

Child Hope



A Quarterly Newsletter on Child Labour

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From Director General's Desk

It gives me a great pleasure to write the message for the second issue of Child Hope as an opportunity of sharing my views on the importance of Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour (PECL). PECL efforts are very much essential as child labour perpetuates poverty, poses threat to social development and compromises social justice. Having remained unexplored, a number of avenues in this area still require exploration. One such avenue is the equitable distribution of the benefits of economic development which is considered the best and most sustainable way of reducing child labour. In addition, interventions addressing child labour demand continuous thinking and re-thinking in order to enable our ideas to be crystallized in conformity with changing notions and situations. Children, as distinguished from adults, are peculiarly susceptible to hazardous work situations. While they affect all persons, they affect children in a larger degree than adults. Being very young, children cannot even raise their voices against those who harm them. The protective arm of the society has therefore to be long enough if the welfare of adults of the future is to be secured. We are in an era of socio-cultural transformation. The old generation should pave way for the new generation as it is striving to found its feet. Achieving the target of free and compulsory education for the children up to the age of fourteen years would be the basic foundation. Globally, countries which have advanced technically, economically and educationally owe their present stage of development to the fact that they achieved the target of free, primary, compulsory education quite long ago. Once they achieved this goal, the development in other areas followed. Hence, it is incumbent on us to achieve development of the children of this great nation as enshrined in various articles of the Constitution of India as soon as possible. The achievements of these targets and fulfillment of these expectations will eventually accelerate the pace of all other developments.

Ved Prakash Yajurvedi



Child Labour Programmes at the V. V. Giri National Labour Institute

Capacity Building programme on Child Labour for Social Partners from North-eastern States was conducted during 31st January to 4th February 2011. The objectives of the programme was i) to enhance the participants' understanding of the situation of working children in the North-eastern region, ii) to impart skills of identifying children at work for rehabilitation and iii) to develop skills for implementation of child labour projects. The programme was attended by 34 participants representing various Government Departments, Trade Unions, NGOs. The participants were drawn from various districts of North Eastern Region- from Kamrup, Dhubri, Dhemaji and Sanitpur districts of Assam, Samroon district of Tripura, District Dimapur of Nagaland, Thoubal and Imphal West Districts of Manipur, Aizawl district of Mizoram, and Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Capacity Building Programme on Child Labour for Members of Teachers' Association was conducted during April 5-8, 2011 in the Institute's Campus with the objectives i) to facilitate mainstreaming of Child Labour into formal schools ii) to generate awareness on socio-economic and political situation in India in the context of child labour and iii) to develop sensitivity towards child labour. The programme was attended by 23 participants drawn from different parts of the country.

The NRCCL Centre has also conducted **Convergence Programme on Child Labour for Social Partners** during June 28-30, 2011, for the participants from the districts Lucknow-Uttar Pradesh, Raipur-Chattisgarh, South 24 Parganas-Kolkata, Hooghly-West Bengal, Sahibganj-Jharkhand, Moradabad-Uttar Pradesh. The programme was attended by participants drawn from different professions including District Probation Officers, Principals, Labour Inspectors, Block Education Extension Officers and Project Coordinators. The broad objectives of the Programme was to impart skills on conducting Child Labour survey, to develop understanding on the importance of convergence of efforts and services towards socio-economic upliftment of child labour families and to equip the participants to contribute towards implementation of various child labour projects.

Capacity Building Programme for Elimination of Child Labour for the Officials of Social Defence Department was conducted during 23-25 March, 2011. This was a collaborative programme with Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The objective of the programme was to develop right skills, knowledge and attitude in order to make them effective and efficient instruments in combating child labour and to help the officers to create conditions for eventual elimination of child labour.



A view of Social Defence officials attending Child Labour Programme



Mr. Parmar, ALC, Ahmedabad and Dr. Helen R. Sekar addressing the participants at MGLI, Gujarat

Sensitisation Programmes on Child Labour, was conducted during 10th and 11th March 2011 at Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, and 14th at Youth Hostel, Nilgiris. The objective of the programme is to make the elected representatives aware of child labour issue and various State and non-state initiatives undertaken to tackle the problem of Child Labour. These three programmes were attended by 168 participants from three different districts of Tamil Nadu namely Coimbatore, Tirupur and Nilgiris. The participants were drawn from all the three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Students of Social Work, NCLP Project Staff, Research Scholars working on child labour, Teaching Community, Officials of Labour Department and NSS Coordinators and Volunteers. **Mr. P.A. Khuntia and Dr. Helen R. Sekar were the Course Directors.**



World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL)

The WDACL was launched by the ILO in 2002. The day draws attention to the global extent of Child Labour and the efforts needed to eliminate it. Every year on 12 June, the World Day brings together national governments, employers' organizations, trade unions, civil society and millions of children and adults throughout the World to highlight the plight of child labourers and advocate for change. The theme for this year was **Children in hazardous work**.



Cuttack: WDACL event chaired by Sri Kishore Kumar Mohanty, District Collector and Smt. Saraswati Hemram, SCPCR, Orissa

On the occasion of the World Day against Child Labour, the Project Converging Against Child Labour : Support for India's model, being implemented by the ILO, coordinated awareness raising activities in 10 districts in 5 States in which the Project works. Activities included rallies, public meetings, school-based events such as art, music, debate and drama competitions, street theatre 'nukkad nataks', candle light marches, tree



Surat WDACL: Children participating in the drawing competition

plantations etc. The events were attended by a widely represented cross section of stakeholders, social partners, civil society partners, children and their parents. These events were also widely covered by print and electronic media.

The Director, ILO DWT for South Asia attended the event in Ranchi District. The district administration organized week long events which concluded on 12th June. During the closing event, the State Government reiterated its commitment towards ending child labour. Press release described Government of India, State Government and ILO's efforts towards elimination of child labour.



Cuttack: WDACL; Tree plantation by the Project Director, National Child Labour Project, Cuttack and Convergence Project staff

The district administrations of the other districts namely Cuttack, Kalahandi in Orissa, Katihar, Sitamarhi in Bihar, Sahibganj, in Jharkhand, Jabalpur, Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh and Vadodara, Suarat in Gujarat similarly extended their cooperation to observe the World Day against Child Labour in their districts. These events were successful in bringing major stakeholders working towards the elimination of child labour to a common platform and underlined the commitment and seriousness of the issue and efforts to stop child labour.



Surat: WDACL: Participants at the district-level meeting

Vocational Skills Training

With a view to promote a family centric approach to dealing with child labour issues, an important element of the Convergence Project is to provide skills training to adolescents from bridge schools and ensuring linkages of families to existing Government schemes.



Distribution of education Kit to former working children in the district level WDACL meeting in Surat

To take this work forward, the ILO Country Office for India, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, Director General Employment and Training, organized a National Consultative Meeting on June 21, 2011 at New Delhi to discuss how best the current Modular Employable Skills (MES) Program under the Skills Development Initiative (SDI) Scheme could be used for imparting skills training to this target group. The framework for the Vocational Training strategy was shared at the meeting to seek suggestions and concurrence. The meeting was chaired by the Director



Ranchi: WDACL: Lighting of Lamp by dignitaries at the district level event (11 June)

General Employment and Training and Joint Secretary, MoLE, Mr. Sharda Prasad. It was attended by the Labour Commissioners, Directors of Employment and Training, District Collectors, NCLP Project Directors and Project Coordinators and ITI principals.



Ranchi: WDACL : Director, ILO DWT for South Asia and Country Office for India, distributing prizes at the district level event on 11th June



Ranchi: WDACL: Children gather after the rally and release balloons on 11th June



Sahibganj: WDACL: Children assembled for Rally on 12th June

Elimination of Child Labour Efforts in Medak District, Andhra Pradesh

It is mandatory of each and every Gram Panchayat in the country to organize Gram Sabha on every 14th April to approve the budgets of the Gram Panchayats and to pass resolutions on new plans for the current year. On this occasion, District Collector of Medak District had given call to all the Panchayats to discuss the child labour issue and pass a resolution for complete eradication of child labour from their respective villages. Further, it was requested to take oath for eradication and enrollment of all the Out of School Children back to school. Accordingly, special arrangements were made by the district administration to deploy the officers to implement the decision. All the 1059 villages of the district voluntarily came forward to discuss on this issue, identification of the Out of School Children in their villages and took decision to participate in the campaign during the Gram Sabhas. Thereafter, all the Panchayats have taken the oath to eradicate child labour from their villages.



Gram Sabha taking oath for Combating Child Labour

12 June 2011, World Day Against Child Labour

The campaign against Child Labour on 12th June, 2011 on the theme "Together for Children" was attended by 13,000 volunteers in Dimapur, Nagaland. The programme started off with three songs by Sinai Ministry and followed by Mr. Among and Ms. Moalem (MC) briefing the program. Divine Connection, Sunep Lemtur, Menguse, Alo Wanth, Funky Fresh Boys and Kenny performed on the evening to commemorate **World Day against Child Labour**. Parliamentary Secretary, Housing, Labour and Employment Er. T. Saku speaking on behalf of the labour department said that it was a great day and felt privileged to be standing for the cause of the children employed in different homes, workshop, garage and children who are being exploited. He went on to say that the children are available at little or no cost at all which is a crime against humanity. Many children leave their parents at a very early stage and those children are considered as possessions by the employers and are subjected to abuse and deprived of basic education. He added that the future of the country in general and our state in particular depends on the children, bright future awaits only if we provide education to the children.

Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Coordinator, National Resource Centre on Child Labour (NRCCL), VVGnLI was also present at the function. She said that Nagaland has been implementing different initiatives and should strive to become a model for other states. She told the youth gathered that they should become the agents of change.

Mr. Subonenba Longkumer, Project Director of Community Educational Centre Society (CECS) encouraged the volunteers to raise voice together for the cause of the children. He urged them to make use of the CHILDLINE 1098 facilities which has been recently introduced in Dimapur. He concluded by challenging the volunteers to make Nagaland a child labour free land. Project Officer Department of Labour Government of Nagaland Mr. Yanger Aier spoke on



Gathering of Youth at Dimapur raising voice against Child Labour

the importance of the pledge volunteers had made and their role in standing for the social cause. He reminded that there are thousands of children shedding silent tears and only together we can make a difference in the lives of such children. Others who spoke at the occasion include Joint Labour Commissioner Nungshiyanger Aier, SP Dimapur Zekotso Mero, ADC Dimapur Sedevikho Khro, District Education Officer Asono Ndang, and Peace Channel Fr. Anto. Ms. Kali on behalf of the volunteers read out the memorandum which was then received by the ADC Dimapur. Other highlights of the programme were a play on child domestic labour by teachers and students of Community Educational Centre Society. Partners in the programme were Community Educational Centre Society (CECS) Sinai Ministry, National Domestic Workers Movement (NDWM) and Peace Channel. The event was supported by Department of Labour, Social Welfare Department, DMA SSA Education Department, and media partners were Nagaland Post, Morung Express and Tir Yimiyim.

Success Stories of Mainstreamed Child Labourers

Selvan. Shankar

Selvan. Shankar was previously a child labourer in brick kilns in Kanjanur village at Uthangarai block.

The NCLP staff conducted child labour survey in Kanjanur village and they rescued him from brick kilns and he was admitted in Kanjanur special school. He studied 2 years in NCLP school and was mainstreamed into 9th standard in Govt. Hr. Secondary school in Kallavi, Uthangarai block. After that he joined 12th standard (Vocational Group) and got 1113 marks out of 1200 in 12th standard. He was a topper among the children of special schools at the state level, and also District Second among the students of Govt. Schools, Krishnagiri District.



The District Collector appreciated and provided a cash prize of Rs.1,500/- and the Labour Minister Mr.T.M.Anbarasu awarded him on June 12th Anti Child Labour day function, Chennai. Now he is studying MBA (Integrated course) in Vellore Institute of Technology(VIT Vellore).

Selvan. Lingappan

Selvan. Lingappan is a former child labourer belongs to a Thippachandram village in Denkanikottai taluk. Due to poverty he went to Brick kilns with his parents as a child labour. The District administration conducted child labour raid in Denkanicottai Taluk and they rescued him from the Brick kilns and admitted in Thadikal special school in Kelamangalam block. Later he was mainstreamed in regular school in Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Kelamangalam. After his completion of 12th standard he joined B.Com in Govt. Arts and Science College in Krishnagiri. He was given a stipend of Rs. 1,500/- for continuation of his higher studies from the State Rehabilitation cum Welfare Society.



Selvi. Elizabeth Rani

Selvi. Elizabeth was previously a child labourer in brick kilns, Madhakondapalli village at Thally block. The NCLP volunteers identified her in brick kilns and they admitted her in Lakshmipuram residential special school. She studied for 2 years in NCLP School and was mainstreamed into Our Lady's Higher secondary school, Madhakondapalli, Thally block. In 10th public examination she scored 483 (97%) marks and is a topper among the child labour special schools children.

Selvan. Kuthaivel

Selvan. Kuthaivel was working in Auto mobile workshop Kottarapatti village, Uthangarai block. He was rescued in a Child labour raid and admitted in a Kottarapatti special school. After 2 years the NCLP teachers admitted in Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Uthangarai. Now he is studying B.Sc (Agriculture) 2nd year in Annamalai University, Chidambaram.

Selvan. Dharman

Selvan. Dharman was working in the brick kilns in Chennappaikkanur village, Uthangarai block, Krishnagiri District. He was rescued in a Child labour raid and admitted in a Chennappaikkanur special school. After 2 years he was mainstreamed in Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School, Uthangarai. He got 410 marks out of 500 in 10th standard and 1031 marks out of 1200 in 12th standard. The District Collector appreciated and provided a cash prize. The Labour Minister awarded him on June 12th Anti Child Labour day function, Chennai. Now he is studying BE in Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Coimbatore. On the request of his family, the Managing Director, Titan Company was approached for providing financial support for his higher studies. They provided a Scholarship to Selvan. Dharman. Now, he is studying in 3rd year B.E.



District Collector felicitating NCLP Students



District Collector awarding cash prize

Selvi. Meena

Selvi. Meena, who is a former child labourer belongs to a Saragapalli village at Thally block. Due to economic problem, she discontinued her studies and became a child labour in Aggarbatti manufacturing. Special school Teacher rescued her and admitted in Madhakondalli special school. After 2 years, she was mainstreamed in Our Lady's High school at Madhakondapalli. She scored 473 marks in 10th standard public examination held in the academic year 2009-10. The District Collector congratulated and provided a cash prize of Rs. 1,000/-. Now she is studying 11th standard in Vijay Vidyalaya School at Hosur.

Selvi. Nethra

Selvi. Nethra, who is a former child labourer belongs to a Jeeva Nagar, Kelamangalam block. Due to economic problem, she discontinued her studies and became a child labour in stone cutting. NCLP Special school volunteers motivated and encouraged her parents to send her to Kelamangalam child labour school regularly. She studied very enthusiastically in the child labour special school. After 2 years, she was mainstreamed in the Govt. Girls Higher Secondary school, Kelamangalam. The NCLP volunteers regularly encouraged her. In the academic year she appeared in 10th public examination. She scored 480 marks and she is the second topper among children of child labour special schools in the state as a whole.



Meetings and Events on Child Labour at MOLE

- The meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) on examination of ILO Convention No. 138 with specific regard to its application for India was held, under the chairmanship of Secretary (L&E), on 6th July, 2011, in Shram Shakti Bhawan, Ministry of Labour & Employment, New Delhi.
- The first and second meetings of the Working Group for Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups like Child Labour and Bonded & Migrant Labour was convened under the Chairmanship of Shri Ravi Mathur, Additional Secretary (Labour & Employment) on 27th May and 8th July, 2011, respectively, in Shram Shakti Bhawan, Ministry of Labour & Employment, New Delhi.



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