From the Director General’s Desk

Child labour in the recent years has surfaced as a root of violation of child rights, labour exploitation, and social justice. While focusing on child labour in general, there is a need for mainstreaming gender concerns in child labour policies and strategies with coordinated efforts. Government of India has been pursuing myriad strategies including stringent statutes in conjunction with holistic approaches towards achieving child labour free India. In its endeavour to eliminate child labour India has amended Child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act in July 2016. In addition, India has accomplished landmark steps by ratifying the two fundamental ILO Conventions 138 and 182 on 13th June 2017. According to the ILO Convention 138 the minimum age for admission to employment shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling. This Convention also specifies that the minimum age for admission to employment shall not be less than 18 years for the work which by its nature, or the circumstances in which the work is carried out, is likely to jeopardise the health, safety or morals of children and young persons.

The ILO Convention 182 enlists the worst forms of child labour and calls for the prohibition and the elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency.

The other recent development in the process of elimination of Child Labour in India is the launching of cyber platform ‘PENCIL’. This portal is committed to effective enforcement of the Child and Adolescent Labour (prohibition and Regulation) Act. It has been designed to note complaints and also have the tracking and monitoring system which enables the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the State Governments for proficient coordination to enforce various legislation, rules and regulations. The Government is also empowering the National Child Labour Project (NCLP), by enhancing its quality, lengthening its scope to all the districts of the country, and by reviewing the guidelines.

Challenges that stem from different and varied dimensions of child labour at the micro geographical-level can be responded effectively through a coordinated approach by ensuring informed, sensitized and effective participation of all the actors involved in the process of child labour prevention, rescue, and rehabilitation. The V.V. Giri National Labour Institute has been striving to assist the Government of India and the State Governments continuously in achieving prevention of children’s induction into labour exploitation and elimination of existing child labour through a variety of activities. Imparting training to a range of stakeholders and social partners from the State and the civil society enables them to effectively converge their efforts and services. The V.V. Giri National Labour Institute also incessantly endeavours to strengthen the existing systems, structures, and mechanisms instituted for rescue, release, and rehabilitation of child labour by conducting different theme-based region and sector-specific research studies. This issue of “Child Hope” will give a glimpse of such activities. Besides, various activities of the National Child Labour Project Societies and their successful practices are also documented for wider dissemination.
Workshop on Performance Evaluation and Impact Assessment of the National Child Labour Project Scheme

The Workshop on Performance Evaluation and Impact Assessment of National Child Labour Project Scheme was held during 8th and 9th May 2017 with the broad objective of exchanging information on the best practices, and with the specific objectives to assess the impact of awareness generation, to understand the extent of utilization of the sanctioned Staff, and to examine the effectiveness of NCLP Scheme in addressing the issue of child labour. Comprising of the Project Directors, Programme Managers and the NGOs implementing the NCLP, this workshop was attended by 62 participants from the Districts Belgaum and Bangalore Urban of Karnataka; District Vadodara of Gujarat; Districts Solapur, Gondia, Jalgaon, Parbhani, Amravati and Jalna of Maharashtra; District Dimapur of Nagaland; District Guwahati of Assam; District Khammam of Telangana; Districts Alwar and Baran of Rajasthan; Districts Howrah, Purba Medinapur and Kolkata of West Bengal; Districts Gurgaon and Faridabad of Haryana; Districts Jabalpur, Rewa and Barwani of Madhya Pradesh; District Guntur of Andhra Pradesh; Districts Kaushambi, Rampur, Allahabad and Khushi Nagar of Uttar Pradesh; and District Ludhiana of Punjab. This Training Workshop was jointly organized by the faculty members Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Dr. Ellina Samantroy and Dr. Kingshuk Sarkar.

Awareness Generation Programme for Elimination of Child Labour

The programme on awareness generation for elimination of child labour was organized by V.V Giri National Labour Institute on 22nd to 24th August, 2017. The objective of the workshop was to impart skills for contributing to combat child labour by effective implementation of NCLP and also to generate awareness on the amendments in child labour Act for providing support and enforcement of child labour legislation. The purpose was to encourage the participants to engage in protection of children from labour exploitation and to ensure quality education to the children who are rescued from different forms of work. The workshop was attended by Thirty eight participants from civil society organizations namely Manav Sansadhan Evam Mahila Vikas Sansthan (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh), CHETNA (New Delhi), Centre Direct (Patna, Bihar), ADITHI (Bihar), Bhusura Mahila Vikas Samiti (BMVS), IDEA (Bihar), Pragati Gramodyog Evam Samaj Kalyan Sansthan (Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh) NIRDESH, (Muzaffarpur, Bihar), Tatvasi Samaj Nyas,(Purnea, Bihar), Rural Organisation for Social Advancement (Varanasi Uttar Pradesh), ASISH Project (Bihar), Fakirana Sisters’ Society (Bihar).
Training Programme on Effective Implementation of National Child Labour Project

Training Programme on “Effective Implementation of National Child Labour Project” was held during 6th and 7th September 2017. The aim of the programme was to impart skills of organising and coordinating child labour survey, to equip with abilities for forging convergence among various schemes focusing on child labour families, to develop understanding on multi-pronged strategy of NCLP and the amendments in CAL(PR) Act 1986. In total 189 participants attended the programme from the Districts Guntur, Vizianagaram, Krishna, Nellore and Ananthapuram of Andhra Pradesh; Districts Guwahati, Lakhimpur and Nagaon of Assam; Districts Vadodara, Kutch and Surat of Gujarat; Districts Faridabad and Gurgaon of Haryana; District Dimapur of Nagaland; District Dehradun of Uttarakhand; Districts Hasanpur, Begusarai and Katihar of Bihar; Districts Banswara, Dausa, Alwar, Jodhpur, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Jaipur, Baran and Kota of Rajasthan; Districts Amravati, Jalna, Jalgaon, Thane, Sangli, Beed, Solapur, Dhule, Parbhani, Gondia, Nandurbar and Aurangabad of Maharashtra; Districts Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana of Punjab; Districts Agra, Kaushambi, Aligarh, Mirzapur, Fatehpur, Rae Bareilly, Saharanpur, Shahjahanpur, Rampur, Allahabad, Bulandshahar, Balrampur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Kushinagar and Barabanki of Uttar Pradesh; Districts Cooch Behar, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur, Purulia, Pashchim Medinipur, Purba Medinipur, Howrah, Kolkata and Bardwan of West Bengal; District Srinar of Jammu & Kashmir; Districts Nizamabad, Ranga Reddy, Khammam and Mehbubnagar of Telangana, Districts Kanchipuram, Krishnagiri, Coimbatore, Virudhunagar, Salem, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirapalli, Dharmapuri, Vellore, Chennai and Emore of Tamil Nadu, Districts Dhenkanal, Sundargarh and Rayagahr of Odisha; Districts Barwani, Satna, Rewa, Shivpuri, Damoh and Jabalpur of Madhya Pradesh; Districts Mysore, Dharwad, Gulbarga, Bangalore, Belaguri, Ballari and Raichur of Karnataka, Districts Pakur, Hazaribagh, West Singhbhum Chaibasa and Ranchi of Jharkhand.
Training Programme on Towards Effective Enforcement of Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986

The Programme was conducted during 20th to 22nd September 2017, with the objective to impart knowledge of substantive as well as procedural contents of child labour Law and to identify possible challenges in enforcing amendments in the Child Labour Act for exploring remedial measures. The objective was also to acquire sharper understanding of the enforcement processes from offence to conviction towards elimination of Child Labour; and to equip with skills for converging efforts and services. The 35 trainees who attended this training Programme comprised of Assistant Labour Commissioners, Deputy Labour Commissioners, Labour Enforcement Officers, Labour Inspectors, and Government Labour Officers drawn from State Labour Departments and from the Central Labour Services. Their geographical representation spread across 9 States, 2 Union Territories and 26 Districts namely, Districts Kaithal, Faridabad, Rewari of Haryana; District Nagpur, Nasik, Aurangabad, Mumbai and Thane of Maharashtra; District Kohima and Dimapur of Nagaland; District Ghaziabad, Noida and Meerut of Uttar Pradesh; District Jaipur, Alwar, Dausa of Rajasthan; District Gandhinagar and Surat of Gujarat; District Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Dharmapuri of Tamil Nadu; Districts Sundergarh and Raigangpur of Odisha; District Jalandhar of Punjab; District Allahabad of Uttar Pradesh; District Bangalore of Karnataka and Districts Bhadradi Kothaguden and Khammam of Telangana.

Training Programme on Ensuring Enrolment and Retention in Education for Addressing Child Labour

Training Programme on Ensuring Enrolment and Retention in Education for Addressing Child Labour is to be held during 25th to 27th October 2017. The objective of the programme is to develop understanding on the location-specific magnitude and incidence of child labour, to impart skills of identifying vulnerabilities and special needs of children rescued from work for educational rehabilitation, to equip with abilities to ensure enrolment and retention of rescued child labour mainstreamed in school education. The participants who would be attending this programme are among the Members of School Management Committees, Members of Child Protection Committees, Self-help Groups, Teachers of Government Schools and Volunteer Instructors of NCLP Special Training Centres. There were 52 participants attended the programme and they were from the Districts Gondia, Jalgaon, Jalna, Aurangabad and Parbhani of Maharashtra; Districts Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Dharmapuri of Tamil Nadu; Districts Sundergarh and Raigangpur of Odisha; District Jalandhar of Punjab; District Allahabad of Uttar Pradesh; District Bangalore of Karnataka and Districts Bhadradi Kothaguden and Khammam of Telangana.


Training Workshop on Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, and Development of District-specific Action Plan for Jammu Division was conducted during 7th and 8th March 2017. The programme was organized jointly by V. V. Giri National Labour Institute, Department of Labour and Employment, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Unicef and National Development Foundation (NDF). The Training Workshop was attended by 103 participants including officials from various Government Departments such as Labour Department, Police Department, Factories Department, Social Welfare Department, Department...
of Women and Child Development and Scholars from different Departments of University of Jammu, organizations namely Red Cross Society, Childline, NCLP, WWF- India, ICPS, and other Civil Society Organizations. The objective of the programme was to bring awareness among the staff of Labour Department and other Stakeholders regarding Child Labour Act its latest Amendments. Dr. Kingshuk Sarkar was one of the main resource persons and Dr. Helen R. Sekar was the coordinator of the Workshop from VVGNLI.

The objective of the workshop was to disseminate the findings of the study in the context of Bihar thereby contributing to the policy and programmatic decisions for developing Bihar State Action Plan on Child Labour. The authors from the Institute Dr. Helen R. Sekar and Dr. Ellina Samantroy disseminated the major findings and recommendations of the VVGNLI Study in this Workshop.

List of Events where Technical Support was provided by the National Resource Centre on Child Labour (NRCCCL)

- Panel Discussion on “Curbing Child Labour in Future Businesses” in the event ‘Vaishvik 2017’ organized by Centre for Labour Studies, School of Management and Labour Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, on 24th February 2017. Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, was one of the panellists.

- Special Lecture organized by the Labour and Employment Department, Government of Karnataka, in Bengaluru on 25th April 2017. Dr. Helen R. Sekar delivered a Special Lecture “Addressing Child Workers in Karnataka: Understanding the Reality and Evolving Strategies”. The purpose of this Special Lecture was to generate awareness on the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and its amendments to the Officials of Government of Karnataka, Members of the Child Labour Eradication Project Society and to the students and professors of Ambedkar Law College.

- National Consultation on Child Labour at National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi on 29th April 2017. The Consultation was organized by Campaign Against Child Labour (CAACL). Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, addressed students, members of various civil society organizations and other social partners from different States of the country on the topic “Situation of Working Children in India and Strategies for Combating Child labour”


Awareness Generation and Sensitization Programme on Child Labour in collaboration with Tripura University, Agartala

The programme on awareness generation and sensitization on child labour was organized during March 30th to 1st April 2017 at the Tripura University Campus. The objective of the programme was to generate awareness on the issue of child labour in general and particularly on the latest amendments in the Child Labour Act and on the issue of child labour in supply chains. The purpose was also to enhance the capacity and encourage the research scholars to undertake studies on various aspects of child labour and to sensitize different sections of population including cadres of Trade Unions, Members and Office Bearers of Civil Society Organizations, Panchayati Raj Institutions. The programme was attended by 67 participants. Dr. Kingshuk Sarkar was one of the main resource persons. Dr. Helen R. Sekar was the Course Director.

State of Child Workers in India - Mapping Trends with Special reference to Bihar: Dissemination Workshop of the VVGNLI Study

The workshop on “State of Child Workers in India: Mapping Trends with Special reference to Bihar”, was organized on 12th April 2017 at Patna, Bihar.
Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, was one of the resource persons. This Consultation was organized by PRAYAS-JAC and Human Liberty Network.

- National Consultation on **Addressing Child Labour in Communities**: Sharing Experiences from Bal Mitra Gram” organized by **Bachpan Bachao Aandolan** on 26th May 2017. The core objective of the Consultation was to strengthen local action by community groups including the children, the youth and the community at large to end child labour, promote education and create sustainable environment for children. Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, made a Presentation on “Community Participation in NCLP for Addressing Child Labour”.

- Radio programme “बच्चों की नज़र से” (through the eyes of Children) was organized by ‘Butterflies Children’s Media Centre’ by the children associated with BBC on the occasion of “World Day Against Child Labour”. It was broadcasted on 8th June 2017 (Thursday 4.30 PM) from AIR FM Rainbow India (102.6 MHz). Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Coordinator, NRCCCL at the VVGNLI, addressed the masses on the issue of Child Labour through this radio programme. This radio programme is also Webcasted.

- NRCCCL provided Technical Support in the Induction Workshop organized by GoodWeave International (GWI) at Greater Noida on 9th June 2017. Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, and the Coordinator, NRCCCL, addressed the newly recruited personnel of GoodWeave India on “Child Labour law, the recent Amendments and its Implications”. The participants were also motivated to commit themselves to ‘stop child labour in different sectors including in the making of Carpets, Ready-made-garments, Home textiles, Apparels and in the Tea industries where GoodWeave International (GWI) is presently operating in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, Kerala and Gujarat, in India. The objective is also to replicate good practices in other sectors of economy.

- NIOS Community Radio on the topic “Protecting Children from child labour in situations of conflict and Disaster” on 12th June 2017 on the World Day against Child Labour. The programme was organized by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, spoke on NIOS Community Radio FM 91.2 MHz for one hour. She educated and informed the masses/listeners of the content of Child Labour Act and its amendments in an interactive way and persuaded the community to work towards elimination of child labour for overall development of the nation and society at large. Phone in questions on the issue of child labour were also invited during this live programme.

- “World Day against Child Labour” Jointly organized by the District Administration, Gautam Budh Nagar, Labour Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, and SADRAG at Community Centre, Nithari, Noida on 12th June 2017. Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, was a Guest Speaker in the programme. The aim of this programme was to mobilize the people, especially the parents of the children to be aware of the social and economic implications of child labour and the legislative protection and provisions meant to stop Child labour.

- Stakeholders Consultation on “Focussing Issues of Preventing Employment of Children and Protection of Children in Difficult
Circumstances” held on 19th July 2017. Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, was the Guest Speaker in the Consultation and through her speech she imparted awareness on the Amendments of Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, to the officials of line Departments of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Civil Society Organizations and Corporate Sectors. The Consultation was organized by ‘My Community’ of HCL Foundation.

• Consultation on ‘Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour and Children into Bondage and Forced Labour’ on 30th August 2017. Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, made a presentation on “Amended Child Labour Law and its implications: Identifying Systematic and operational issues in implementation of the schemes”, This Consultation organized at the IIC, New Delhi, was inaugurated by the Union Labour Minister and by Smt. Sathiyavathy, Union Secretary, Labour and Employment delivered the Keynote Address.

• Training Workshop “Child Rights: Mapping of Issues and Concerns” organized by The Indian Law Institute in collaboration with Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) on 16th November 2017. Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, addressed the delegates of the on the topic “Labour Laws vis-a-vis Children”.

• National Consultation on “Child Labour and Sex Trafficking: Last Girl First” held at India International Centre, New Delhi, on 23rd November 2017. Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, addressed the CSR Representatives, Media students, and Civil Society Organisations on the topic “National and International Best Practices to Combat Child Labour”. This National Consultation was organized by Apne aap Women World-Wide.

• Workshop on “Ending Child Labour: Roundtable with Industries” on 16th December 2017 at the Noida Entrepreneurs Association Building, Noida. Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, addressed the Industries’ Representatives and Officials of Labour Department on the topic “Child Rights and Business Principles with a focus on Child Labour Elimination from the Supply Chains”. This event was jointly organized by Labour Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Unicef, and Noida Entrepreneurs Association (NEA).

• Training Workshop on “Child Labour and Bonded Labour Concepts and Data Collection Items for Monitoring” at Raipur, Chhattisgarh on 14th December 2017. Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, was invited as a resource person and she made presentations on the topics “Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 2016; PENCIL Portal”; and “National Child Labour Project: Focus on Objectives and Guidelines”. This workshop was jointly organized by the Labour Department, Government of Chhattisgarh and the ILO.
Events of National Child Labour Projects from different parts of the Country

National Child Labour Project (NCLP) District, Kamrup (Assam)

NCLP District, Ludhiana (Punjab)

“Smart Class Room Programme” initiated by Naujwan Social Cultural Welfare Society, at NCLP Ludhiana

NCLP District, Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu)
NCLP District, 24 Parganas, (West Bengal)

Rescued Child labourers are provided Education

NCLP District, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)

NCLP District, Khammam (Telangana)
NCLP District, Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu)

Sensitisation Programme for Lawyers conducted by Tirunelveli District Legal Services Authority

NCLP District, Dharmapuri (Tamil Nadu)

NCLP District, Raichur (Karnataka)

Locating and rescuing child labourers from agriculture in Raichur, Karnataka
Success Stories of NCLP Students

Sri Venkateswara Balakuteer Chetana Charitable Trust – Chowdavaram – Guntur – 522019 – A.P

1. Name of the Child
   Swamy Naik
2. Name of the Parent
   Nageswar Rao / Sriksheti
3. Caste
   Vaddana
4. Year of Joining & Class
   1999, 4th class
5. Previous Work done
   Stone cutting in quarry
6. Native Place
   Chowdavaram Quarry
7. Present Position
   Present Place

NCLP BALAHITHA SPECIAL SCHOOL
Sri Venkateswara Balakuteer Chetana Charitable Trust – Chowdavaram – Guntur – 522019 – A.P

1. Name of the Child
   M. Sai Aditi
2. Name of the Parent
   M. Sai Aditi
3. Caste
   M.C.
4. Year of Joining & Class
   2001, 1st class
5. Previous Work done
   Cotton Mill
6. Native Place
   Chowdavaram
7. Present Position
   Polytechnic 1st year
Present Place

NCLP BALAHITHA SPECIAL SCHOOL
Sri Venkateswara Balakuteer Chetana Charitable Trust – Chowdavaram – Guntur – 522019 – A.P

1. Name of the Child
   B. M. Venkata Chalapathy
2. Name of the Parent
   B. Beenu
3. Caste
   Vaddana
4. Year of Joining & Class
   1998, 8th class
5. Previous Work done
   Shadowc
6. Native Place
   Chowdavaram
7. Present Position
   B Tech. R TV S College, Chowdavaram
Present Place

NCLP BALAHITHA SPECIAL SCHOOL
Sri Venkateswara Balakuteer Chetana Charitable Trust – Chowdavaram – Guntur – 522019 – A.P

1. Name of the Child
   B. M. Venkata Chalapathy
2. Name of the Parent
   B. Beenu
3. Caste
   Vaddana
4. Year of Joining & Class
   1998, 8th class
5. Previous Work done
   Shadowc
6. Native Place
   Chowdavaram
7. Present Position
   B Tech. R TV S College, Chowdavaram
Present Place

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Sri Venkateswara Balakuteer Chetana Charitable Trust – Chowdavaram – Guntur – 522019 – A.P

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   Chowdavaram
7. Present Position
   B Tech. R TV S College, Chowdavaram
Present Place
News Clippings

Awareness Generation Programme in Jabalpur

Jabalpur. Antarrashtriya Balashram nishad divas ke utsav par kusum pratahambhaksha madhy pradesh pradeep sharma vishwakarma, onkar sharma और विभागीय संचालक निर्मल शर्मा ने उद्घा दिया. बाल श्रमिकों को बनाए रखने के लिए राजस्थान में बाल श्रमिकों के लिए स्थायी शिक्षा कार्यक्रम का समापन किया गया. 

Jabalpur, 8 June 2017

www.rajexpress.in

BRIEFS

National Child Labour Project Committee takes out candle march

Staff Reporter

NATIONAL Child Labour Project Committee members took out a candle march from Raddi Chowki to Ghantaghar Chowki to apprise general masses on Anti-Child Labour Day. The Committee members after conducting massive inspection in different parts of the city to check ground status whether child labour is working in any organisation. Members made an appeal to local factory owners, hotel, garage owners not to allow child labour, they should promote basic education among children. Officials of Labour Department, representatives of Non-Governmental Organisation, officials of Child Line, Project Officer Sarla Pandey and other concerned officials were present on the occasion.

Visit us at: www.vvgnli.gov.in
News from NCLP District Ludhiana, Punjab

News from NCLP Raichur District, Karnataka
The Juvenile Justice Act 2015 (JJA) looks at ‘rehabilitation’ of Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) in terms of their social re-integration into the mainstream society after they have been rescued from very challenging situations in life. The underlying assumption of the JJA is that children are always better off at parental homes, so they should be urgently restored back even if they have to spend some time at a childcare institution on a temporary basis. The JJA 2015 Chapter II).

The research study on which this article is based involved interaction with the residents of a non-custodial home for girls in Delhi and it has revealed that trafficked and rescued children there feel privileged to have made it to this particular childcare institution that follows a very progressive, liberating and egalitarian care model. These attributes are hardly utilized to define other childcare institutions that are mostly custodial or prison-like in nature. This article therefore focuses on sharing some of the experiences of trafficked and rescued teenage girls regarding their preference for stay at Kilkari Rainbow Home for Girls at Kashmere Gate, Delhi instead of their parental homes. It draws comparisons with the dominant view of rehabilitation of these children through eventual restoration to parents.

The concerned non-custodial, urban deprived residential hostel for girls in vulnerable situations became operational in 2008. It represents an ideal childcare model when it comes to long-term rehabilitation of children even though it faces its own set of practical challenges. The home is being run with support from the Department of School Education and Literacy and the Department of Women and Child Development. This implies that the functioning of the home and the childcare model it practices falls within the provisions of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Right to Education Act 2009 (SSA-RTE framework 2011) along with provisions of the JJA. As per the SSA-RTE framework 2011, education for rescued girls up till the age of 14 years is free, compulsory and residential facilities have been established to mainstream deprived children into regular school. The home also receives donations from like-minded individuals and organizations that believe in encouraging the non-custodial childcare model.

The girls with whom interaction was made at Kilkari were mostly former domestic helpers trafficked from Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Assam who took initiative and stepped out of very abusive work situations even though many of them secretly hoped that the police would rescue them one day. These girls are referred to ‘rescued girls’ in the article, and it is implied that these girls rescued themselves from exploitative situations and were helped by the police at a later stage. As far as their experiences at the employer’s place were concerned, there was no time to rest, no provision for adequate food or any remuneration to say the least. Most of the girls felt rather disrespected at the employer’s place and found it beneath themselves to stay on before they finally decided to escape. However, after spending a few days or weeks at the childcare institution, most of them wanted to stay back instead of getting restored to their parents, latter being a preferred choice assumed by the JJA. That was because gradually with time, the girls slowly realized the benefits of staying on in the city and in this non-custodial children home in particular compared to the disadvantages of going back to their parental homes.

The important factor of discomfort for them was that they would again get discriminated against back in their respective hometowns. Most of them complained that they faced gender discrimination at parental homes restricting them to energy-intensive household chores, caring for siblings, limited or no...
education, no recognition for work even if they toiled outside home with parents and contributed towards household income (for instance helping parents in the fields, picking coal with them, doing domestic work outside home etc.). The fact that the girls felt invisibilized, unacknowledged, manipulated and financially deprived at parental homes and at the places of labour (of course to different extents) made both these options of stay as unwise future choices for them.

While at the non-custodial home, the girls felt that they were rejuvenated and empowered, it was also reported that they were treated as intellectual human beings and not as vulnerable girls who deserved pity for their unfortunate past. Their potential was explored through various activities and their talents were encouraged. Not only were they enrolled in regular school and were provided tuition at the children’s home, they were encouraged to participate in co-curricular activities as well. Encouraged by the Children’s Home one of the girls won a medal in an international athletics competition. The home regularly raises donations for taking the girls out for educative picnics, even outdoor excursions. Inculcating values like community service, non-sectarianism, equality for all humans and so on forms an important part of the overall education system at the home.

The researcher had the opportunity to accompany the girls to one such exposure cum educational trip to Gurudwara Bangla Sahib where they were shown how everybody sat together to eat after offering *sewa* (service) to others. The deeper message imparted was the value of love, compassion and respect towards each other despite differences in caste, creed, religion, gender, physical capacities and so on. All this exposure, opportunities and facilities could be offered to the children because of the kind of childcare model that is being followed by the institution.

Overall, the idea of living in a non-custodial home till the age of eighteen years meant that the older girls were finally trusted to take responsibility for themselves even if it meant going to the nearby stationary-shop and getting some papers photocopied, or buying a pencil. This was something they had not experienced even at their parental homes because they were never allowed the freedom to travel out of their homes. In fact, most of them were pulled out of schools quite early because their parents feared that the girls might ‘get spoilt’ if they were allowed to intermingle with others outside home. Besides, the parents assumed the girls to be future homemakers so were ‘trained’ accordingly in household chores and caring tasks.

So it was for the first time that the girls felt important enough to be trusted at this childcare institution. Not only that, they felt that if there was any future for them, it was through getting the opportunity of accessing good educational facilities, quite unlikely at their parental homes. Getting adequate and nutritious food was also important to all of them, something they were not getting at their parental homes. However, the main reason why the girls preferred staying at a non-custodial home compared to their parental homes despite the provisions of JJ Act was because they came to believe that they will never have to become unpaid, abused, isolated and voiceless domestic helps again.

(*The author of this article is a PhD Scholar, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University)*
National Conference on Child Labour was held on 26th September 2017 at the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra (PBK), under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble Minister of Labour and Employment. The objective of conference was to sensitisate the State Governments, NCLP staff and other stakeholders about the amendment in Central Rules on Child and Adolescent Labour, amendment in the Schedule of Hazardous occupations, processes, and about the ratification of ILO Conventions 138 and 182. The objective was also to launch Pencil Portal and to release the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in the auspicious presence of Hon’ble Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Nobel Laureate Shri Kailash Satyarthi and State Ministers. Many other officials of Government Department, UNICEF, ILO, Civil Society Organisations also participated in this National Conference.