Prevalence of child labour as cheap substitute of adults violates the various legislative and judicial interventions of the government apart from impeding physical, psychological, intellectual, emotional, moral and mental development and growth of children. Due to debt bondage or otherwise, children are forced into enslaved forms of labour, trafficking and other illicit activities.

Historically, an array of interventions both legislative and non-legislative have been made over thirteen decades since the enactment Indian Factories Act 1881, prohibiting employment of children in Factories. Concern for children has been given prime importance in the independent India too. The Constitution of India is committed to the protection and promotion of the interests of the child and has adopted various articles, which reflect the nation’s concern for children in general and child labour in particular. Although the initial efforts were mainly in the form of the legislative interventions, initiatives in the recent years have also concentrated on the non-legislative measures as well for protecting children from labour exploitation, both by the Government of India and the State Governments. The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933; The Employment of Children Act, 1938; The Minimum Wages, Act 1948; The Factories Act, 1948; The Plantations Labour Act, 1951; The Mines Act, 1952; The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958; The Motor Transport Workers’ Act, 1961; The Apprentices Act, 1961; The Atomic Energy Act, 1962; The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and also the Shops and Establishment Act of various States in India, are to name a few among the legislative initiatives.

Besides legislative, there have been judicial interventions, to cite a few - i) ‘Labourers Working On Salal Hydro-Electric Project vs. State of Jammu and Kashmir’ (Criminal Writ Petition No. 1179 of 1982 decided on 25 April 1984); ii) People’s Union for Civil Liberties vs. Union of India & Others, (decided on 26 March, 1996); and iii) M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India & Others (Criminal Writ Petition No. 4677 of 1985 decided on July 25th, 1996).

Strict enforcement of laws is essential to deter employers from employing children. Decline in the quality of inspections undertaken paves way for further entry of children into the work force. Quality of inspections depend on the extent of training the enforcement officers receive at the time of induction and frequency of in-service training focusing on child labour laws. While orienting them on skills of enforcement, the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute strives to bring about attitudinal change. Since child labour issue is complex embedded in the existing socio-economic-cultural reality, dealing with the problem demands dedication, social commitment and total involvement. It is necessary to enhance the level of motivation of Labour and Factory Inspectors as very often they face a variety of challenges including weak networking structures, and even violence when they go for conducting inspections in remote and scattered manufacturing units, Brick-Kilns, Construction Sites, etc.

For the enforcement of relevant laws in general and Child Labour Act in particular, role of state government is crucial. It is important for the State governments to give priority and ensure effective enforcement of the relevant labour laws addressing Child Labour. For enhancing the capabilities of the enforcement machinery in relation to the implementation of child labour laws, special training needs to be imparted on a continuous basis with exploration of the possibilities of a greater focus towards effective enforcement of child labour laws so that the relevant laws could be enforced with the complete understanding of the reality of child labour and its challenges in the contemporary Indian socio-economic-cultural-milieu. Enhancing their capacity would go a long way in understanding their role, responsibility and obligations as per the Standard Operating Procedure of the amended Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 towards ending child labour in their respective areas of jurisdiction.
Activities of National Resource Centre on Child Labour towards Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour

State-Level Training of Trainers (ToT) on Convergent Planning for Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour (6th to 8th February 2019)

State-Level Training of Trainers on “Convergent Planning for Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour” was conducted for the State of Bihar during 6th to 8th February 2019 at the Dashrath Manjhi Labour & Employment Research Institute, Patna. This programme was conducted as a part of the on-going UNICEF-VVGNLI Child Labour Training Project and also as a part of the MoU signed between V.V. Giri National Labour Institute and Dashrath Manjhi Labour & Employment Research Institute, Patna. Officials from different line Departments of Government of Bihar such as Department of Social Welfare, Revenue Department, Education Department, Labour Department, Police Department, Law Department, Rural Development Department, Health Department and Information Public Relations Department of Bihar participated. In addition, various Civil Society Organisations such as Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, PRAYAS, Sakhi, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) from Patna, Media, Pratham from Sitamarhi Distt., Tatwasi Samaj Nyas from District Araria, People’s Action for Development from Nawada, Centre Direct from Gaya, NISC Society from Bhojpur, Gramin Jankalyan Parishad from Muzaffarpur, Samgra Shikshan Evam Vikas Sansthan from West Champaran, Yuva Sanshtha Kakodha from Darbhanga Distt., Kosi Gramin Vikas Sansthan from Distt. Purnea, Campaign Against Child Labour (CAACL) from Patna, Aditi from Sitamarhi, Human Liberty Network (HLN) from Patna, Swaritii Initiative also participated. Further, District Youth Coordinators of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan from the Districts of Araria, Patna, Nalanda, Gaya, Bhojpur, Muzaffarpur, West Champaran, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Purnea, Madhubani, East Champaran participated in the TOT programme.

Preventing and Responding to Child Labour: Conference on Convergent Planning at District-Level (9th February 2019)

The Inter-state Conference on “Preventing and Responding to Child Labour through Convergent Planning at District Level” was organized at the Dashrath Manjhi Labour Institute, Patna, in Bihar on 9th February, 2019. This Conference was attended by 114 key functionaries representing International organizations such as the ILO, Freedom Fund, UNICEF, Action Aid; National Human Rights Commission, State-Level Organisations/Commissions/Institutions/Universities namely the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Maharashtra, Police University, Rajasthan, officials from the Line Departments of the Government of Rajasthan namely Labour Department, Police Department, Department of Child Rights.

From the State of Bihar, the Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Block Development Officers, Labour Enforcement Officers, Officials from the Department of Social Welfare from the Districts of Patna, Nalanda, Nawada, Bhojpur, West Champaran, Sitamarhi, Purnea, Madhubani, East Champaran; Officials from the Department of Education from the Districts of Bhojpur, West Champaran, East Champaran; Block Development Officers from Nawada, Hilsa Block of Nalanda Districts; Akbarpur Block of Nawada; Bakhtiyarpur Block of Patna; Jagdalpur Block of Bhojpur Districts; Kurhani Block of Muzaffarpur; Runisaidpur Block of Sitamarhi; and representatives of Civil Society Organizations; and from Print and Electronic Media including Doordarshan, News 18 TV channels from Patna, participated in the Conference on Convergent Planning.

Officials of Labour Resource Department, Bihar from different Districts and of different Rungs of hierarchy and position participated namely labour
Superintendents, Labour Enforcement Officers, Assistant Labour Commissioners, Deputy Labour Commissioners, Assistant Welfare Commissioners participated in the programme from different Districts namely Jehanabad, East Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Kaimur in Rohtas District, Sitamarhi, Buxar, Jamui, Vaishali, Lakhisarai, Monghyr, Begusarai, Bettiah, Bhagalpur, Samastipur, Bhojpur, Gopalganj, Araria, Purua, Darbhanga, Gaya, Nawada, Patna, Katihar, West Champaran, Sheohar, Araria, Patna, Nalanda, Gaya, Bhojpur, Muzaffarpur, West Champaran, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Purua, Madhubani, East Champaran participated in the Conference on Convergent Planning.

The main objective of this conference was to focus on the challenges of locating, rescuing, and releasing children trafficked for labour exploitation; to discuss the opportunities with regard to inter-state coordination between Bihar and Rajasthan; and to achieve the larger goal of evolving convergent plan and ensuring Inter-state coordination. The purpose was also to discuss and deliberate the i) effective implementation of the legal instruments to prevent victimization and violence; ii) addressing child labour / trafficking, and violence through effective enforcement of legal provisions in the Juvenile Justice Act; the role of CALPR Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation Act as a tool to prevent child labour and ensure that every child is in school and learning; the role of N/SCPCR as an ‘Oversight Mechanism’ to promote child rights and protect children from violence; and addressing issues of ‘un-safe migration’ with focus on the prevention of child labour between Bihar (source) and Rajasthan (destination).
The State-Level Training of Trainers Programme on Prevention and Eradication on Child Labour was organised during 12th to 14th March, 2019 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, in collaboration with the State Labour Institute, Odisha and UNICEF, Odisha. This programme was conducted as a part of the VVGNLI-UNICEF collaborative Child Labour Training Project. The ToT Programme was inaugurated by Shri Ashok Kumar Panda, OAS(S), Joint Secretary to Government of Odisha, L&ESI Department & OSD, Odisha Building & other Construction Workers Welfare Board (OB&OCWWB). At the outset Dr. H. K. Swain, Former Professor, Personnel Management and Industrial Relations (PM&IR) Department, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Member, General Council, State Labour Institute (SLI), Odisha. Shri Laxmi Narayan Nanda, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF, Odisha, delivered opening remarks. In her address, Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, V.V.Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNLI) and the Coordinator of the National Resource Centre on Child Labour at the VVGNLI, also the Coordinator and Course Director of this ToT, and the Project Director of VVGNLI-UNICEF collaborative Child Labour Training Project, explained the background of this initiative by the VVGNLI and also mentioned the objectives of the ToT and she proposed the Vote of Thanks for the Officials of the Labour Department, Government of Odisha, State Labour Institute and the UNICEF. She also expressed gratitude to the participants from different districts and regions of Odisha for their enthusiastic participation in the inaugural session.

The participant for this ToT was drawn from 10 different Districts of Odisha namely Angul District, Cuttack District, Mayurbhanj District, Baleshwar District, Dhenkanal District, Malkangiri District, Kalahandi District, Rayagada District, Bhadrak District and Puri District. Representing different Line Departments of the Government of Odisha, various Institutions working on the issue of Labour and Civil Society Organisations. The participation also comprised of different rungs in the hierarchy of the Government Departments such as District Labour Officers, Assistant Labour Officers, Officers Enforcing Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Act, and members of Odisha Building & other Construction Workers Welfare Board (OB & OCWWB), Programme Officers, Chief Coordinators, Project Coordinators, Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries of Civil Society Organisations, Liaisoning Officers, Information Officers, Deputy Directors, Senior Programme Assistants, Consultants, Directors, etc. The Organisations/Departments/Projects/Trade Unions that were represented in the programme include State Human Rights Protection Cell (HRPC), Odisha, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Regional Labour Institute, Housing and Urban Development Department, National Health Mission, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha, Project State Urban Development Authority (SUDA), Nari Suraksha Samiti, Angul District, CITU, Cuttack District, Rural Development Action Cell (RDAC), Mayurbhanj District, BADC, Balasore, Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), Bhubaneswar, National Integrated Human & Industrial Development Agency (NIHIDA), Bhubaneswar, Centre of Integrated Development & Research, (CIDR) Baleshwar District, Indian Society For Rural Development (ISRD), Berhampur District, SAKAR Organisation, Dhenkanal District, Parivartan, Malkangiri District, Child Line, Kalahandi District, Shakti Organisation, Rayagada District, Jageshwari Club, Puri District, Information & Public Relations Department, Odisha Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA) Project, Department of School and Mass Education, Government of Odisha, Society for Weaker Community, Bhadrak District.

The participants were enlightened on various aspects on the issue of child labour and the discussions and deliberations revolved around the magnitude of Child Labour in Odisha: Sectors of Prevalence and Pockets of Concentration, Determinants and Adverse Impact; Relevance and Methods of Identification of different forms of Child Labour in Odisha for Prevention of Children’s Entry into Labour Exploitation; Adverse impact on mental health of Child Labourers; Migrant and Trafficked Children for Labour Exploitation: Standard Operating Procedures of MoLE and MHA
and the Protocol of MoLE; Steps to be taken at the time of rescuing child labourers; Role and Responsibilities of Multi-stakeholders in Pre-rescue, Rescue, Post-Rescue and Preparedness for Presenting Rescued Children before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC); Understanding Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act: Amendments, Rules and Notifications for effective Enforcement; Gender Dimensions and the Issue of Child Labour; Social Protection Programmes in Odisha for Addressing Vulnerability to Child Labour and Economic Rehabilitation of Child Labour Families; Education: An antidote for Child Labour and the Role of OPEPA Odisha Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA) Project, Department of School and Mass Education, Government of Odisha

The participants worked in District-Specific Multi-stakeholder Groups and Presentations of the outcome were made by a Representative from each Group followed by Sharing of Stakeholder experiences on the Identification and Rescue of Child Labour.
Technical support provided by the National Resource Centre on Child Labour (NRCCL) of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNLI)

- Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, and Coordinator, NRCCL, addressed the participants at the One-day Round-Table Consultation on Child Labour and Child Trafficking on 15th February 2019 organized by PRAYAS Institute of Juvenile Justice as a Resource Person. The objective of the Consultation was to Bridging the Gap between concerned Departments and Individuals involved in addressing a trafficking children for labour exploitation. This Consultation was attended by the officials of different Departments of the Government of Rajasthan, Bihar, and New Delhi. Dr. Helen R. Sekar generated awareness on the implications and the potential of the latest amendments and the Standard Operating Procedures of both the Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, in addressing child labour.

- The Coordinator NRCCL provided inputs to the discussions, deliberations and the group discussion in the “Two-day Learning Event on Child Protection Data and Measurement” during 25th and 26th February 2019. The objective was to discuss with policy makers and practitioners the issues, challenges, and gaps and to deliberate and share insights on measuring key child protection indicators and also the issues of data, evidence, and measurement in the context of UNICEF’s current Strategic Plan (2018-21).

- Invited as a Resource person to the Consultative Workshop on "Working Children in India", Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, and Coordinator, National Resource Centre on Child Labour (NRCCL) at the VVGNLI, made a presentation on “Policy, Legislation and existing Mechanism and Structure for Enforcement of Child Labour Legislation in India”. This Workshop was jointly organized by Indian Institute of Dalit Studies (IIDS) in collaboration with the Centre for the study of Regional Development (CSRD), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), on 29th March 2019. Dr. Sekar also contributed to the discussions and deliberations of this Consultative Workshop.

- Dr. Helen R. Sekar visited the Special Training Centre in Patna run by PRAYAS and interacted with the Children and the Staff on the Rehabilitation of Children rescued from labour exploitation
Display of Vocational Training Items prepared by Children of Special Training Centres (STCs), NCLP Krishna. Sri Nara Chandra Babu Naidu, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh along with the District Collector visited the stall where the vocational material were displayed and appreciated the talent and skills of children and the efforts taken by the National Child Labour Project. They also interacted with the Project Director and the Programme Manager. Further, the Chief Minister, other Ministers, MPs, MLAs and other Dignitaries expressed their solidarity towards the fight against the practice of Child Labour.
National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Khammam District, Telangana
National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Nasik District, Maharashtra

National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu
Campaign against Child Labour at the initiative of the Shri C.A. Raman, IAS, District Collector, Vellore District, Tamil Nadu and Chairperson, Vellore District NCLP at the Collectorate Campus

District Collector, Vellore District, felicitating Students mainstreamed from STC for their Academic Achievements in Engineering and other Higher Education
District Collector, Vellore District, conferring awards to the former Students of NCLP-STC, who have secured highest ranks in the 10th and the 12th standard Board Exams

District Collector commencing and Flags Off the Awareness Generation on the issue of Child Labour through Transports jointly organised by NCLP, Hand in Hand & Child line 1098

Inauguration of Signature Campaign Against Child Labour by District Collector

Inauguration of Sticker Campaign Against Child Labour by District Collector

Vellore NCLP Review Meeting chaired by the District Collector

District Collector felicitating mainstreamed students from NCLP who have completed their professional studies such as B.A.B.L;B.E.; Diploma in E.C.E; D.C.E., etc
Children NCLP, Vellore District, provided with Health-Care Facilities

Awareness Generation on the Issue of Child Labour organized by NCLP Vellore
Effects of extreme climatic events, such as drought, floods and severe weather conditions, on livelihoods have not been adequately discussed by the experts in the domain of labour studies. It is estimated that these events have further worsened the conditions of work under the category of worst forms of labour, including child labour, in the developing countries. As estimated by UNICEF, over a billion and nearly 160 million children are directly exposed to extremely high risk of floods and drought-like situations all across the world\(^1\). Indeed, climatic instability has emerged as one of the major risks and challenged the governments to eliminate the risk of children’s entry into various hazardous supply chains, particularly from the households who have been migrated out from the distress regions in search of alternative livelihoods. Children’s entry into the domain of work, children’s or their household’s decision to migrate for work, their exposure to hazardous work etc. not only point out towards failure of the development planning in general but also raises questions on appropriateness and seriousness in the efforts being carried out by various governments. In case of India, the increased instability of climate and probability of occurrence of extreme weather events have hampered the progress towards achieving SDG 8 (i.e. Decent Work and Economic Growth) pertaining to safeguarding the children from modern slavery, trafficking and end child labour in all its forms by the year 2025. In addition, one target, intrinsically linked with elimination of child labour, under SDG 1 (i.e. No Poverty) is concerned to build resilience capacity by the year 2030 among poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters. Nevertheless, considering heavy outflow of child-labour from the distress regions, it does not seem to be working out in the present situations.

The processes of poverty, out-migration, child labour and instability of climate have robust multi-dimensional inter-linkages (figure 1). Difficult agro-climatic situations in general and its instability in particular, limits a particular section of the population to low earning occupations and processes by deteriorating households’ access to various physical and non-physical assets of livelihoods, which in turn might result in out-migration of the affected households. A worst outcome or form of coping strategy can be observed as entry of children from such households into the work domain. Child Labour Report of Terre des Hommes International Federation (TDHIF) in 2017\(^2\) also points out that climate causes have an impact on whether children are pushed to work and on the kind of work they engage in, the condition of work, exposure to dangerous toxicants and the risk of exploitation. Degradation of environment has resulted in climatic instability by exploiting natural resources in un-regulated and hazardous supply chains. Further, by exploiting child labour in such chains, it has established a new form of linkage which is inadequately mentioned in the literature.

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\(^1\) UNICEF (2015), Unless we act now: The impact of climate change on children.

\(^2\) TDHIF (2017), The neglected link: Effects of climate change and environmental degradation on child labour.
Climate induced out-migration of economically active household members, has number of direct and indirect effects on probability of children to be participated in the supply chains. For instance, it has been observed and widely discussed among the researchers that the labour scarcity which has taken place at the place of origin, quite often observed in the primary sectors of production, is met by involving the left-behind members of the household. In addition, climate instability and uncertainty has become one of the major causes for reduction in the available common property resources (CPRs). Further, its adverse impact has been significant on the most vulnerable communities which lack access to these resources. Apart from the defined core economic activities, the children are also compelled to participate in the extended-SNA activities such as managing household’s needs for drinking and domestic water, managing cattle feed and many more (Case 1 and 2).

Both direct and indirect impacts of climate instability on children have serious implications on extent of poverty among the vulnerable communities. It can further aggravate the vicious cycle of poverty among these communities by halting growth and development of these children. Apart from a number of other socio-political, socio-demographic, socio-economic and environmental factors, climatic instability has indeed contributed in serious violation of children’s rights not only in India but also all across the world.

Case 1: A girl child below 10 years of age from a migrant household in a mountainous village of Almora District, Uttarakhand. She gathers fodder for cattle before the onset of winter. Reduced access to naturally available cattle-feed has further aggravated the situation and the resultant involvement out of schoolchildren and never-enrolled in cattle rearing and agricultural activities. Years of labour exploitation of children deprives them of their rights of childhood which has serious implications on their overall development.

Case 2: Children’s future at risk: Two consecutive years of drought in Telangana between 2014-15 and 2015-16, reminds about the woes of the vulnerable communities. Scarcity of rainfall, disappeared surface water bodies and depleted ground water aquifers resulted in minimal access to even drinking water. Its impact has been worse on the children who helped their households in managing water during the long period of water scarcity. Households coping strategies had largely compromised the future of these children by impacting negatively on their formal education and other learning activities.
News Clippings on the Events organized by the NCLPs

NCLP Vellore District, Tamil Nadu National Child Labour Project (NCLP), in Print Media
Child Labour Department employees and volunteers forming a human chain on Anti Child Labour Day in Velacheri on Tuesday. They reminded people that children below 14 years should not be employed and instead be encouraged to attend school. — THE HINDU WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018
Inauguration of Human Chain Against Child Labour by District Collector
11 சுவாரசிய பிறந்தரானவர்கள்
சிறுவர் பாராட்டில் காப்பாண்டு
புனே, ஜூன் 2-
பிறந்தரானவர்கள் கொண்டு வந்து, காப்பாண்டில் 11 சுவாரசிய பிறந்தரானவர்கள் பாராட்டில் காப்பாண்டில் காப்பாண்டில்
காப்பாண்டு.

முக்கியமான மற்ற விளக்கம் இறுதி பிறந்தரானவர்கள் கொண்டு வந்து, காப்பாண்டில் 11 சுவாரசிய பிறந்தரானவர்கள் பாராட்டில் காப்பாண்டில்
காப்பாண்டில்

பிறந்தரானவர்கள் கொண்டு வந்து, காப்பாண்டில் 11 சுவாரசிய பிறந்தரானவர்கள் பாராட்டில்

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NCLP Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu

Visit us at: www.vvgnli.gov.in
Thiru. T.N. Hariharan IAS, District Collector, and Chairperson, NCLP, Coimbatore District, Tamilnadu, Felicitated NCLP–STC Children who won Prizes in various Sports Activities.
Releasing of 'Child Hope' Newsletter and other Publications of V.V. Giri National Labour Institute