

# A GUIDE FOR TEACHING CHILD RIGHTS CLUB IN SCHOOLS



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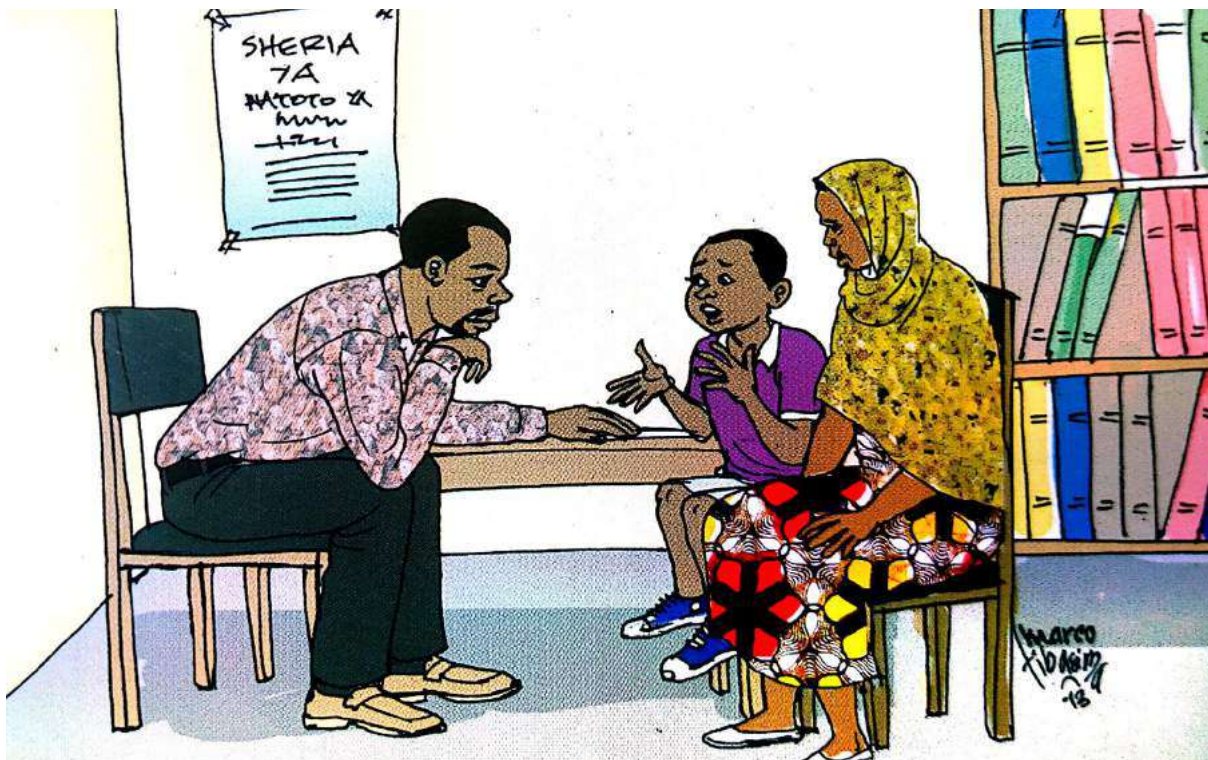
## DEFINITIONS:

1. **Child** – Any person below the age of eighteen years.
2. **Vulnerability** – is a condition of having limitations or degradation to the extent of failing to meet the basic needs such as; food, shelter, health care and clothing.
3. **A child living in endangered environment** - is a child / person under the age of eighteen (18) years that is living in a dangerous environment causing them to fail to access services, rights and basic needs.
4. **Neglect** – Is a failure to provide a person (child) with their basic rights such as information, health care, education, food and shelter.
5. **Emotional Neglect** -Is the act of ignoring, not showing concern of a persons or child's emotions.
6. **Exploitation** – is the action or act of unfairly treating a person / child for personal benefit such as withholding of salary after they have worked for a person.
7. **Abuse** – Any form of mistreatment towards a person / child through the use of violence such as beating or defamation.
8. **Child abuse** - means contravention of the rights of the child, which causes physical, moral or emotional harm, including beatings, insults, discrimination, neglect, sexual abuse and exploitative labour.
9. **Prevention** - is an act of preventing something before it has occurred.
10. **Protection** - is an act of protecting or keeping a child safe and away from harm.
11. **Participation** – is the action of involving children in a wide range of issues that affect them.
12. **The Act** - The Law of Child Act, Act No.21 of 2009

## 1.0 ABOUT A CHILD

### 1.1 Who is a child?

In accordance with the constitution of the united republic of Tanzania and Section 4 (1) Of the Law of Child Act No.21 Of 2009, a child is any person under the age of 18 years old. Generally a child lifespan starts from age 0 (during pregnancy) and graduates into adulthood when reaching 18 years.



### 1.2 What laws governing welfare of a child in Tanzania?

There are different international conventions and national enacted laws that govern the welfare of a child. Internationally, a Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1980 is among major international instruments that provide for the rights of a child. Tanzania is part and parcel of this instrument. Also, Tanzania has adopted The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) of 1990.

Locally there are several laws that govern the welfare of a child these include; ***The United Republic of Tanzania constitution, The Law of Child Act of 2009, The Law of Marriage Act of 1971, The education Act Chapter 353 of our Laws as amended from time to time and The Penal Code Chapter 16 of our Laws.***

### 1.3 What are the rights of the child?

**Part II (a) of The Law of Child Act** provides for the rights of a child. The law has clearly stipulated that the best interest of a child shall be the primary consideration in all actions concerning a child whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts or administrative bodies.

The following are some of the rights of a child as provided by the Act:

1. As per Section 5 of the Law of Child Act, Act No.21 of 2009, any child has a right free from any discrimination. The law prohibits any person to discriminate a child basing on gender, race, age, religion, language, political opinion, disability, health status, custom, ethnic origin, rural or urban background, birth, socio-economic status, being a refugee or of other status.
2. By virtue of being a human being a child is entitled to the right to life.
3. A child has a right of protection from torture, cruelty and degrading treatments. As per Section 13 of The Act a child shall not be subjected to any treatment or action that is intended to hurt, humiliate or lowering his dignity.
4. The right to obtain accurate information on events in the country and the world in general which is important to their life.
5. Right to Education as provided in Section 8(2) of The Act. A child should not be deprived of access to education, so that he can overcome ignorance of his future life.
6. Right to participate in games and cultures to help him build body and mind as per Section 8(4) of The Act.
7. The right to be protected from being injured, rejected, exploited, harassed, isolated, discriminated, abused and even called slander names as per Section 9 (3) (a) of The Act.
8. The right for Medical care as per Section 8(3) of The Act. There shall be no reasons to jeopardize this right, including religious or any other beliefs.
9. The right to live with his parents so that they can enjoy the right to nurture and development as parents are the most important and responsible individuals in the formation and development of children as per Section 7 (1) of The Act.
10. The right of expressing his/her opinion and participating in making decisions in matters that affect his/her well-being as per Section 11 of The Act.
11. Right to a name and nationality as per Section 6 (1) of The Act
12. Right of not being employed in hazardous or harmful employment as per Section 12 of The Act
13. The right to inherit the properties of his parents as per Section 10 of The Act.



## 1.4 What are the responsibilities of a Child?

Without affecting his or her rights, a child is subjected to the following responsibilities to him or herself, his/her parents and to his/her society at large;

- ❖ A child has a responsibility of respecting his/her parents, guardians and all the adults in his/her community and will offer to them help whenever called upon.
- ❖ working for family solidarity
- ❖ To serve his/her community and nation with all of his/her physical and mental capabilities, appropriate to their age and ability.
- ❖ To preserve and strengthen his community and national solidarity.
- ❖ To preserve all good national customs and traditions for the welfare of the country and his/her society.

## 1.5 Why do we need to protect children?

There are several reasons that call the society to protect children in their respective communities; some of those reasons are;

- ❖ The inability of children to defend themselves against oppression and abuse in society.
- ❖ Existence of extreme acts of violence against children in the society including sexual violence, neglect and exploitation.
- ❖ Misleading Traditions and cultures.
- ❖ Some children cannot raise their voice when incidents of violence are being committed to them.

### 1.5.1 What Are the Responsibilities of Parents / Guardians to a child?

It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to provide proper care to a child by assuring that a child has access to all basic needs including food, shelter clothes, health care, education etc.

Also, it is the responsibility of parents and guardians to protect all children rights. They can do so through the following acts;

1. By protecting a child from all discriminatory practices, abuses and shield him/her from hazardous and harmful environment.
2. To offer parental care, protection and any help that a child will need for the flourish of his /her welfare.
3. To ensure that in their absence a child will be under protection of fit and capable person.
4. To Maintain and preserve good traditions and practices for the benefit of the child, society and the nation.



### 1.5.2 What role does the Community play in the protection of a child?

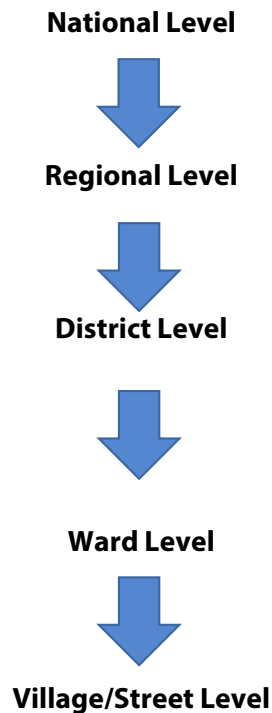
Every member of the community has a duty to provide information or evidence to the relevant institutions such as police and social welfare office whenever the rights of the child have been violated by any person.

It is the duty of the whole society to provide suitable environment for the growth of children.

### 1.6 Functions of a Child Protection Committee

It is the duty of the government to provide protection to its citizens and their properties. Children are also recognized Tanzania citizens and are entitled to all citizens rights including the right to be protected. Children are entitled to protection against violation of their rights and from incidents of violence. The government provides these through different initiatives. Among them is the National Action Plan to end violence against Women and Children (NAP-VAWC) which was launched back in 2016 and expected to end on December 2022.

NAP-VAWC provides for different child protection committees whose duty is to visualize incidents of violence, prevent them from occurring and report them to the relevant authorities for solutions. These committees are at different level from National to street/village level.



### 1. 6.2 Responsibilities of NAP-VAWC child protection committees in the protection of children.

NAP-VAWC protection committees serve the following roles in protection of a child in the society;

1. To provide safe and suitable environment for the growth of a child. This includes avoiding exposure of a child to harmful environment such as brothels and night clubs.
2. To visually, prevent and report incidents of violence that occurred in their respective communities.
3. To provide safe studying environment to the schools in their respective area.
4. To provide child rights and child protection education through different means.
5. To provide all necessary help and support to the victims of incidents of violence including asylum in case a victim has escaped a violent incident.
6. Resolve cases brought to them if they have jurisdiction to do so (cases that are civil in nature e.g. matrimonial cases.) and refer criminal cases to the police station.
7. Following up cases that they report to the police station and provide any required cooperation to the police during investigation until conclusion of the case.
8. To write quarterly reports and submit them to upper level in the chain of committees for record keeping.

## DEFINITIONS:

### 2.0 Violence

#### 2.1 What is violence and gender based violence (GBV)?

- ❖ **Violence** is any act committed to human beings that will cause pain be physically, psychologically or emotionally.
- ❖ **Sex** is a biological difference that distinguish a man and a woman.
- ❖ **Gender** refers to the socially constructed characteristics of women and men – such as norms, roles and relationships of and between groups of women and men. The concept includes differences that are seen through the division of work, access and control of resources, attitudes, behavior, values and capabilities of the household.
- ❖ **Gender violence**, also known as gender-based violence, is the term used to denote harm inflicted upon individuals and groups that is connected to normative understandings of their gender. Women are most affected by this form of violence than men.

#### 2.2 Types of Violence

Children experience various forms of physical and mental harm. These types of violence are as follows:

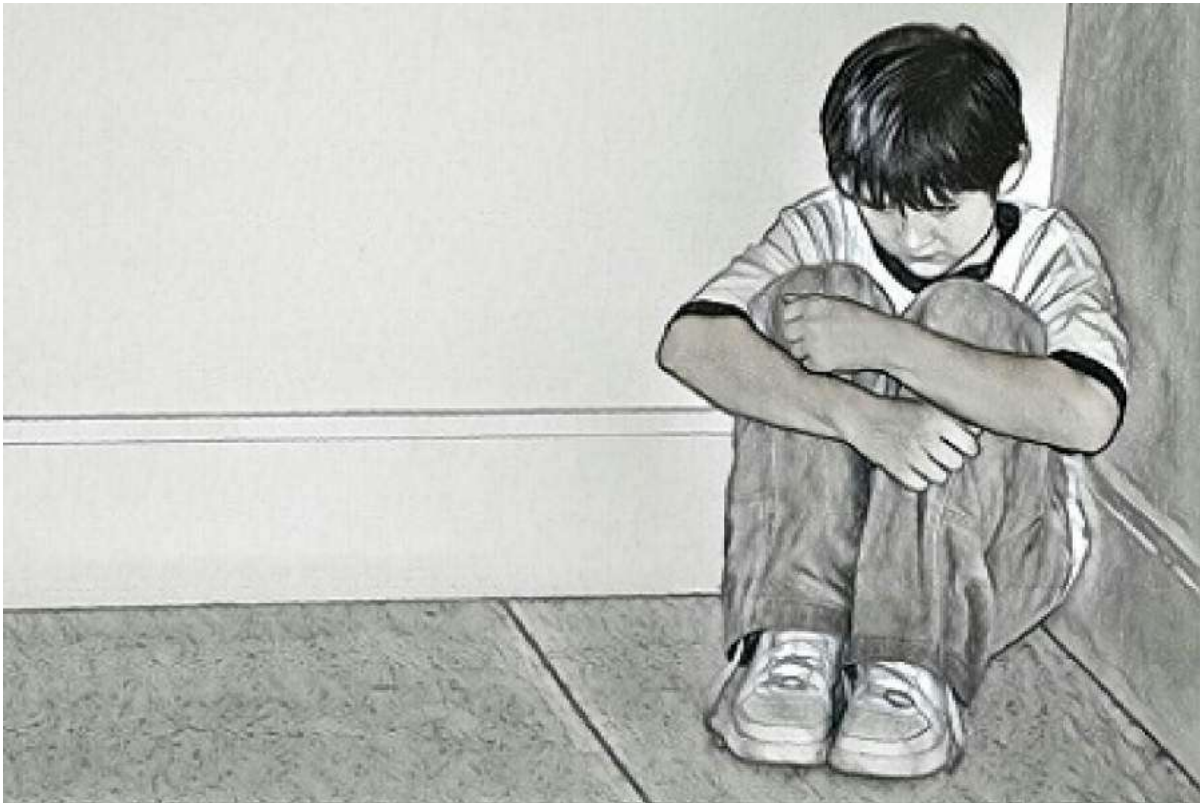
##### 2.2.1 Physical violence

Any act where an individual attempts to harm another through physical means. Thus, physical violence is a more severe form of aggression. Examples of physical violence include shoving, slapping, kicking, and tripping.



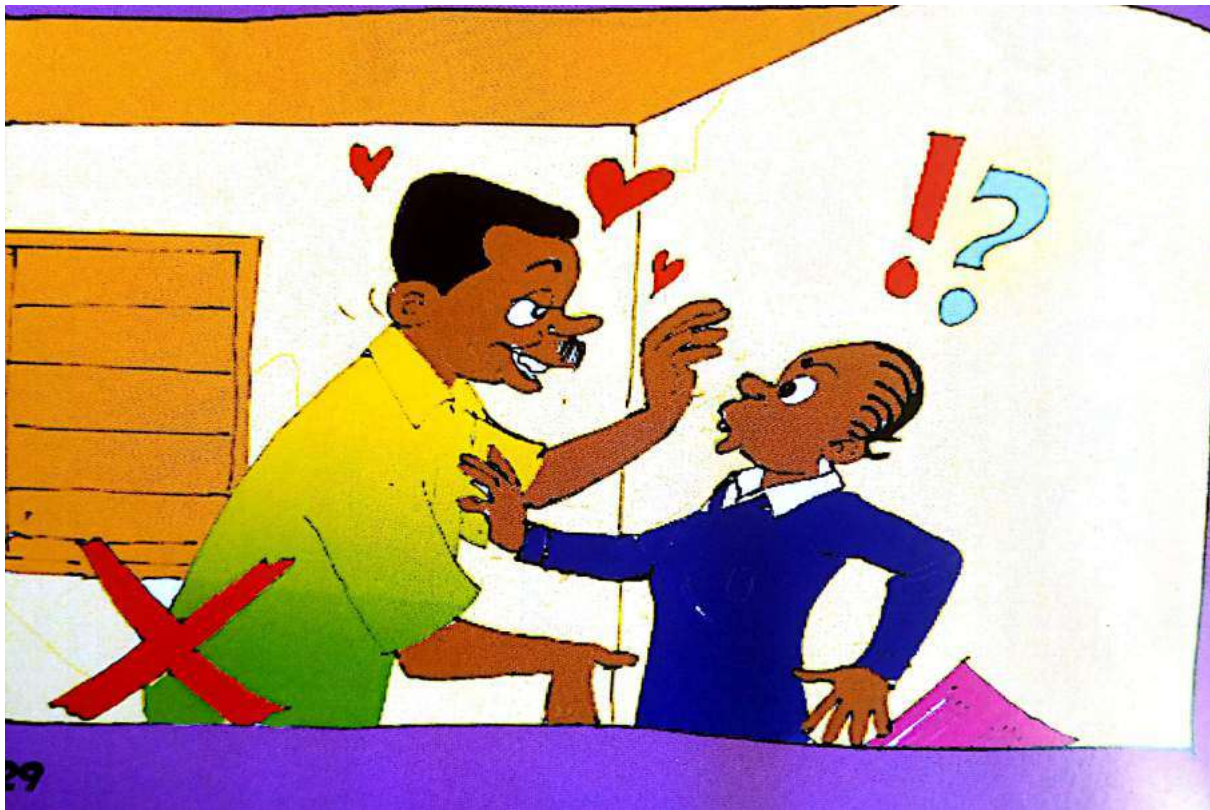
### 2.2.2 Psychological violence.

Psychological abuse, often called emotional abuse, is a form of abuse, characterized by a person subjecting or exposing another person to behavior that may result in psychological trauma, including anxiety, chronic depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder. Examples of psychological violence are insulting with words or symbols aimed at humiliating, intimidating and threatening to make aggression, insulting remarks, public contempt, threatening confidentiality, privacy interference, threats of death, excessive jealousy, child abuse purposes etc.



### 2.2.3 Sexual violence.

Sexual violence is any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act by violence or coercion, acts to traffic a person or acts directed against a person's sexuality, regardless of the relationship to the victim. It include Rape and Sodomization.



#### 2.2.4 Economical violence.

Economic violence is a type of violence committed by individuals or groups preying on economically disadvantaged individuals. In some circumstances the individuals may be service workers such as undocumented workers and food service workers, in others they may be spouses.

### 2.3 Sources of violence

Several factors lead to children getting into a dangerous situation for violence.

- ❖ Poverty-
- ❖ Death of parents or guardians of the children.
- ❖ Alcoholism of parents/guardians
- ❖ Bad tradition and custom beliefs.
- ❖ Theft
- ❖ Uses of illegal drugs.
- ❖ Marital conflicts.
- ❖ Peer Pressure
- ❖ Divorce.
- ❖ Globalization.
- ❖ Unaccountable and non-responsible community.

## 2.4 Effects of Violence

- ❖ Violence can cause death to the victims whether directly or indirectly. Some of violence incidents that can cause death include early pregnancy, rape and heavy beatings
- ❖ Violence also decreases man power in National production system and hence contributes to poverty.
- ❖ Spread of infectious diseases such a HIV/AIDS.
- ❖ Increase in the number of people with physical and mental disabilities resulting from physical violence and psychological torture.
- ❖ It cause chaotic environment in the society which forces people to live in fear and without peace.

### 2.4.1 How to recognize a Child Who has Experienced Violence

- ❖ Academic deterioration
- ❖ Physical changes
- ❖ Stress
- ❖ Truancy
- ❖ Aggressive behavior including use of abusive language.



## 2.5 Reporting of violence incidents

In reporting incidents of violence the issue of time is of paramount importance. It is advised to report the incident as soon as it has occurred so as to preserve evidence in case the matter goes to court. In cases of rape and sodomization the victims are advised not to clean themselves before going to the hospital for medical treatment.

There are several places where one can report violence incidents such as ;

1. To the elders of the area where the incident occurred
2. Parents and guardians.
3. Teachers
4. Local leaders of that respective area these include Ten cell leader, VEO, WEO.
5. Religious leaders of that respective place.
6. Any member of NAP-VAWC committee.
7. Police for Gender, Children and People Living with Disabilities Desk.
8. Social welfare office
9. Community development office.



“ Stand up for a child let us stop violence”



### 3.0 CHILD PROTECTION SCHOOL CLUB

#### 3.1 What is a club?

A club is a small group of people with a common goal and a specific purpose.

#### 3.2 What is a child rights club?

It is a group of about twenty well trained students formed for the purpose of educating their peers on matters of child rights, violence and child protection within and out of their School Compound.



#### 3.3 What is the purpose of club?

It is to provide education, identify, expose and report the problems of their fellow students to the responsible personnel.

#### 3.4 Qualities of club members

A club member is required to be;

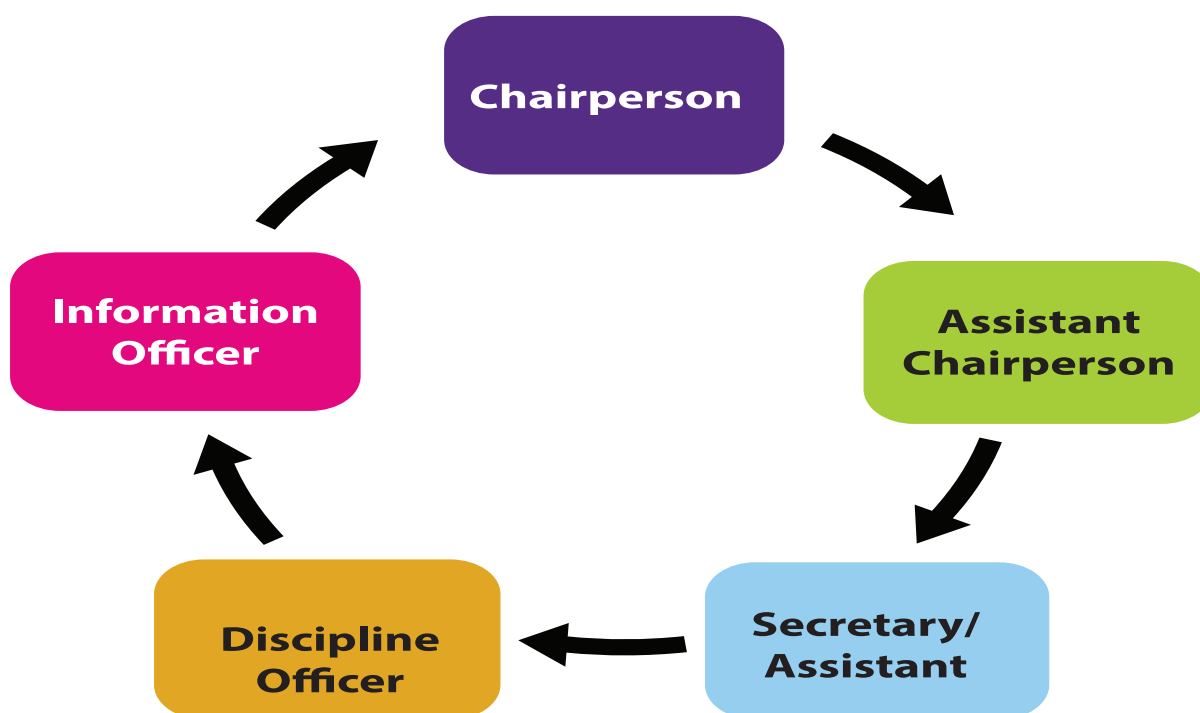
- Trustworthy
- Well disciplined
- Active member
- Creative
- Honest
- Curious
- Innovative

### 3.5 The roles and responsibilities of the club

- ❖ Educating peers with use of different techniques such as poetry, drama, songs etc.
- ❖ Attending sessions and activities of the club.
- ❖ Explore and identify the problems of their peers and report them to responsible authority.
- ❖ Prepare incidents of violence report on monthly basis.

### 3.6 The leadership structure of the club

This structure should consider gender and open election of leaders.



#### Duties and Responsibilities of Club Care takers/guardians

- ❖ Be worthy of trust and able to keep necessary matters Confidential.
- ❖ Should love, protect and care for the children.
- ❖ Making a follow-up of child abuse cases and bring them to the relevant authority, police desk, ward office, village and social welfare.
- ❖ Attends club sessions regularly.

Note: - The facilitator has to use participatory methods of facilitation.





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