

CHILD HOPE

Newsletter on Child Labour

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From the Director General's Desk



The World Day Against Child Labour, observed annually on June 12th, holds immense significance as it serves as a global call to action to eliminate child labour and protect the rights of children. The day was established by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002 to raise awareness about the prevalence of child labour and to promote initiatives that combat this issue worldwide. The World Day Against Child Labour provides an opportunity to increase awareness among the general public, governments, and organizations about the harsh realities of child labour. By shedding light on the issue, it encourages people to take a stand against child labour and supports efforts to eradicate it. This year, the event was observed by the VV Giri National Labour Institute, in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation, at its campus in Noida on 12 June 2023. Discussions over social justice and its importance in ending child labour took place among various stakeholders. The theme of the event was 'Social Justice for All, End Child Labour.' The event played a crucial role in fostering a discussion over the need for a collective commitment to protect the rights of children, ensuring their well-being, and building more just and equitable conditions for them. Discussions took place over the need for a convergent action to end child labour and insure social justice. Delegates from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Labour, the International Labour Organisation, Central Trade Unions, NGOs, Research Organisations, etc. participated in the event.

Child labour violates the fundamental rights of children, including the right to education, health, and a safe environment. The day emphasizes the importance of protecting children from exploitation and ensuring they have access to quality education, healthcare, and a nurturing environment. Child labour is a complex and global issue that affects millions of children worldwide. The World Day Against Child Labour fosters international cooperation and collaboration among governments, organizations, and individuals to tackle child labour on a global scale.

The day acts as a catalyst for the formulation and implementation of stricter laws and policies aimed at eliminating child labour. It puts pressure on governments to take concrete actions to protect children from exploitation and ensure their well-being. In many cases, child labour is a result of poverty and lack of opportunities in marginalized communities. The day's significance lies in highlighting the need to address underlying socio-economic issues and provide support to vulnerable families to prevent children from engaging in hazardous work. Education is a powerful tool in breaking the cycle of child labour. The day advocates for accessible and quality education for all children, promoting their empowerment and giving them better prospects for the future. The day encourages businesses to take responsibility for their supply chains and ensure that child labour is not a part of their operations. It promotes ethical business practices and encourages companies to support initiatives that combat child labour. Eradicating child labour is linked to several Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and Goal 16 (Promotion of Social Justice, Peaceful and Inclusive Societies). The World Day Against Child Labour reinforces the importance of addressing child labour in achieving these global goals.

India is abided to follow the internationally agreed norms for eliminating child labour. It has been listed among the worst forms of employment and is an incognizable offense. The two major ILO conventions concerning child labour i.e., Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) and Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (No.182) have been ratified by India. The measures which are taken by India (by different ministries and departments) for eradication of child labour would improve India's status in SDG Goal 16 and SDG Target 8.7 (related to eradicating forced labour, ending modern slavery and human trafficking and securing the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour).

Major Activities of the National Resource Centre on Child Labour Capacity Building Programme on Identification, Rescue, Rehabilitation of Bonded Laborers and Prosecution of Offenders (10 – 12 January 2023)

The programme aims to equip the participants with knowledge and skills for effective Identification, release and immediate rehabilitation (Critical Crisis Period) of Bonded Labourers. The specific objectives of the programme were to (i) strengthen knowledge and skills for identification of bonded labourers (surveys, enquiry etc.); (ii) understand new forms of bonded labour and ways to tackle it; (iii) impart knowledge on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Identification and Rescue of Child Labour, Bonded Labour and Prosecution of Offender; (iv) understand the linkage between human trafficking and bonded labour; (v) discuss the importance of effective and timely rehabilitation during the Critical Crisis Period after

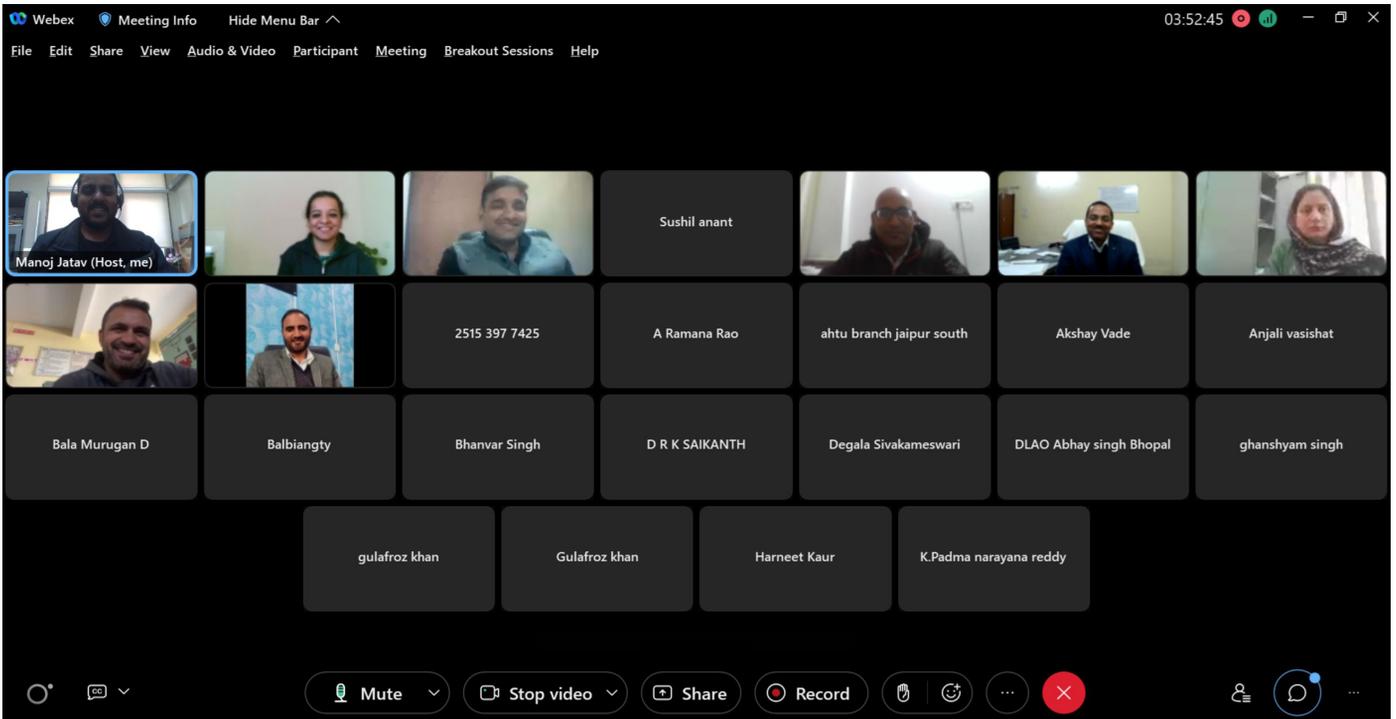


a bonded labourer is rescued; (vi) learn about the role of statutory and law enforcement bodies (Police, Labour Department, Vigilance Committees, District Magistrates) from identification to immediate rehabilitation. The programme was attended by sixty-four participants. Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, was the Course Director.

Training of Trainers Programme on Identification, Rescue, Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour and Child Labour (01 – 03 February 2023)

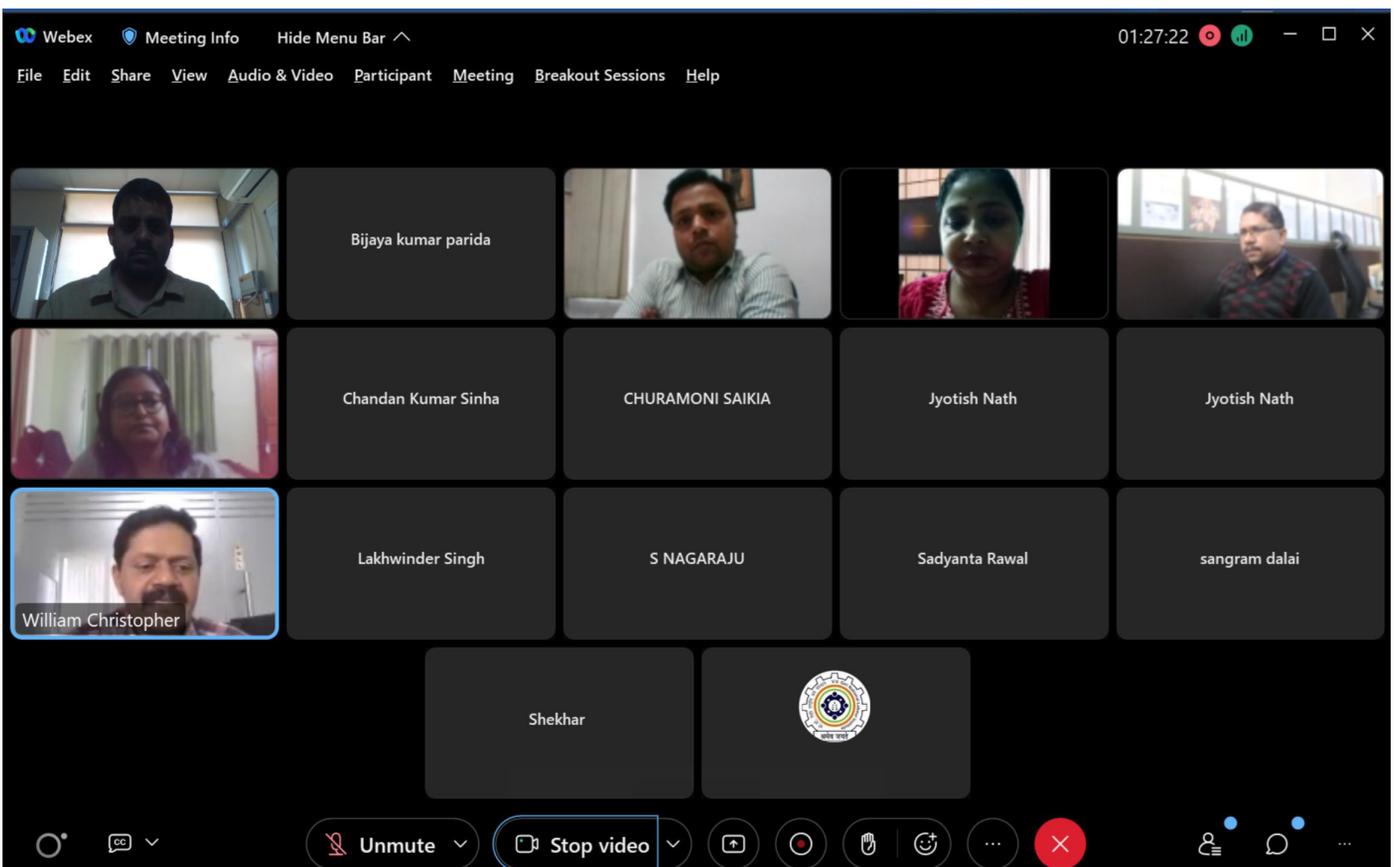
The programme aims to equip the participants with skills and knowledge for effective Identification, Release and immediate rehabilitation (Critical Crisis Period) of bonded labourers. The objectives of the programme were to (i) develop an understanding of the legal and policy framework on bonded labour, child labour and trafficking for labour in India; (ii) develop an understanding of various policies, including SOPs, action

plans, and schemes on the subjects mentioned; (iii) learn about the role of statutory and law enforcement bodies (Police, Labour Department, Vigilance Committees, District Magistrates) from identification to immediate rehabilitation, (iv) present and discuss relevant literature on the subjects. The programme was attended by sixty-one participants. Dr. Manoj Jatav, Associate Fellow, was the Course Director.



Training of Trainers Programme on Identification, Rescue, Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour and Child Labour and Prosecution of Offenders (27 February – 01 March 2023)

The programme aims to equip the participants with skills and knowledge for effective Identification, Release and immediate rehabilitation (Critical Crisis Period) of bonded labourers. The objectives of the



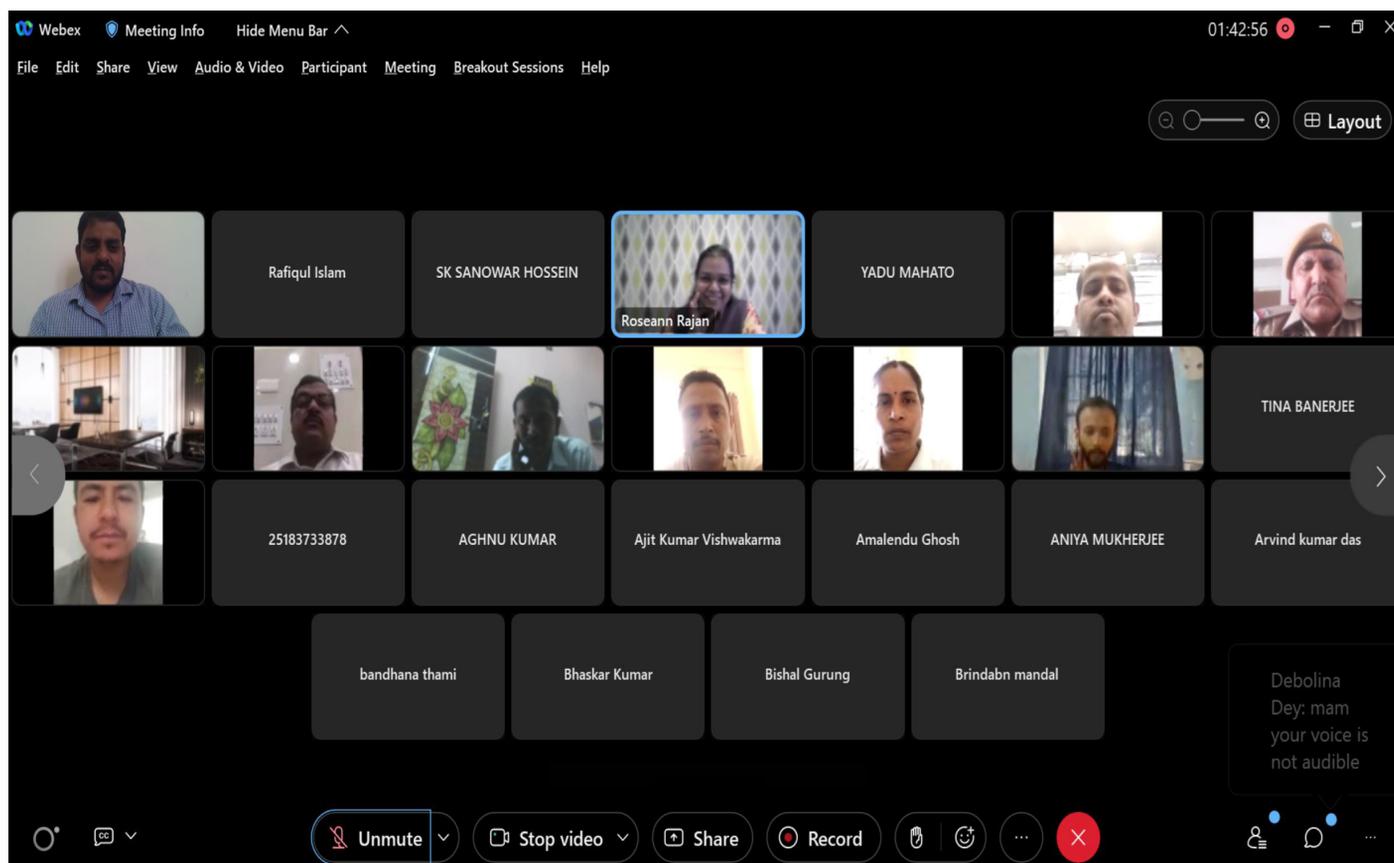
programme were to (i) develop an understanding of the legal and policy framework on bonded labour, child labour and trafficking for labour in India; (ii) develop an understanding of various policies, including SOPs, Action plans, and schemes on the subjects mentioned; (iii) learn about the role of statutory and law enforcement bodies (Police, Labour Department, Vigilance Committees, District

Magistrates) from identification to immediate rehabilitation; (iv) present and discuss relevant literature on the subjects; (v) discuss the prevalence of this problem and steps taken by government and NGOs to address this in the last few decades. The programme was attended by forty-four participants. Dr. Manoj Jatav, Associate Fellow, was the Course Director.

Sensitization Programme on Child Labour and Bonded Labour (22 – 24 March 2023)

The programme aims to equip the participants with knowledge on bonded labour, child labour and labour trafficking and to impart skills for effective prosecution of child labour, bonded labour and labour trafficking cases. The objectives of the programme were to (i) understand different forms of child labour and bonded labour and ways to tackle, (ii) understand the linkage between human trafficking, child labour and bonded labour, and (iii)

provide a brief introduction to SOPs and policies in relation to addressing bonded labour and the role of Statutory and Law Enforcement bodies (Police, Labour Department, Vigilance Committees, District Magistrates) from identification to immediate rehabilitation Essential documents in a charge sheet and trial. The programme was attended by Dr. Manoj Jatav, Associate Fellow, coordinated the programme.



Identification, Rescue, Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour and Child Labour Prosecution of Offenders (29 May – 02 June 2023)

The programme aims to equip the participants with knowledge and skills for effective Identification, release and immediate rehabilitation of bonded labour and child labour. The objectives of the programme were to (i) strengthen knowledge and skills for the Identification of bonded labour and child labour, (ii) impart knowledge on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Identification and Rescue of Bonded Labourer and child labour, (iii) understand the ways of effective investigation in bonded labour and labour trafficking



cases and Prosecution of Offender, (iv) discuss the importance of effective and timely filing of FIR, strong evidence collection and arrest of perpetrator and protection of victims, and (v) to understand the linkage between human trafficking and bonded labour and also the role of Statutory and Law Enforcement bodies. The programme was attended by . Dr. Manoj Jatav, Associate Fellow, coordinated the programme.

The World Day against Child Labour (12 June 2023)

The World Day against Child Labour was observed by the VV Giri National Labour Institute, in cooperation with the International Labour Institute, at its campus in Noida. Ending child labour and ensuring social justice are important and interconnected goals that require concerted efforts at both local and global levels. Ending child labour and ensuring social justice requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach involving governments, businesses, communities, and individuals. By working together towards these goals, we can create a world where all children are protected, educated,

and provided with equal opportunities to thrive. In the event, the need for a convergent action to end child labour and ensure social justice was highlighted by the delegates from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Labour, the International Labour Organisation, Central Trade Unions, NGOs, Research Organisations, etc. Dr Manoj Jatav, Coordinator of the National Resource Centre for Child Labour, VVG NLI, coordinated the event. Mr Satoshi Sasaki, Deputy Director, ILO India In-charge, along with Dr. Arvind, DG, VVG NLI, chaired the event.





The Importance of Training of Trainers (ToT) for Ending Child Labour and Abolishing Bonded Labour

Manoj Jatav

The training of trainers (ToT) is of utmost importance in the efforts to end child labour and bonded labour. Child labour and bonded labour is a complex and deeply-rooted issue that requires a comprehensive approach involving various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses, communities, and individuals. Training of trainers is a key strategy to build capacity and expertise among professionals who will then disseminate knowledge, skills, and best practices to a broader audience. The VV Giri National Labour Institute, through its National Resource Centre on Child Labour, also conducts ToT programmes (both offline and online) on child and bonded labour every year.

ToT programmes help trainers gain in-depth knowledge and understanding of the complexities surrounding child labour and bonded labour, including their causes, consequences, and the legal frameworks in place to address the same. The trainers become aware of the vulnerabilities faced by children/ bonded labourers, the sectors where child labour/ bonded labour is prevalent, and the specific challenges in different contexts. Trainers who undergo specialized training are equipped with evidence-based strategies and effective interventions that have proven successful in combating child labour and bonded labour. They learn about prevention measures, rescue and rehabilitation of child and bonded labourers, and alternatives to such worst forms of engagements, such as access to education and skill development opportunities.

ToT programmes enhance the capacity of individuals and organizations to plan, implement, and evaluate initiatives targeted at ending child labour and abolishing bonded labour systems. Trainers can identify gaps in existing programmes and develop

tailor-made solutions to suit the local context. When trainers are well-equipped and empowered, they can train a larger number of people, including policymakers, frontline workers, community leaders, teachers, and parents. This creates a multiplier effect, increasing the number of individuals and organizations actively working towards ending child labour and bonded labour system.

By training local trainers, the knowledge and expertise to combat child and bonded labour system are sustained within the community. These trainers can continue their work even after the completion of specific projects or programmes, ensuring that the fight against child labour continues in the long term. In addition, ToT programmes often bring together professionals and stakeholders from various sectors and backgrounds. This fosters collaboration and coordination among different agencies and organizations, enabling them to plan for an effective convergent action, and thereby leading to a more holistic and coordinated approach to addressing child labour and bonded labour system.

Well-trained trainers can effectively advocate for policy changes and better enforcement of existing laws related to child labour. They can also raise awareness about the issue at local, national, and international levels, encouraging governments and international bodies to take more robust actions. ToT programmes play a pivotal role in ending child labour and bonded labour system by spreading knowledge, fostering collaboration, and building the capacity of individuals and organizations to combat this grave violation of children's/ human rights. Through these efforts, we can work towards creating a world where every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.