and responsibilities of government functionaries in Sponsorship, Aftercare and Foster Care led by Mr. Ian Anand Forber Pratt, Director of Advocacy - South Asia, CER I and Ms Sarita Kumar, District Child Protection Officer, Government of NCT of Delhi were the highlights of the training.

The training offered practical solutions and a roadmap for family-based care based on the Juvenile Justice (Child Care & Protection) Act, 2015 and was informed by the Juvenile Justice (Child Care & Protection) Rules, 2016. Ms Sufia Azmat and Dr. Seema Naaz of CECDR, JMI introduced the participants to the Model Guidelines for Foster Care 2016 and led interactive session on the procedures to be followed by the various functionaries while working in the field.



Col Deepak Kumar, CEO, CARA applauded CECDR’s efforts to organize the training programme to build capacity of the government functionaries which is much needed and said, “there is a need for time to time training the



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functionaries working on the ground on the new and modified rules, regulations and guidelines”. He introduced the participants to the recent development in the field of adoption in India.

Participants shared that the training helped clarify the concepts of family-based care and empowered the front-line government officials to focus on child’s best interests in all aspects of the child protection system as the Indian system moves to focus on family-based care as a first choice.

Since most of the participants were newly recruited staff members of the District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) including Social Workers, Outreach Workers, Welfare Officers & Legal Officers they got their first orientation training on Child Protection, Family Strengthening and Alternative Care at Jamia Millia Islamia.

Over the coming weeks the remaining seven districts of Delhi will be covered in trainings designed for District Child Protection Units, Child Welfare Committees and Specialized Adoption Agencies.

