

17. Residential Homes for Orphans (Bal Ashram and Nari Niketan)

Theme	Child Protection
Department	Social Welfare department
Target group(s)	All children irrespective of the community, class or category subject to the condition that they are orphan, destitute or belong to a family of poor substance.
Description of the scheme	<p>Bal Ashrams are meant to create a child labour free society, where all children receive free, compulsory, quality and meaningful education. Orphans and destitute children are provided free schooling, boarding and lodging, free bedding and clothing, recreational material and medicines.</p> <p>Nari Niketans have been set up to provide shelter and protection to destitute, deprived, socially marginalised girls who have been orphaned. Under this scheme vocational training is being offered.</p> <p>More than 12 orphanages are established in the private sector in Srinagar.</p>
Objectives	Social security and protection of orphans/destitutes.
Eligibility	Destitute/orphan boys and girls having no one to look after in their homes.
How to apply for this scheme	The guardian or the social worker of eligible boys and girls has to apply on prescribed application form to the DSWO along with necessary documents in support of the claim.
Procedure	The DSWO after scrutiny of the application form, subject to availability of vacancy, authorized the superintendent of the Bal Ashram/Nari Niketan to admit the child in the institution.
Whom to contact for the actual status of the scheme	District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO).

Note: Save the Children (SC) believes that many features of residential care account for unintended violations of children's rights and that the issue of children living in institutional care needs more focus and prioritisation. At the same time, a parallel concern is that the promotion and development of good community-based childcare alternatives, such as foster and kinship care need full deserving attention. With the full participation and in close collaboration with children, through consultation and decision-making activities, community based childcare is vital to helping children affected by poverty and conflict and children with inadequate parental care.