From the Director General’s Desk

A substantial proportion of child labour constitutes children of the poor who are the landless and from the excluded and vulnerable social groups. Due to extreme economic distress the Scheduled Tribes forego the education of their children and their resultant influx into work that are mostly low paid and involve hard labour. The Census Reports which indicate that out of all social groups the incidence of child labour was highest among Scheduled Tribes in 2011 and the incidence of child labour among Scheduled Castes was also reported to be higher as compared to other groups in 2011. The proportion of child workers in the 5 to 9 years age group increased from 14.6 percent in 2001 to 24.8 percent in 2011. While 14.2 percent of main child workers were in the 5 to 9 years age group in 2001, the numbers increased to 25.6 percent in 2011.

The younger the child and the more burdensome the work, the more obvious the incompatibility. Some problems which range from physical to psychological are cuts and bruises, bacterial infections, skin disorders, headache, vomiting and nausea due to pesticide exposures, accidents, fatigue and aching bones, burns, vision impairment, toxicity, respiratory disorders, orthopedic disorders, malnutrition and fatigue, poisoning, other ailments, back problems, allergies, chemical burns, psychological impairment, verbal and physical abuse, sexual abuse, deafness, mutilation and death, loss of limbs, depression, dehydration, malaria, diarrhea, tuberculosis, chronic cough, fatal accidents, overexertion, illnesses specific to fishermen, infections and water-borne diseases, heat stroke, arthritis and spinal problems, insect bites and ticks, nerve disorders, cuts and amputations, joint pain, back problems, mercury poisoning, musculoskeletal problems, dizziness, death due to explosions, death by floor caving in, addiction, carbon monoxide poisoning and viral infections. There should be fairness in ensuring child rights. Children may be employed for enhancing the short-term economic condition, but it is definitely adverse to the long-term sustainable economic development.

Child labour is the most violated Child rights which fall within the frame work of human rights when their rights are violated children very often feel that they have nowhere to go. Therefore, it is important to work towards providing an enabling environment to encourage children to overcome their fear and report when their rights are violated. There is also a need to create a support system for children. Better reporting is required in bringing together all the social partners and stake-holders who need to work towards creating participation across geographical regions and communities. Youth groups should be trained in providing information on employment of children in violation of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (CALPR Act). They could be encouraged for suggesting ways and means to ensure the rights of children. Correct application of law needs to be ensured with providing important focus on prevention and elimination of child labour.

Institutions whether it is school or family are created to protect the children. Since the resources are limited, the existing mechanisms and structures need to be improved and effectively utilized. There is also need for continuous public awareness as a pro-active measure. Rehabilitation of children rescued from work is extremely important and it is crucial that they are provided with accessibility to professional to help them in their psycho-social well-being. Community vigilance should be enhanced through the village child protection committees to create awareness and report cases of child labour to the concerned authorities for timely remedy. Extensive capacity building and training and orientation programmes at regular intervals for different sections of the society and anation-wide awareness generation in a campaign mode is required to create widespread awareness on the issue of child labour towards ending this social evil.
Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGNLI, and Coordinator, National Resource Centre on Child Labour (NRCCL) at the VVGNLI, contributed to the deliberations of the open house discussion on “Rising incidents of sexual violence against children” organized by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on 15th May 2018. The discussion was chaired by Honorable Justice H. L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC.

On the World Day against Child Labour this year, the Coordinator, National Resource Centre on Child Labour (NRCCL) at the VVGNLI, sensitized different sections of the population including the Community in and around Nithari Village, representatives of different Civil Society Organizations, Child Line, Officials of District Administration, Gautam Budh Nagar District, and the Officials of Labour Department, and Education Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh. This event was jointly organized by Labour Department, SADRAY and District Legal Services Authority on 12th June 2018.

Dr. Helen R. Sekar sensitized the village community at Alangulam during the “Awareness and Annual Day Programme of the Special Training Centre” on 25th May 2018. This programme was jointly organized by the National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Tirunelveli District, and St. Xavier College, Palayankottai, Tamil Nadu.

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

National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Raichur District, (Karnataka)

District-level Sports & Cultural Meet organized for the students of NCLP Special Training Centers (STCs) on 26th February 2018 at Agricultural University Campus, Raichur, Karnataka. The Programme was inaugurated by Shri M.C. Nadgouda, Member Secretary, District Legal Aid Service Authority, Raichur. Certificate and Prizes were distributed to the winners. Smt. Mangala Hegade President, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Shri. Prabhudev Patil, Member CWC, and Smt. Arati, Labour Officer, were also present to encourage the NCLP children. Shri Manjunath Reddy, Project Director, NCLP proposed the Vote of Thanks.
NCLP, Tiruchirappalli District, (Tamil Nadu)

NILA PALLI COMMUNITY LEVEL AWARENESS PROGRAMMES
On the occasion of Anti-Child Labour Day on 12th June 2018, NCLP, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu, did various activities. On 9th June 2018, Child Labour Awareness bit notice issued among the public and signature campaign done by the NCLP Project Staff in Kundrathur Bus Stand in Kundrathur Block and Chengalpattu Bus Stand in Kattankolathur Block. On 11th June 2018 Child Labour Awareness bit notice issued among the public and Signature campaign done by the NCLP Project Staff in Kannagi Nagar, St. Thomas Mount Block. Anti-Child Labour Day oath was taken by all the Government Officials in the Presence of the District Revenue Officer at Collectorate Campus, Kanchipuram on 12th June 2018. The Certificates and Mementos given by the District Revenue Officer to the 10th and 12th Students (Mainstreamed STC Children) who have scored highest marks in the public examinations. The District Revenue Officer released the Child Help Line (1098) and Hand in Hand India Child Labour Elimination Programme Awareness stickers and pamphlets. Signature Campaign against Child Labour conducted on 12th June 2018 at Gandhi Road, Kanchipuram in the presence of the Secretary / P.A. (Accts.) to Collector, National Child Labour project.
NCLP, Bankura District, West Bengal

“World Day against Child Labour – 12th June - 2018” was celebrated throughout the district in all the Blocks in the District with the involvement of the Students, Voluntary Educational/ Vocational Instructors, and other staff of the Special Training Centres (STCs) The Society was sensitized to end the social evils like the child marriage and child labour and were required to motivate and encourage the students to continue their studies and take up higher education.

NCLP, Jabalpur District, Madhya Pradesh

बच्चे के माता–पिता द्वारा सकारात्मक रूप है अपने जाकर, बच्चे को राष्ट्रीय बालश्रम परियोजनान्तर्गत संवादित विशेष प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र में दर्ज कराया गया। वर्तमान में बच्चा कक्षा आठवीं में अन्य ज्ञानीयशाला में नियमित रूप से अध्ययनरत है।

10 दिवसीय ग्रीष्मकालीन प्रशिक्षण शिखर का आयोजन दिनांक 21 से 31 मई 2018 तक किया गया।
शिविर के अंतिम दिन प्रशिक्षण के दोसान बच्चों के द्वारा तैयार किये गये सामग्री की प्रदर्शनी लगाई गयी।

प्रशिक्षण में बच्चियों को कुशल प्रशिक्षितका द्वारा खूटी पाल्तर का प्रशिक्षण प्रदान किया गया।

प्रदर्शनी का अवलोकन करते हुए संभाग जबलपुर के सहायक श्रमायुक्त महादेव
श. कन्या माध्यमिक स्कूल अंजंड जिला बड़वानी राष्ट्रीय बालश्रम परियोजना जिला बड़वानी, मध्य प्रदेश

11 वर्ष 2013 में इ।ग्य। टुल्ग़ा फोड़की फक्कु के द्वारा राष्ट्रीय बालश्रम परियोजना जिला बड़वानी के द्वारा बालश्रम विद्यालय प्रारंभ किया गया। गायबेड़ा में सर्वे के दौरान टीना व रीना दोनों बहनों का नाम लिखा गया।

दिनांक 10.04.2013 से विशेष विद्यालय में प्रवेश दिलाये जाने के बाद से वे लगतार स्कूल आने लगी। संस्था के शिक्षक समय—समय पर टीना को प्रोत्साहित करते रहे कि वह अपनी पढ़ाई जारी रखें। आखिर में टीना ने सन्त्र 2013-14 में पांचवीं कक्षा की परीक्षा दी व उत्तीर्ण हो गई। उसके बाद उसके मामा मामी को भी विश्वास हो गया कि टीना पढ़ सकती है, इसलिये उन्होंने पहल संस्था के सहयोग से उसका दाखिला शा. कन्या माध्यमिक स्कूल अंजंड में करवा दिया। इस बार टीना ने कक्षा 9वीं की परीक्षा दी है, पास होने के बाद कक्षा 10 वीं में अपना अध्ययन जारी रखेगी। उसकी यह लगन देखकर उसके मामा मामी ने उसकी बहन रीना को भी विशेष विद्यालय से ही पढ़ाई करवाई तथा वह कक्षा 8 वीं में है व उनकी छोटी बहन आशा को भी सरकारी स्कूल से पढ़ाई करवा रहे हैं। टीना के मामा का कहना है कि वह यदि इग़लिफ्की के मध्यम से, उल्ह्यीलड़ि का संचालन नहीं होता तो हम इन तीनों बहनों को शायद ही पढ़ाई करवा पाते। किन्तु तीनों बहनों पढ़ाई कर रही हैं यह देखकर हमें भी काफी खुशी हो रही है। अब हम भी हमारी भाजियों को उच्च शिक्षा दिलवायेंगे।
The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016 says that trafficking for sexual exploitation and for forced labour are the most prominently detected forms. Human trafficking earns profits of roughly $150 billion a year for traffickers (International Labour Organization Report, 2014) and the number of prosecutions of traffickers is alarmingly low - there were only 14,894 prosecutions and 9,071 convictions for trafficking globally in 2016. It is estimated that during 2002-2016, the vast majority of identified victims entered the trafficking process through labour migration, and a large share of identified child victims in 2014–2016 were sold by their families or entered the trafficking process through family or relatives.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) defines ‘child labour’ as work that ‘deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.’ It lays out that child labour includes any work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; interferes with their schooling by (a) depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, (b) obligeing them to leave school prematurely, or (c) requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. The ILO definition also highlights that ‘in its most extreme forms, child labour involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities – often at a very early age.’

According to recent estimates, there are 218 million children between 5 -17 years who are in employment all over the world; among whom, 73 million work in hazardous child labour. In India, there are 5.8 million children, between 5 - 17 years, who are working, representing the highest rate of child labour in South Asia. Reports say that while the agriculture industry has the highest number of child labourers, other industries such as the garment sector are increasingly attracting more child workers as they expand. It is reported that a number of children are trafficked and are made to work in garment sector; home-based operations;

\[1\] The Author works for ‘ARPAN’ an organization works in the area of Child Protection and Care


factories; and in cotton mills. A study by the India Committee of the Netherlands suggests that almost half a million children—the majority of them girls from Dalit (low caste) and Adivasi (tribal) families—work on cotton-seed farms. A number of children reported to have been missing from India’s remote tribal areas as the demand for domestic child labour in urban districts of the country has gone up.

**Identify vulnerabilities that results in child labour**

While dealing with the issue of child labour in India, it is important to understand the vulnerabilities that result in the occurrence of child labour. Often, it is the prevalence of several inter-sectional inequalities of caste, class, age, gender, geography, race, etc. that traps the households in existential situations that results in child being forced into different forms of work. In a recent study conducted by the author with some of the field activists from ApneAap Women Worldwide, the vulnerabilities that the children of the Sapera community in Najafgarh, Delhi were assessed. The Singhi community is mostly illiterate or low-level literates. The highest level of education among the adults is primary-school level. During the survey, which was conducted in February-June 2016, it was discovered that only six children out of approximately 60 Singhi children attended school (and that too at the primary-level). Other children in the community worked and contributed to the family income either as rag pickers or as cobblers. The six children who attended school were very irregular: The prime reason behind their absence being children start work as early as eight or nine years of age in this community. The boys around the age of thirteen do not go to school as they are busy being groomed as cobbler. None of the children in the community has reached senior secondary level education. The parents, due to poverty and a lack of appreciation for education, do not encourage their children to go to school. They raise questions -‘What will they do with education’, ‘nobody in our community has ever got a job in a government or a private office, who will give our children jobs?’ They see no merit in education and not able to imagine what benefits education can bring to their children and their communities. The feel that the time spent by children in school is a waste and they can be better off contributing to the family-earnings.

The Singhis are in the list of De-notified Tribes (DNT). The DNTs were earlier branded as hereditary criminals by a series of Acts under the British Administration since 1871. Another DNT community the Sapera, live in Najafgarh with similar challenges. Most of the Sapera families are semi-nomadic. They move from one place to another in search of earning opportunities. They move to a place, select a desolate location and set up their makeshift jhuggis. They live in these places for a month or two depending on the money they earn and then move to a different place. The Sapera boys contribute to the family income by helping their fathers and uncles; hence, do not go to school. They earn their livelihood by playing drums at weddings, religious ceremonies and festivals, and by exhibiting their snakes and monkeys. Since the income from these activities is irregular, they take loans from the local Money Lenders and end up in debt traps. They do not possess the documents needed for availing bank loans and therefore not able to approach formal
Institutions. They approach Upper Caste Money Lenders for availing loans who normally lend money at 10% interest rate. Because of lack of education, and therefore not being able to read or write, those who belong to the *Sapera* community, keep paying money for many years not knowing whether they have returned the whole amount. If they don’t pay, the Money Lenders send goons to threaten them.

Children at times trafficked into domestic work. Years later when they realize that they had been sold, they are extremely hurt and in tears. It was known from the interaction with these children that their life has been tough and most of the days they work from six in the morning until midnight cooking meals, cleaning the house of the employer, taking care of their children and massaging the legs of employers before going to bed, and many other errands. They are scolded for any lapse in carrying out the work assigned.”

It was also reported that some of the parents do not report the case of their missing children to the police due to fear of police and mistrust on the system.

**Child labour is Preventable**

As it is evident from the cases cited above, children from marginalized communities or lower castes are more likely to drop out of school to work. Child labour is preventable through concerted efforts from stakeholders across all sectors. There is a need for proper implementation of existing laws to prosecute recruiters and employers of child labour and there is a need to invest in the prevention of trafficking of children for labour. There should be vulnerability mapping of areas where marginalized communities live and the government should invest in building strong education systems in those areas that take into account both formal and non-formal schooling of children from these communities. These children should be linked to scholarships so that could be an incentive to their families for sending them to school. It is also important that these communities are imparted skills training, and it is equally important to link them and their skills to the market.

In the end, as we think of strategies to combat child trafficking for labour, we need to keep the definition of human trafficking in mind as laid out by the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. It says that trafficking in persons “shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

And it has to be remembered that the consent of a victim of trafficking (child or adult) shall be irrelevant.17

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15 Ibid.


News on the Events organized by the NCLPs
13.06.2018

தமிழ் மாணவர்களின்
ஏடுகையை நவீனிக்கும்

தமிழ் மாணவர்களின் ஏடுகையை நவீனிக்கும்

தமிழ் மாணவர்களின் ஏடுகையை நவீனிக்கும்

தமிழ் மாணவர்களின் ஏடுகையை நவீனிக்கும்
News on the Events organized by the NCLP, Jabalpur District, Madhya Pradesh

Child Labour Prohibition Week commences

The week-long campaign was launched on 12th June 2018 by Child Protection Officer, JNV Jabalpur. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about child labor and its consequences. The event was attended by various officials and representatives from different organizations. The campaign included various activities such as workshops, seminars, and awareness programs to educate the community about the issue. The campaign continued until 18th June 2018.

Child Labour Prohibition Week

The Child Labour Prohibition Act, 1986, was enacted to prevent the exploitation of children in the workforce. The act prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in hazardous or prohibited employment. The act also provides for the rehabilitation of children already employed in hazardous or prohibited employment.

Holi, Karva Chauth, and other events

The NCLP organized various events to raise awareness about child labor. The events included the celebration of Holi, Karva Chauth, and other traditional festivals. These events were organized to create a positive atmosphere and to promote the message ofchild labor.

The NCLP

The National Child Labour Project (NCLP) is a government initiative that works to prevent child labor and protect the rights of children. The NCLP works in collaboration with various government and non-government organizations to implement policies and programs that aim to eradicate child labor.

References

1. Child Labour Prohibition Act, 1986
2. National Child Labour Project (NCLP)
3. The Hindu

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National Child Labour Project, Jalna District, Maharashtra

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C H I L D   H O P E

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National Child Labour Project, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu
News Clippings on National Child Labour Projects

From vat & tea stall, boys spin success

GUWAHATI: From garbage vat and tea stalls to first division in High School Leaving Examination — the stories of child labourers Bitumoni Das and Ravi Peddar are stirring examples of what support and determination can do.

Bitumoni, son of a bus conductor, used to pick plastic bottles from dustbins to help his family make ends meet. We first saw him in 2013 at Maligaon, where he was collecting plastic bottles from a dustbin. We observed him for a while. He was very polite and obedient. We admitted him to the Centre for Education of Child Labour under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP). In 2013, we admitted him to Pandei Aarathi High School. It was hard work, but he continued his studies despite economic constraints. He went to school in the morning and then worked as a waiter in a tea shop. Our help and his parents’ support helped him earn merit.

Ravi’s family was also very poor. He used to work in a tea stall to support his studies. He also helped his father who earns his living by repairing things. He set his sights on the first division mark in the HSLC exam.

Avas Foundation, an NGO working under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP), supported Bitumoni under NCLP Class VI. From Class VI, Avas supported his education but he worked part-time in a tea shop to support his studies. The Centre for Education of Child Labour under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) supported Bitumoni under NCLP Class V.

We hope God will help him fulfill his aim to study.

Bitumoni Das, Ravi Peddar

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News Paper Clippings
Volume 7 No. 1 January to March issue of the Newsletter “Child Hope” was released by Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, and Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Hon’ble Minister of State for Labour & Employment (Independent Charge) during the International Labour Day celebrations. This event was organized by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, on 1st May 2018 at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi. During the release of this issue of Newsletter the dignitaries, delegates and the participants were informed that the “Child Hope” is a quarterly Newsletter is an initiative of the Ministry of Labour & Employment and is published by its autonomous body the V. V. Giri National Labour Institute. It was also informed that the first issue of “Child Hope” was published in the year 2010. This Newsletter documents the success stories and best practices of the Special Training Centres and the National Child Labour Project Societies for dissemination and replicability among the NCLP Districts across the country. “Child Hope” covers a range of issues relating to Child Labour with the purpose of generating awareness and sensitizing different sections of population towards progressive elimination of child labour. The objective of this Newsletter is also to create collective memory bank and knowledge-base that is accessible and helpful to different social partners and stakeholders who are striving to end child labour.