

## POCSO Act Awareness Session at APS Jammu Cantt

An awareness session on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 was conducted by the school counsellor at APS Jammu Cantt on 8 & 9 November 2023. The primary objective of the session was to educate the students about their rights, the reasons behind the enactment of the POCSO Act, various types of sexual offenses, the corresponding punishments, and the appropriate reporting procedures.

### **Key Points Covered**

#### **1. Child Rights:**

- A comprehensive overview of the fundamental rights of children, including the right to life, liberty, education, and protection from abuse and exploitation.
- The importance of recognizing and respecting these rights was emphasized.

#### **2. POCSO Act, 2012:**

- A detailed explanation of the reasons behind the enactment of this law, highlighting the alarming rise in child sexual abuse cases.
- The specific provisions of the Act, including the definition of various sexual offenses such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, and child pornography.
- The stringent punishments prescribed under the Act for different types of offenses, emphasizing the zero-tolerance approach towards child sexual abuse.

#### **3. Reporting Procedures:**

- A step-by-step guide on how to report incidents of child sexual abuse, including the importance of immediate reporting to parents, teachers, or law enforcement authorities.
- The significance of preserving evidence and avoiding any actions that might compromise the investigation.

#### **4. Self-Protection Techniques:**

- Practical tips and strategies to help children protect themselves from sexual abuse, such as recognizing warning signs, setting personal boundaries, and seeking help from trusted adults.

The awareness session was well-received by the students, who actively participated in discussions and asked pertinent questions. By addressing these critical issues, the school aims to contribute to the overall well-being and safety of its students.

