

CHILD HOPE

Newsletter on Child Labour

Vol. 10, No. 3, July–September, 2021

CONTENTS

- **From the Director General's Desk** 1
- **Activities of National Resource Centre on Child Labour towards Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour** 2
- **Child Labour and Acute Health Crisis** 3
- **Events of the National Child Labour Projects from different Districts of the Country** 5
- **News Clippings** 10
- **The PENCIL Portal : Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL)..... 12**

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. H. SRINIVAS

Director General

Editor

Dr. HELEN R. SEKAR

Senior Fellow

Printed and Published by

V.V. Giri National Labour Institute

Sector-24, Noida-201301

Distt.-Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., India

Phone : 0120-2411533-34-35

Fax : 0120-2411474, 2411536

From the Director General's Desk

Child Labour and ILO Core Conventions.....

Established in 1919, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is one of the oldest organisations in the world. The only tripartite U.N. agency, it brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member countries to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. The International Labour Standards are set up in the form of Conventions and Recommendations. Conventions are international treaties and are instruments, which create legally binding obligations on the countries that ratify them. Recommendations are non-binding and set out guidelines orienting national policies and actions.

There are eight Core Conventions of the ILO (also called fundamental/human rights conventions) Viz. Forced Labour Convention (No. 29); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105); Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100); Discrimination (Employment Occupation) Convention (No.111); Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention (No.87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No.98); Minimum Age Convention (No.138) and the Worst forms of Child Labour Convention (No.182). The two Core Conventions directly related to child labour are that of ILO Convention 138 and 182. India has ratified Convention 138 regarding admission of age to employment and Convention 182 regarding worst forms of Child Labour during the year 2017.

The ILO Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Entry to Employment & Work was adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 58th Session in June, 1973 and since then the ILO has been very active in promoting its ratification. Each country ratifying this Convention undertakes to:(i) Pursue a national policy designed to ensure the effective abolition of child labour; (ii) Specify a minimum age for entry to employment or work which will not be less than the ages of completion of compulsory schooling; (iii) To raise this progressively to a level consistent with the fullest physical and mental development of young people and (iv) Guarantee that the minimum age of entry to any type of employment or work, which is likely to compromise health, safety of morals of young persons shall not be less than 18 years.

The ILO Convention No. 182 and the accompanying Recommendation No. 190 concerning 'Worst Forms of Child Labour' was adopted by the ILO in its 87th Session at Geneva in June, 1999 and since then ILO has been advocating for its ratification among the member states. The term 'worst forms of child labour' comprises of (i) All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children (debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour), including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; (ii) The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances; (iii) The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular of the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; and (iv) Work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. {For the purpose of this Convention, the term child shall apply to all persons under the age of 18}.

Since the signing of the two major ILO conventions related to Child Labour, India has been taking various steps to eradicate the child labour. The introduction of PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) portal for better monitoring and reporting is one major step in this direction.

Activities of National Resource Centre on Child Labour towards Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour

Online Orientation Programme on Identification, Rescue, Rehabilitation of Child Labour and Bonded Labour and Prosecution of Offenders

Online Orientation Programme on Identification, Rescue, Rehabilitation of Child Labour and Bonded Labour and Prosecution of Offenders was conducted during 28th to 30th July 2021. The objectives of the programme were to understand the linkage between human trafficking child labour and bonded labour; to understand new forms of bonded labour & ways to tackle them; to strengthen knowledge and skills for identification, prevention, abolition/elimination of the practice and system of child labour and bonded labour; to discuss the importance of effective and timely action during the critical crisis period of rescue to rehabilitation; to impart knowledge on the existing Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) for Identification, Prevention, Rescue and rehabilitation of Child labour and Bonded Labour; and to understand the role of Statutory and Law Enforcement bodies and to enhance skills for effective Prosecution of Offenders. 166 participants attended the training programme. They were drawn from the Districts Vizianagaram, Dhubri, Kurnool, Guntur, Anantapuramu, Prakasam, Krishna, Chittoor, Vijayawada and Rajahmundry of Andhra Pradesh; Districts Kamrup and Nagaon of Assam; District Kutch of Gujarat; Districts Pakur and Hazaribagh of Jharkhand; Districts Bagalkote, Raichur, Ballari, Kolar, Gadag and Bangalore of Karnataka; Districts Satna, Katni, Barwani, Rewa, Sagar, Jabalpur, Bhopal, Indore and Ujjain of Madhya Pradesh; Districts Beed, Thane of Maharashtra; Districts Bolangir and Rayagada of Odisha; District Ludhiana of Punjab; Districts Alwar, Ajmer, Jaipur and Pratapgarh of Rajasthan; District Kanchipuram, Tirupattur, Chennai, Vellore, Thiruvavur, Erode and Namakkal of Tamil Nadu; Districts Nagarkurnool, Kamareddy, Siddipet, Hyderabad, Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Adilabad and Karimnagar of Telangana; District Gautambudh Nagar of Uttar Pradesh; District Purba Medinipur and North 24 Parganas of West Bengal. These participants were Labour Department Officials, Vigilance Committee Members, Police, Officials of

Revenue Department, SLSA / DLSA Civil Society Organizations & Social Workers, NCLPs, CWCs, District Task Force & members of various Child Protection & ECL Mechanisms, Academia & others. Dr. Helen R. Sekar is the Course Director of the Training Programme.

On-line Sensitization Training Programme on “Convergence for Ending Child Labour and Bonded Labour” (25th to 27th August 2021)

On-line Sensitization Training Programme on “Convergence for Ending Child Labour and Bonded Labour” was held during 25th to 27th August 2021. The objectives of this Training Programme were to enhance better understanding of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act and Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and related legal framework and policies; to equip participants with knowledge on role and responsibilities of stakeholders and social partners in general and the law enforcement agencies and key statutory bodies mandated to address these issues in particular; to enhance understanding on the linkages between bonded labour, human trafficking, and distress migration and also the intersectional dimensions of crime, exploitation, and violation of wages in the bonded labour practice; to discuss methods of hot-spot mapping, and transit points identification; to discuss the role and need for proper coordination between Police, Labour Department and District Administration in combating the problem at different stages of rescue, rehabilitation, repatriation and prosecution; and also to discuss the role of Police as first responders to the crime. There were 124 participants who attended the programme from the Districts Guntur and Vizianagaram of Andhra Pradesh; District Kamrup of Assam; Districts Katihar, Patna and Bhagalpur of Bihar; Districts Ambala and Sonapat of Haryana; District Ranchi, and Hazaribagh of Jharkhand; Districts Betul, Rewa, Indore, Sagar, Ujjain, Gwalior, Katni, Guna, Barwani and Indore of Madhya Pradesh; Districts Moga, Ludhiana, Sangrur, Ludhiana, Bathinda and Ludhiana of Punjab; Districts Banswara, Ajmer, Jaipur and Bikaner of Rajasthan; District Namakkal, Kanchipuram and Virudhunagar

of Tamil Nadu; Districts Mahabubnagar of Telangana; Districts Ambedkar Nagar, Pratapgarh, Mahrajganj, Prayag Raj, Aligarh, Gorakhpur, Gautam Budh Nagar, Banaras, Pratapgarh, Deoria and Kanpur of Uttar Pradesh. The participants represented the Labour Department, Police (AHTU, SJPU, Crimes against Women and Children Cells), Revenue Department, District Administration, Social Defence/ Social Welfare, Labour Court, Women and Child Development, Public Health and Family Welfare, State Legal Service Authorities, Advocates, Trade Unions, National Child Labour Projects, Childline, Civil Society Organizations, Public Sector Units, Private Sector Undertakings, & Academicians. Dr. Helen R. Sekar is the Course Director of the Training Programme.

On-line Capacity Building Programme on Addressing Source State Vulnerability of Workers to Distress Migration, Trafficking, Child Labour and Bonded Labour

On-line Capacity Building Programme on Addressing Source State Vulnerability of Workers to Distress Migration, Trafficking, Child Labour and Bonded Labour was conducted during 1st to 3rd September 2021. The objectives of this On-Line Training Programme were to develop better understanding of the Labour Codes, Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, IPC 370, and other relevant Policies and Laws; to deliberate on the causes of distress migration and to understand the linkages between distress migration, child labour, bonded labour and human trafficking; to discuss methods of identifying migrants vulnerable to bondage, trafficking and child

labour in the backdrop of the role and responsibilities of key statutory bodies mandated to address these issues; and to discuss methods of hot-spot mapping, and transit points identification and victim-friendly repatriation and rehabilitation methods looking at the Inter-State dimensions. There were 117 participants who attended the programme drawn from the Districts Guntur, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam of Andhra Pradesh; Districts Kamrup, Nagaon and Dhubri of Assam; Districts Bhagalpur, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Bhojpur, Gaya, Khagaria, Nawada, West Champaran, Begusarai, Darbhanga, Jamui, Sitamarhi and Araria of Bihar; Districts Ahmedabad and Kutch of Gujarat; Districts Charkhi Dadri, Sirsa, Bhiwani, Hisar, Rohtak, Fatehabad and Panchkula of Haryana; District Ranchi and Hazaribagh of Jharkhand; Districts Bhopal, Jabalpur, Rewa, Barwani, Gwalior, Indore, Chhindwara and Ujjain of Madhya Pradesh; District Thane of Maharashtra, District Karaikal of Puducherry; Districts Kanchipuram and Tiruchrapalli of Tamil Nadu; Districts Mancheral, Peddapally and Jagtial of Telangana; Districts Banaras, Ghaziabad, Lucknow and Pilibhit of Uttar Pradesh; District Malda of West Bengal and also from New Delhi. The participants represented the State Government Departments i.e. Labour, Revenue, Women & Child Development, Rural Development, Police (including AHTU, SJPU, State Crime Branch), Social Welfare Department, Directorate of Social Welfare, SC/ ST Welfare and Urban Development Department and also from Legal Service Authorities, Municipal Administration, National Child Labour Projects, District Child Protection Units, Child Welfare Committees, Childline and also Research Scholars.

Child Labour and Acute Health Crisis

Helen R. Sekar*

Poor are among the most vulnerable sections in any society and one of the factors is that a shock that has a relatively small impact on the non-poor can be a cause for great concern for the poor, since even marginal downward fluctuations in income can push them irreversibly below destitution levels. Child labour is associated with a number of adverse health outcomes, including poor growth,

malnutrition, higher incidence of infectious and system-specific diseases, behavioural and emotional disorders, and decreased coping efficacy. Despite the expansion in the physical provisioning of health facilities, and the high levels of spending, ill health remains one of the most prevalent causes of human deprivation leading to the incidence of child labour. The prices prevailing in the market

* Senior Fellow, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute

for health care are beyond the reach of the poor, who are often compelled to access health services at the market rates with disastrous consequences for their already fragile economic status.

Health as a concept varies from society to society and within the society. It is based on the interpretation of an individual or a society which correlates it according to the situations. Biomedical health is allied with presence or absence of diagnosed diseases. According to World Health Organization (WHO), “health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. In terms of its impacts it is broadly categorized into two parts i.e., physical or mental impact and the economic impact. The former is related to family and its surrounding while the later is a broad concept. The economic impact of health is not only linked with investment of the family but it is also coupled with the National Income as the considerable amount of every welfare State is spent on health. In either case, low income or Below Poverty Line families are the worst affected as they are heavily dependent on their daily income in order to sustain themselves. Mostly the bread earner has to earn daily to feed their family. Any disease whether chronic or non-chronic to any person of the family poses a handicap to the economic gain of these low income or daily earning families. Because of the un-hygienic environment, lack of health care and un-healthy diet, the non-chronic illnesses develop into chronic illness in low income families. Since the families with low income in urban areas generally live in slum areas without proper sanitation facilities and consume contaminated water and un-hygienic food they are vulnerable to get sickness more often. Apart from these reasons they also get ill more frequently because they mostly perform manual work. Their income largely depends upon their physical labour which exposes them to unhealthy and dangerous conditions.

The adverse impact of illness on the low income groups of people is their slow recovery. As the poor solely depend on their daily income which is too little to feed their families and in the absence of

any saving the illness shuffles their daily budget. To compensate the spending on doctor and buying medicines, the family along with the patient starts eating less or non-nutritional food. The lack of health care combined with non-nutritional food prolongs their illness and suffering. It also leads to a situation where other members of the family are at an edge of getting ill.

Majority of diseases in India are related to air-borne and vector-borne diseases and these are allied with numerous deaths. A large number of the poor gets affected of tuberculosis, cholera and other communicable and vector-borne diseases due to their un-hygienic living condition which involve living near open drainage and garbage dumps where flies and mosquitoes are ever present. Living in close proximity with infected persons, due to less space, also make the urban poor vulnerable to diseases.

Under the NCLP Scheme, working children are identified through child labour survey, withdrawn from work and are enrolled in the special Training Centres, so as to provide them with enabling environment to join mainstream education system. In these Centres, besides formal education, they are provided with stipend, nutrition, vocational training and regular health check-ups. In addition, efforts are also made to target the families of these children so as to cover them under various developmental and income/employment generation programmes of the Government. The Scheme also envisages awareness generation campaigns against the evils of child labour and enforcement of legislation.

Child labour belong to the most discriminated strata of society in terms of ethnicity and culture. Displacement resulting from a health crisis leaves children with few alternatives. Being associated with adverse physical and mental health outcomes, child labour remains a major public health concern. Therefore the current efforts towards prevention and elimination of child labour need to be revisited based on the health impact assessment of child labour which in turn would provide inputs for policy making.

Events of the National Child Labour Projects from different Districts of the Country

National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Krishna, Andhra Pradesh



Awareness Programme on Corona and distribution of Pulses and Masks

National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Damoh, Madhya Pradesh



Teacher's Day Programme in Special Training Centres (STCs)

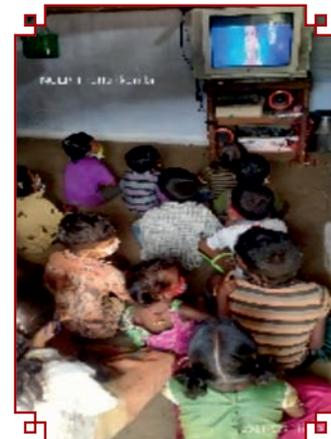


National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Chennai, Tamil Nadu



Identification of Child Labour

National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Erode, Tamil Nadu



National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu



STC Children attending classes



National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Namakkal, Tamil Nadu



Mr. Antony, NCLP Project Director getting award from the District Collector



National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Thiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu



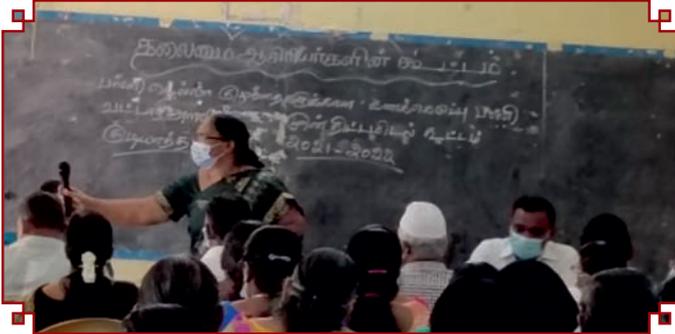
Special health check up and Awareness Generation

National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu



Identification of Child labour

National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Vellore, Tamil Nadu



National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu



செய்தி முழுக்கம்

PUBLISHER: G.VELMURUGAN SEITHI MULAKKM

JUST NOW 01.09.2021

**NCLP VNR
Vadakupatti STC**

விருதுநகர் தேசிய குழந்தைத் தொழிலாளர் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் இயங்கும் சிறப்புப் பயிற்சி மையங்களில் பயிலும் மாணவர்களுக்கு கல்வி தொலைக்காட்சி மூலம் கல்வி பயிற்று ஊக்குவிக்கும் விதமாக திட்ட இயக்குனர் நாராயணசாமி நேரில் சென்று ஆய்வு செய்தார்.

நிருபர் பாண்டியராஜ்
 செய்திகள் மற்றும் விளம்பரங்களுக்கு தொடர்பு கொள்ள. 9976638419, 6383083544



Children Imparted learning on KALVI TV

National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Khammam, Telangana



The PENCiL Portal

Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCiL)

Government of India has enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 (CALPR Act) which came into force with effect from 1st September, 2016. Several initiatives have been taken subsequent to the enactment of the CALPR Act to strengthen the governance of the legislative provisions. The need to create a robust implementing and monitoring mechanism for both enforcement of the legislative provisions and effective implementation of the NCLP was felt and as an outcome of this felt-need an online Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCiL) was developed. The PENCIL portal connects the Central Government with State Governments, Districts and all the Project Societies and provides a mechanism for effective implementation of the National Child Labour Project and facilitates enforcement of CALPR Act. The online portal Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCiL) was conceptualized on 26 September 2017. To deliver solutions effectively, it is necessary that a comfortable level of coordination is fostered among the implementing agencies. Digitization, as it is observed, establishes a direct channel of communication and task-delivery eliminating the need of any intermediary carriers. This has significantly improved the prospects of obtaining desired results by the administration. PENCIL aspires to achieve the same bringing clarity to both the goals and outcomes. The Platform for Effective National Child Labour Projects, set baselines and monitor progress on various key performance indicators at the levels of the NCLP societies in different districts spread over various States of the country.

The PENCiL software facilitates On-line management of NCLP societies; Preparation of progress reports (APR/QPR); Letter of intent;

Financial Statements (Audit Report, Utilization Certificate); Index Cards; Progress Cards; Child Enrolment and Reports' preparation besides effective enforcement of legislation; better coordination with State Governments; involvement of general public in enforcement; tracking the rehabilitation of the child/adolescent monitoring and implementation of NCLP; and convergence with related departments.

Most importantly, PENCIL portal lays the foundation for more constructive policy making. PENCIL offers the opportunity of a novel data repository to the already existing goals. The functioning of policy can be monitored real-time and data-reviews consequently generated have the

potential to streamline future approaches. Child labour has been a perennial issue that the Indian government suffered with and many solutions were over time formulated to address this issue. The PENCIL portal provides unique insights into these approaches vis-à-vis on-ground impact, compliance, and the path forward.



The PENCiL portal is in line with the new age digital governance initiatives. Although the scope of this initiative remains local, the model has global value. The overall design and specifics are such that they provide a template for easy replication. The PENCiL portal packaged as a policy driver and impact analysis mechanism can be presented to the countries of Global South that are struggling with the issue of child labour. On a national level, one of most successful aspects of PENCiL portal is its easy adaptability. It facilitates integration across state level policy delivering mechanisms. PENCiL portal is easy to use and the degree of training required to handle it is not high. This not only makes recruitment of point-persons easy but also minimises costs of training existing staff.