



भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS  
नई दिल्ली- ११०००१  
NEW DELHI-110 001



File No. DL-217852/2021-22/EDU

Dated: 11.01.2022

To,

Principal Secretary,  
Education Department,  
Govt. of NCT of Delhi  
Old Secretariat, New Delhi-110054  
Email: secyedu@nic.in

Subject: Complaint regarding *Desh Ke Mentor*

Sir,

Attention is invited to Commission's letter No DL- 217852/2021-22/NCPCR/EDU dated 07.12.2021 regarding representation from Shri Lalit Wadher dated 23/11/2021 about prospect of certain dangers to children through Government of Delhi scheme titled '*Desh ke Mentor*'. In the matter, point-wise response has been received in the Commission through letter No. PS/DE/2022/10 dated 03.1.2022 from the office of Director Education, Government of NCT Delhi.

2. The response received from your office appears to be ineffectual in completely dousing the safety issues pertaining to the exposure of children towards unknown people leading to potential crime/abuse. Following major drawbacks can be made out from the response-

- i. It has been stated in the response that '*to protect against violation, mentees are assigned mentors who are from the same gender*', it is imperative to place here that abuse or assault, sexual or otherwise, is not gender biased. Same gender does not necessarily assure safety of any child in any terms. It can also be pointed out here that the personnel involved in dealing with the scheme does not seem to be gender sensitized. They also seem to lack knowledge about the nuances of child sexual abuse nor are they aware about the Laws related to children including POCSO Act, 2012 and JJ Act, 2015.
- ii. The letter is silent on the question of police verification and hence it seems that no police verification is being done of the mentees to ensure safety of the children.
- iii. It has been mentioned in the response that '*registration process includes psychometric tests of the mentees before they are accepted into the program*'. Is this Psychometric Test a full proof assessment of a person in terms of potential threat to any child? Is this Psychometric Test analyzed/checked/scrutinized by professional practicing experts? Can this Psychometric Test identify Pedophiles or potential Pedophiles?



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5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36 Janpath, New Delhi-110001

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Web: [www.ncpcr.gov.in](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in), Lodge your complaint at : [www.ebaalnidan.nic.in](http://www.ebaalnidan.nic.in)

- iv. It has been further mentioned in the response that '*the interaction between the mentor and the mentee is done through phone calls*'. It may be noted that child related crime can be initiated through phone calls as well. For instance, children are susceptible to probable child trafficking through phone calls. Is there any mechanism to prevent origin of cybercrimes and child trafficking?
- v. The response also presents that '*parents of the mentees enrolled fill their consent forms to allow their child to join the program*'. The consent of parents is indeed an essential pre-requisite for involving children in such activities. However, this does not help in preventing any violence/abuse against children. The responsibility and accountability of preventing children from such situation lies with the Department. The consent of parents cannot be used as a cushion in case of any untoward incident.

3. The report of the Education Department is based on the reply received from the Project Management Unit of Delhi Technological University. DTU can reasonably be considered as the technical partner of the Delhi Education Department in this scheme but as mentioned earlier the responsibility and accountability of safety of children will invariably lie under the jurisdiction of Education Department, Government of NCT Delhi.

4. Consequently, u/s 13 & 15 of CPC Act, 2005 NCPCR recommends you to immediately suspend the concerned scheme/initiative till the time when all the loopholes pertaining to the safety of children are overhauled. Kindly provide the compliance report of same to the Commission with supporting documents within seven (7) days of receipt of this letter.

Please quote the number and date of this letter mentioned at the top while responding.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

**Sd/-  
(Priyank Kanoongo)  
Chairperson, NCPCR**

**Copy to-**

1. Chief Secretary,  
Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi  
Email: csdelhi@nic.in
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Ministry of Education, Govt. of India,  
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