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**To whom it may concern.**

The National Policy for Children 2013, Government of India, declares that children are the supreme asset of the nation. The empowerment of children for the prevention of child sexual abuse is the need of the hour. It can be the single most impactful step that can be taken to challenge and face the issue.

I sincerely appreciate the efforts of NGO, Social Axiom Foundation and various associated academicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, paediatricians, school counsellors, special educators, judges, lawyers, amongst others who helped shape up Project CACA (Children Against Child Abuse) through the democratic chain of events like Focus Group Discussions, Consensus Building, Pilot Programme, etc.

Schools are uniquely placed to break the patterns of violence by giving children, their parents, and communities the knowledge and skills to communicate, negotiate, and resolve issues in more constructive ways. Project CACA is a rights-based safety programme for schools with a focus on prevention of child sexual abuse. It aims at bringing institutional driven behaviour change in the society on child rights, gender equality and abuse prevention. I hope the sincere efforts of Project CACA will encourage more and more schools to play an active and progressive role by implementing the project as their safety policy for children.

I truly believe in the adage "Prevention is better than cure" and will be glad to be a part of the collaborative effort of Project CACA to create a safer, happier and healthier living environment for our children in schools of the state of Meghalaya. "A good book is a good friend indeed", the CACA Safety Workbooks (Kindergarten to Class 9), the core instrument of Project CACA based on life skills and value education covering Child Rights, Gender Equality and Abuse Prevention, is the need of the hour.

Moreover, implementation of Project CACA carries out the pertinent objectives of various circulars, notifications, advisories, guidelines issued from time to time to schools by the Central and State Governments, The Ministry Of Women And Child Development, various School Boards, State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights, Supreme Court, Directorate of School Education, and other related organisations on Child Rights, Child Safety, Gender Sensitivity, Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), POCSO Act 2012 - POCSO-E-Box, Gender-Equality, Gender Equity, Self Defence.

I also congratulate Project CACA for successfully collaborating with various Govt. Organisations, NGOs and private institutions like SCPCRs, SLSAs, CWCs, Fortis Healthcare, amongst others, and for bringing them together on a common platform to successfully empower more than five lakh children, teachers, support staff, and parents by implementing the project in schools across 24 states.

I wish team members of Project CACA all the best wishes and look forward to more and more schools joining hands in their collaborative effort by implementing Project CACA to empower the students.

(DHARMENDRA KUMAR)

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