Case Studies of Child Labourers (dead and Living) in Hotel and Domestic Sectors

Compiled By:

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This is one of the annexures of the Memorandum submitted by CACL to the Government of India to include the hotel and domestic sectors in CLPRA, 1986.

Contents

Hotel Sector

Hotel Sector

Death

Name	: Shiva Murugan
Sex	: Male
Age	: 8 years
Occupation	: Child Labourer in Hotel Sector
State	: Maharashtra
Died on	: 29th June 1993

Facts

Eight year old Shivamurugan was beaten and scorched to death on 29th June 1993, who was working as a child labourer in a hotel at Wani, Yeotmal District of Maharashtra.

Ganesh Rajput, a sweet vendor from Madurai in Tamil Nadu brought orphaned Shiva, his brother Raja (10 years), Rajesh (13 years), Mukesh (13 years) and Muniyandi (15 years) from neighbouring villages for sums ranging from Rs.500-1500. Shiva and his brother Raja were brought to Wani approximately a month before Shiva's murder, from their paternal uncle who was paid a sum of Rs.1500. The boys were made to prepare various snacks in Ganesh Rajput's two roomed poorly ventilated, dingy kaccha house, to be sold later in the local market. Their long day began at 3 am and ended at 11 pm. They were poorly fed and provided with a set of clothing. They were not allowed to talk to the neighbours or make friends.

The employer continuously harassed and tortured the children. They were beaten with hot iron rods, wooden sticks and sometimes, boiling water was poured on their feet. Unable to withstand the constant abuse and harassment, little Shiva attempted to escape on 29th July morning. However he was caught at the Bus Stop and dragged back to the hotel by the employer. Shiva was beaten with thick cable wires, rubber petrol pipes, cycle tubes, wooden rods and hot iron rods. Ganesh dragged Shiva to the bathroom and asked his brother Raja to wash him. When Shiva could not stand straight, he hit him with a brick on the head. As a result, Shivamurugan died.

A case has been booked against the employer and a few others under sections 302 and 34 of IPC.

Death

Name	:	Budhan Bhuiyan
Sex	:	Male
Age	:	11 years
Occupation	:	Child Labourer in a hotel, Daltonganj
State	:	Jharkhand

Facts

11 year old Budhan was working in Hotel Badal, Daltonganj, part of the then Bihar. His mother and elder sister were rag pickers in the same area. His father had expired three years before his death. After that his mother got married to Sukan Bhuiyan. The family does not have any land or even a house. Budhan went to work to earn to supplement to the income of the poor family. His daily wage was Rs.20/-. He was also studying in a school run by "Sampurna Gram Vikas Kendra", a member organisation of CACL.

In the first week of February, 2000, Budhan left the job as he was not paid the wages for the past five months. On 7th February, he was called by the employer Ranjith Ram and his family members to the hotel. None of the Bhuiyan family was there at home when he was taken to the hotel. Budhan went with them hoping that he would get his pending payment. He was forcefully made to drink liquor for four days continuously and the employer's family members battered him ruthlessly with iron rods. He was not given anything to eat or drink for all these days. He was thrown outside the hotel on 10th February.

His legs were broken and he was badly injured. He told his mother who rushed to the spot by hearing the news that he was beaten up by the employer and his family members. Budhan was taken immediately to the Sadar hospital and Bhuiyan family filed a complaint in Daltonganj police station. The wounds inflicted were too severe to bear for the boy. He succumbed to the injuries on 12th February.

Death

Name	:	Balaraj
Sex	:	Male
Age	:	13 years
Date of Birth	:	2-6-1988
Address	:	S/o Rangappa, Near APMC Market, Korachara Beedi, Bellary.
Occupation	:	Child Labourer in Hotel Sree Rama Garden Restaurant, Bellary.
Died on	:	31st December, 2000
State	:	Karnataka

Facts

Balaraj, was second son of cooli parents who migrated to Bellary from Andhra Pradesh a few years back. He was sent to work in the hotel for a meagre amount. The boy used to work for 17 hours a day, cleaning utensils, bringing alcohol from nearby bar for the customers etc.

On 31st December 2000, Balaraj alias Balaram found dead under mysterious circumstances. On the day of the incident, the boy was sent to bring call girls for the customers as part of the new year celebration. He refused to do that job. The owner got angry and started to beat and hit the boy at his sensitive parts. As a result, the boy died. CACL-K members have identified blood clots near the ear, burn marks on the neck and below the abdomen of the boy's body. It was clear that the boy was strangulated and tortured to death.

The employer, Anup who happened to be the nephew of the Minister for Rural Development in Karnataka, Mr. Divakar Babu, came out with a story the Balaraj was dead of snake bite.

The case was registered under Sec.302 IPC and the investigation has been going on, despite there are efforts to thwart the investigation process.

Death

Name	:	Ramu Somu Kokare
Sex	:	Male
Age	:	13 years
Sex	:	Male
Occupation	:	Child Labour in Tea Shop
Murdered on	:	24th July, 2000
State	:	Karnataka

Facts

Ramu Mohammed bin Yakub Ahmed had employed this child in his tea shop at Haliyala Cross near Yellapura.

Master Ramusomu's parents were coolies and abject poverty forced them to send their child for work. Ramusomu was killed by a relative of the employer and buried in a jungle nearby. The relative beheaded the boy and buried the head and body separately. The body was found after three days of the incident when locals went to the jungle for collecting shrubs and firewood.

Ramusomu had seen the theft committed by the relative of Yakub Ahmed from the teashop. The relative cautioned the boy not to tell Yakub Ahmed about the theft. On 24th July 2000, he took the boy to a jungle nearby and chopped his head.

The relative was arrested by the police under Section 302 of IPC. But the employer was not arrested. The accused managed to get bail. The case is in the criminal court of Karwar.

Death

Name	:	Ravi Naika
Sex	:	Male
Age	:	11 years
Occupation	:	Child Labourer in a Hotel at Tharikere
Died on	:	19th July 1999
State	:	Karnataka

Facts

Ravi Naika was a 11 year-old boy working in a Bar & Restaurant in Tarikere of Chikmagalur district. He had been sent to work in the bar just two weeks before his tragic death on 19th July 1999.

Ravi was sent to deliver brandy for some customers by the employer. While coming back on bicycle, a lorry hit him and ran over him.

CACL-K visited the place and demanded action against the lorry owner and the hotel owner.

Harassment and Accident

Name of the Child	:	Pappu Kumar Paswan
Sex	:	Male
Age	:	13 years
Father's name	:	Ram Vilas Paswan
Occupation	:	Child Labourer in a hotel in Delhi
Address	:	Mahpatia Village Post Madhepur, Via Madhepur District Madhubani
State	:	Bihar

Facts

Once, Uday Pandit, a native of his village, living and running a hotel at Mayapuri in New Delhi came to the village. He was badly in need of a helper in his hotel. He talked to Pappu secretly and told him 'You are spoiling yourself in the village'. He further told him that he will give him Rs.1,000/- per month if he works with him in the hotel in Delhi. Pappu agreed and left for Delhi in June 2001even without informing his parents.

Pandit taught him how to cook food. Later on, he started working in the hotel. Everyday he had to walk from Kirtinagar to Mayapuri at least four times.

Two brother-in-laws named Moti Pandit and Ramesh Pandit were running a tea shop at Kirtinagar. Pappu was directed to work from 5.00 am to 6.00 pm at Mayapuri Hotel and then again from 7.00 pm to about 12.00 midnight or 1.00 am at the tea shop at Kirtinagar. Pappu used to sleep only for three to four hours. When Pappu started disobeying Uday Pandit, he got furious.He used to abuse the child and slap him. When asked to give the salary, Uday Pandit told him that the money would be given to his father.

One day in July 2001, while coming back from market, he met with a scooter accident, fracturing his leg. A girl who knew him, saw the accident and took him in her Maruti car to the hospital. Meanwhile, the scooterist gave Rs.16,000/- under the pressure of the crowd to Uday Pandit as compensation as he claimed to be the uncle of Pappu. After one month of treatment, Pappu joined the hotel with his broken leg. He became handicapped. No compensation has been given to Pappu. Knowing the sorry plight of his son, father came to Mayapuri to take him back to his village. On 30th December, 2001a FIR has been filed at Madhubani.

Abuse and Harassment

Name	:	Raju
Sex	:	Male
Age	:	10 years
Occupation	:	Child Labourer in a hotel
State	:	Andhra Pradesh

Facts

Raju was the bright and talented eldest son of Manja, a carpenter from Basrur, Kundapur Taluk of Coastal Karnataka. His mother does coolie work at the construction sites and also works as agricultural labourer. Unable to afford his studies after fourth standard, Manja decided to send his son to work in a hotel in Hyderabad through a hotel broker who recruited children from the area. The broker offered Rs.500 for Raju. Besides a couple of letters during the first month, there was no news from Raju. Manja began to worry about his son. Finally he made the journey to Hyderabad. When he finally located the hotel, he found his son with no clothes on except his underwear.

Raju was facing abuse and harassment in the hotel by the employer. He was underfed. He was beaten up sometimes and not provided enough rest hours.

After a lot of haggling and threats, the owner finally gave the boys Rs.500 as the wages for 21 months. Manja took his son back home.

Assault

Name	: Sambaiah alias Sambi
Sex	: Male
Age	: 10 years
Occupation	: Child Labourer in Hotel
State	: Andhra Pradesh

Facts

Sambi, a street boy of only 10 years of age, was forcefully picked up from the Vijayawada Railway Station by Amalodbhvavi motel agents to workd in their motel near Ibrahimpatnam Commercial Check Post. At the motel, the owner and his people were always on the watch so that Sambi would not escape. The boy was never paid any money. On May 19, 1997, the brother of the motel owner beat him up with a piece of firewood for eating raw rice from the bags kept in the tractor parked in the Motel premises. When Sambi tried to run away, he was caught them again. They took him to the room where he was severely beaten up and his left hand was twisted mercilessly causing injury. Traumatised and writhing in pain, the boy reached Navajeevan Balahbhavan where he slowly recovered.

The Ibrahimpatnam police registered a complaint against the Motel owner.

Abuse and Corporal Punishment

Name	: Santhosh
Sex	: Male
Age	: 10 years
Occupation	: Child Labourer in a hostel
State	: Delhi

Facts

Santosh, a 10 year old boy was the eldest among four brothers and a sister in an agricultural family. His father could not earn so much more than Rs.30 per day as their land was mortgaged for loans. During these days of partial starvation, his uncle came from Delhi and asked Santhosh's mother to send him to Delhi where he would educate him and make his life better. His mother hoped for the best for her child.

Initially, Santhosh started working in a grocery shop where his day started at 6 o' clock and ended by 10-11'o clock. Besides, he had to work in the shop owner's house too. He was given a small piece of sack to sleep and coarse meal twice a day. Whenever his tiny hands got tired while working for hours, the employer's wife would beat him up with stick. He could not tolerate the beating and abuse, he went back to his uncle.

Uncle took him to another man who was running a working women's hostel. The employer found Santhosh most suitable for his household work as well as for the work in the hostel. Santhosh used to start his work at 6 o' clock in the morning with sweeping, cleaning, dusting and scrubbing of the double storied hostel building. Besides, his job was to wash utensils in the employer's house too. He never got 'wages' for his work. One day he came to know that his uncle had taken one thousand rupees from the employer to mortgage him.

He was abused for silly mistakes. One day Santhosh's employer crossed the heights of inhumanity, when one crockery slipped from Santhosh's hands. He was beaten up and the employer's wife branded him with hot iron clamp. His hand still bears a scar of burn. On 6th August, 1998, SAACS activists, Delhi administration and police rescued him in a raid.

Domestic Sector

Forced Labour

Name	:	**Rupa Naik**
sex	:	**Female**
Age	:	**12 years**
Education	:	**Class 4**
Residence	:	**Gaudewada, Tal: Joida, Dist: North Kanara, Karnataka.**
Occupation	:	**Child labour in a house at Margo**
State	:	**Goa**

Facts

Upto 1985 the family was settled in Goa. The father was working as a driver on a mine. When mine closed down the family moved to the present location. The father is paralysed since 1994, due to an accident. The mother does odd jobs and earns about Rs.500 a month. Work is not available for more than 15-20 days in a month. With difficulty manage two meals a day. Usually rice gruel (pez) and curry. Occassionally dal. Fish about once a month, and mutton about once in 3-4 months. Live in a mud house with two rooms. Considerable expenditure on medicines for father. Absence of alternate sources of income is the sole reason for Rups to leave school and take up work in Goa.

Rupa working in Goa for last two years. Was working in another house before she took up work with the current family. In the earlier job she was paid Rs.400. Higher salary the only reason for leaving the earlier job. Got this job through a person from the same village staying in Calangute, Goa. Salary: Rs.500. When the mother visits her in Goa, she is paid two way fare and about Rs.150-200 as goodwill. She is also given some old clothes. Her work included washing utensils, washing clothes, swabbing floor and looking after the children. No harassment. Rupa is treated as "part of the family".

Death

Name	: Jyothi
Sex	: Female
Age	: 13 years
Occupation	: Domestic Servant at Mysore
Died on	: 26th November 1997
Occupation of parents	: daily wage labourers
Employers	: Dr. Ganapati, Senior Doctor & Health Officer, Mysore District and Mrs. Latha, Stenographer for the Superintendent of Police, Mysore
State	: Karnataka

Facts

On 26th November 1997, Kum. Jyothi's body was found hanging at her employer's house. She was working as a housemaid for one-and-a-half years and she was paid a meagre sum of Rs. 100/- per month.

The employers who are working in the police and health department made attempts to cremate the body at the electric crematorium after getting the postmortem done in a hurry. CACL - K intervened in the case in time, stalled the cremation and brought back the body for second postmortem to find out the cause of the death.

After second postmortem, the body was taken in a procession to the Deputy Commissioner's office in Mysore. A few demands were raised in the Dharna.

The demands were accepted by the DC and after repeated agitation's the employers agreed to pay the back wages of Rs. 30,000/- to the mother of the victim.

Later, a COD enquiry was ordered and after four years, Commissioner of Police, Mysore said that the report says it was suicide.

Death

Name	:	Padma
Sex	:	Female
Age	:	11 years
Occupation	:	Domestic Child Labourer at Jalahalli, Bangalore.
Died on	:	28th April 1998
Occupation of parents	:	Daily wage labourers
State	:	Karnataka

Facts

Kum. Padma, a domestic servant died of 3rd degree burns on 28th April 1998. She was working in the house of a corporator of Bangalore Corporation.

She was accused of stealing jewellery from the house where she worked. She was brutally beaten up to extract the truth. Her parents also were tortured. As per the FIR field, she committed suicide by setting herself ablaze after dousing kerosene.

Patents and neighbours confirmed that she was subjected to severe torture by the employer. The neighbors suspected that the lady of the house must have killed her and in order to twist the case from murder to suicide, she had burnt the body of the girl.

The case is still in the court in Bangalore.

Death

Name	:	**Mamatha**
Sex	:	**Female**
Age	:	**12 years**
Occupation	:	**House maid in Kodagu**
Place	:	**Coorg**
Died in	:	**June 1998**
Occupation of parents	:	**Daily wage labourers in Mysore**
State	:	**Karnataka**

Facts

Kum. Mamatha was a domestic servant working in the house of a coffee planter in Kodagu district.

She was killed by gunshot in June 1998, which was considered to be an accident. According to police version, the accident took place when the watchman was cleaning the owner's rifle. He pressed the trigger thinking that the rifle was empty. The bullet smashed Mamatha's head, who was preparing to go to bed after finishing the day long work.

But it was suspected to be a planned murder. Unfortunately, the whole issue took a political turn and efforts were made to close the case. The employer agreed for a compromise and paid Rs. 40,000/- to Mamatha's mother. The case against the watchman is still pending in the court.

Death

Name	:	**Shobha**
Sex	:	**Female**
Age	:	**13 years**
Occupation	:	**Domestic Child Labour at Bangalore**
Died on	:	**19th April, 1999**
State	:	**Karnataka**

Facts

On 19th April 1999, the dead body of Kum. Shobha was found in a water tank at her employer's house in Chandra Layout of Bangalore. The Police had concluded that it was an accidental death.

CACL constituted a fact finding team to enquire into the case. CACL demanded a proper inquiry into her incident and the that employers should be prosecuted under appropriate laws for employing a minor girl. Till date, the investigations have not revealed anything.

Death

Name	:	**Geetha Ganapathy Gowda**
Age	:	**12 years**
Occupation	:	**Domestic servant at Karwar**
Died on	:	**24th May, 1999**
Occupation of parents	:	**Daily wage earners**
Employers	:	**Mr. Somnath Kamath, Engineer in BILT factory & Mrs. Sudha Kamath, employee of State Bank of India**
State	:	**Karnataka**

Facts

Kum. Geetha was working as a house maid of Mr. Somanath Kamath (employee of Ballarpur Industries, Binaga) and Mrs. Sudha Kamath, (employee of State Bank of India) since one and a half years. On 24th May 1999, her body was found hanging in the bathroom of the employer's house. She was suspected to have committed suicide.

She was accused of theft of jewellery from the house. Mr. Kamath said a 22 carat gold chain was missing from the house.

Investigations of CACL -K revealed that Geetha was subjected to harassment and torture by her employers. Mr.Kamath's elder sister who was visiting was caught lifting a gold necklace. Fearing that Geetha would reveal this to her brother, she was done to death by suffocating her with a saree.

Police booked a case of unnatural death and thereafter arrested the Kamath couple. The fact finding team, after investigation confirmed that it was a clear case of murder.

But the case is still in the Court.

Death

Name	:	**Thulasi**
Sex	:	**Female**
Age	:	**14 years**
Occupation	:	**Domestic servant at Sheshadripuram, Bangalore**
Died on	:	**21st September 2000 by Strangulation**
State	:	**Karnataka**

Facts

Kum. Thulasi was employed as a domestic servant in the house of a lawyer named K.I.Bhat. Her body was found hanging in the bathroom of the house on 21st September 2000.

Thulasi was brought for work from Karwar. She was accused of theft of cash from the house and harassed by the employer and his wife. The employer termed the death of the child as suicide as she was questioned and harassed by them. Fearing the harassment, she must have committed suicide.

But the media and local residents suspected a foul play and termed it as a planned murder. Locals suspected that Mrs. Bhat must have killed her by strangulation and hanged her in the bathroom in order to twist the case.

Rape and Murder

Name	:	Thaslima
Sex	:	Female
Age	:	10 years
Occupation	:	Domestic Child Labour at Davanagere
Raped & Murdered on	:	4th January, 2001
State	:	Karnataka

Facts

Kum. Tasleema had lost her parents at a very young age. Her grandmother was looking after her. She was sent to the house of a local businessman as domestic servant, at Davangere.

On 4th January 2001, her mutilated body was found in a drain near Bhoodala Ring Road, Davangere. The evidences concluded that she was raped and killed. Her chest and vaginal parts were mutilated and abused.

The employer was let loose. The case is in the court of Davanagere.

Death

Name	:	Lakshmi
Sex	:	Female
Age	:	12 years
Occupation	:	Domestic Child Labour at Mysore
Died on	:	6th August, 2001
State	:	Karnataka

Facts

Lakshmi was working as a maid servant in Mr. Anand's house for the past one had a half years. On August 3rd she was admitted to the hospital in an unconscious state. Her employer said that she had attempted suicide by consuming pesticide. Two days later, Lakshmi breathed her last.

Mr. Anand, the employer tried to hush up the case by paying money to her stepmother and uncles. He implored them to say that she was suffering from stomach ache and committed suicide unable to bear the pain.

All the progressive NGO organisation in Mysore took a protest rally and sat in dharna in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office, demanding immediate arrest of the employer. But the police Commissioner refused saying there was on evidence and provision for the employer's arrest. In spite of repeated representations given to the Government of Karnataka, the employer was not arrested.

Now, CoD enquiry has been ordered into the case.

Assault

Name : Dinesh
Sex : Male
Age : 12 years
Occupation : Child Domestic Worker
Address : S/o Babunand Choudhary, Village Chulhara, Post Keura, Block PunPun, Dist Patna.
State : Bihar

Facts

Dinesh was working as a domestic help in the house of a lady police inspector of Patna (now posted at Secretariat Thana, Patna). After 15 months, he was taken to her sister in law's house, whose husband is a medical doctor in CCL, Giddhi Colliery, at Bhurkunda, Ramgarh, Hazaribagh district in Jharkhand seven months ago. He was offered and paid Rs.300 per month.

Dinesh had to do all sorts of work at home. In the beginning of his employment things went off smoothly. But that was only in the initial stage of his work. The poor boy was given more work everyday than he could do. He started to refuse to do some jobs in the household which the employer did not like. They insisted the boy to do more work in the household failing which the boy was beaten by the son and wife of the employer. One day he was assaulted brutally with a cable wire and his left hand was broken. There are several marks of beatings all over his body. The employers went to the extent of cruelty to insert a hot cable wire into his anal. The boy screamed and took the help of the neighbour to reach back home in Patna. He was admitted to the hospital on the next day and got contacted with CACL Bihar.

A case was registered with the Police. The doctor is absconding.

Death

Name : **Anitha**
Sex : **Female**
Age : **11 years**
Occupation : **Child Labourer in Police Quarters**
State : **Karnataka**
Died on : **21st April 2002**

Facts

Anitha, a 11 year old girl was working as a domestic help in the quarters of police constable Mr. Rajashekhar at Sheshadripuram, Bangalore. She was brought to Mr Rajashekhar's house from Chikkabayyaggi village of Bangalore Rural district four months before her death. Her father, Hanumaiah, was paid Rs.500/- as advance while taking Anitha as domestic help. She daily chores included cleaning the house, utensils, sweeping and ran errands. She died of 95% burn injuries in the hospital on 21st April.

In spite of the fact that the child was employed in violation of Service Rules, no action has been taken against Mr Rajashekhar as of now.

Death

Name : **Anand Behera**
Sex : **Male**
Age : **12 years**
Occupation : **Child Labourer in domestic sector**
State : **Orissa**
Died on : **12th May 2002**

Facts

Anand's body was found in the foundation pit of the newly constructed building of his employer on 12th May 2002. His mutilated body was recovered by the workers, his parents and the police after the news was spread like wildfire. The boy's face was tied with a cloth and there was blood all over the pit.

12 year old Anand was working as a domestic help at the house of one Duryodhan, Kapil Samantray of Amanakud village under Balipatna Police Station of Khurda district.

Death

Name	: Shiv Shankar
Sex	: Male
Age	: 12 years
Occupation	: Child Labourer in a house
State	: Delhi

Facts

Shiv Shankar, a 12 year old domestic servant found hanging on 24th May, 1999 in a house in Chittaranjan Park, a posh colony in South Delhi. The employer was a bachelor. Shiv Shankar as a domestic servant cleaned the house, washed clothes, sometimes cooked for his employer. On the fateful day, the employer came to Shiv's father and told him that his son was not well. He reached the house only to see the boy hanging.

Shiv's father though tried to file a complaint, the police refused to do it and threatened the old man of dire consequences. Later on, child rights activists took up the issue and the police had to register a complaint.

Abuse and Harassment

Name	:	Sashikala
Sex	:	Female
Age	:	10 years
Address	:	D/o Narayana Gowda, Banagally Grama, Kodagu Dist.
Occupation	:	Child Labourer in Domestic Sector
State	:	Karnataka

Facts

Sashikala was a second standard student when she was handed over to the employer Mr. N.K.Krishnamurthy, a planter by her father. Her work included cleaning the house twice a day, cleaning the vessels and clothes, scaling of turmeric from the farm and taking care of the baby at home. For her, the day began at 5 pm and ended at 11 pm. She was underfed and very weak. She was not sent home when her father died. Though the employer promised to pay Rs.3,000 per year, nothing was paid. She worked there for four years. Abuse and harassment were regular features of her days.

Having come to know about the atrocities committed on her, CACL-K went to the house and released her from the horrible bonded plight. She is now studying in a school in Mysore.

Assault & Illegal detention

Name	: Ramu
Sex	: Male
Age	: 10 years
Mother	: Vyjayanthi alias Guddi
Address	: Kalpi Bridge, Murar, Gwalior.
Occupation	: Domestic Child Labourer at Gwalior
State	: Madhya Pradesh

Facts

Ramu was working in the house of Dr.Vivek Rana as a domestic help. He was offered Rs.250 per month. Since food was not provided by the employer, his mother took lunch for him every day. She was used to work at Doctor's house. But since she started to work in another house, Ramu was forced to work in Doctor's house. The employer used to beat him for silly reasons.

The employer leveled a charge against him of breaking his spectacles. Though he made it clear that he had not seen it, the employer beat him severely and threatened him of murder by keeping a gun against his chest. The employer kept him locked up in a room of the house and did not allow his mother to see him or give food to her child. The doctor told her that until the cost of the spectacles is returned, the boy would not be released.

The parents of the child took help of the local corporator and approached the local police station. Since the police was reluctant to register the case, they had to approach the S.P. of Gwalior to file a complaint. After registering the complaint, the boy was rescued on 9th May, 2001. The boy was kept in the room for two days without food or water.

No action has been taken against the doctor till date.

Abuse and Corporal Punishment

Name : Ram Bahadur
Sex : Male
Age : 12 years
Occupation : Child Labourer in Domestic Sector
State : Delhi

Facts

Ram Bahadur was working as domestic help in a house in Delhi. He was suspected of stealing some money from his employer's house. Though he tried to convince the employer that he had not taken it, the employer did not allow him to speak further. His little finger was chopped off by his employer.

Attempt to Murder

Name of the child: Sanjay
Sex: Male
Age: 14 years
Occupation: Child Labourer in Domestic Sector
State: Ghaziabad (UP)

Facts

Sanjay, a boy of 14 years old was working as a domestic help in the house of Muradnagar (Ghaziabad) MLA. His work included ran errands for the members of the family, washing utensils, cleaning the garden etc. On 6th September 1999, MLA wanted a glass of water. As the boy took time to deliver the water, MLA's security officer was furious and shot at him in a point blank range. The bullet entered through the left side of the mouth, shattered the mandible and mastoid bone and came out from the rear part of the left ear. Sanjay lost hearing in that ear forever and was thrown out of his job. His father, a small shopkeeper, had died a few yeas ago. His mother, who worked in a factory also lost her job, as she spent more time in the hospital that in her workplace.

Abuse and Corporal Punishment

Name	:	Saritha Wagh
Sex	:	Female
Age	:	12 years
Occupation	:	Child Labourer in Domestic Sector
State	:	Maharashtra

Facts

Sarita Wagh, an illiterate child was brought to Mumbai to work in a flat at Mahim, North Mumbai. She had left her village in Ratnagiri district of South Maharashtra, with a villager who had fixed her for a job as a live-in-maid. She had no option as her father was dead and her mother was missing. So the grand mother sent her off with the middleman to Mumbai. She was offered Rs.300 per month. The employer couple were bank employees who had two small children.

Her work included washing utensils, clothes, swabbing, cooking and feeding the children. After a few weeks of her joining in the new life, the violence began. The madam flew into a rage over a small mistake Wagh made. She started hitting the girl with a rolling pin. Beating with sleepers, stick, burning her with hot ladle, flinging shoes at her were regular features of the day. Wagh was not allowed to use the toilet or bathroom. For this, she had to take help of the neighbour. She was never allowed to step out of the flat in Mahim.

The woman shopkeeper saw her condition and informed the Childline, an emergency hotline for children in distress. Volunteers and the police intervened and Wagh was brought to a Public Hospital. She was battered and bruised. Her back was covered with scabs and wounds, her face black and blue, arms swollen, palms branded with a hot spoon.

Abuse and Corporal Punishment

Name	:	Reshma Jumgikar
Sex	:	Female
Age	:	13 years
Education	:	Class 5
Residence	:	Joida, Near Block Office, Dist: N. Kanara, Karnataka
Occupation	:	Domestic Child Labour at Margao
State	:	Goa

Facts

Family history: 6 years ago Reshma's mother was divorced by her husband who was working in the Primary Health Centre as a compounder, and who used to drink. Now she is staying with her widowed mother (55) in a two room mud house with hand made tile roof. Sapna is sick from last three years. The family dependent on the grandmother. Long time ago Sapna's grand father migrated from Konkan region; but they do not know exactly from where. The ld lady works as a daily wage labourer and earns about Rs.20 to 25 per day. She gets work for about 16-17 days in a month and earns about Rs.450 to 500. She also gets a government pension of Rs.100 a month. If she is in serious need of money she borrows from sahukar and repays through work. During this time she is not free to work for others. The family can afford to have rice and amti every day for lucn and black tea with khurmura (puffed rice) for breakfast. Occassionally, usually after a long time, they eat fish or mutton.

Work history: Reshma has been working in Goa as a domestic worker for last two years. The job was arranged by a lady who is also from the same village and stays in Madgao. It isnot known whether she is a commission agent or not. Salary: Rs.400 and some old clothes. Never new. Grand mother visits Reshma every 2-3 months, to see her and collect salary.

Her work is from 6.30 am upto the time to sleep. Her work includes washing clothes, washing utensils, sweeping the floor and looking after the baby. When she is free she is forced to help in cooking. She complains of lot of harassment. The employers use rough language with her and some times even beat her. The grandmother of Reshma visits her once in 3-4 months. But in front of her the employer treats Reshma gently. Lot of Complaints. She comes home once a year for Gasesh Festival.

Harassment and Corporal Punishment

Name of the Child	:	Soniya
Sex	:	Female
Age	:	10 years
Father's name	:	Rajendar
Address	:	Lovar Darga Village, Gorakhpur Dist., UP.
Occupation	:	Domestic Child Labourer at Mangalore
State	:	Karnataka

Facts -

One fine day a woman came to Soniya's village and promised education and job for her. She brought her to the house of Mr.Wilson Perreira, Mangalore of Coastal Karnataka. Soniya stayed with him for four days. Later on, she was taken to Dr.G.L.Perreira and his wife Delma at Del Dat House, Chilimbi, Urva in Dakshina Kannada District. Dr. Perreira was practising at Suratkal and his wife was working at State Bank of India. Both of them used to come for lunch at home. Before leaving the house after lunch, they used to lock her up in a room. The couple would give heavy load of work to her which sometimes she was unable to carry out. For silly mistakes the couple would beat her up black and blue with steel rod. Soniya was underfed and malnutritious. Abuse and harassment were the features of her days. On 7th November 1999, Dr. Perreira started beating her ruthlessly with an iron rod and unable to bear the pain, Soniya cried aloud. It was like a SOS call. The local people informed the Women's organisations and rescued her from the house on the same day.

The case was in the Judicial Magistrate First Class Court, Mangalore. The Couple and their son were convicted by the court on 22nd February, 2002 for wrongful detention of Soniya and assault on her under sections 342, 324, 374 of IPC r/w sec.34 of IPC.

Assault

Name	: Rajkumar Sharma
Sex	: Male
Age	: 9 years
Occupation	: Child Labourer in a flat
State	: Delhi

Facts

Rajkumar was working as a domestic help in a flat of an employee of Corporation Bank, Karolbagh branch, Delhi. The boy was brought from Chapra, Bihar where his employer originally belonged to. His employer always found some mistake in his deeds and beat him up black and blue. In the end of December, 1999, the boy was admitted in the RML hospital after being branded with hot knives and assaulted by his employer for several months. The boy had multiple scars on his chest and back.

The boy was since then residing with one of his relatives in Delhi. After the incident, the house was locked and the neighbours say that they have no idea where they have gone.

Assault

Name	: Shobha
Sex	: Female
Age	: 14 years
Father's Name	: late Doddegowda
Address	: C/o Sree Lakshmi, No.15, Shalom, 5th main, Sreekanteshwara Nagar, Mahalaxmi Layout, Near Swimming Pool, Bangalore-560 096.
Occupation	: Domestic Child Labourer at Delhi
State	: Delhi

Facts

Shobha was working as a domestic help in the house of the employer, Mrs. Seetha Vijayakumar in Asia House, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi. Her work included sweeping, cleaning, washing utensils, dusting, cooking and other miscellaneous household work. She was brought by an agent in Bangalore who approached Shobha's family for the job. Mr. Vijayakumar is a Government official who is currently posted in Kosovo. She was offered Rs.1,500 per month but was paid only Rs.1,000 only. Though she worked for four months, except Rs.1000, rest was not paid. She was undergoing continuous physical and mental torture in her employer's house. Beating with belt, slapping on face, scolding, hitting her head against the wall were regular features of the day. Scars of burns on cheek and hand were found when she was rescued by the CACL activists.

A letter from the girl to her grandparents in Bangalore exposed this corporal punishment committed by her employer and resulted in rescuing her.

Now she is studying in a School in Bangalore.

Assault

Name	: Rambahadur
Sex	: Male
Age	: 13 years
Occupation	: Child Labourer in a house
State	: Delhi

Facts

Rambahadur was working with the family of Mr. Kashmere Lal in Delhi. He used to work continuously without any rest from 6 o' clock in the morning till 11.30 in the night everyday.

On 16th September, 1998, the fateful day, he was beaten up by his employer, his friend and neighbour, Tilak Raj, their wives and two daughters on the suspicion that he had stolen money from their house. He was beaten by a cricket bat and two wooden sticks. One of the daughters attempted to stab him in his abdomen with a knife but she was stopped at the last moment by Kashmere Lal. Different cut marks were visible on his palms and arms. There was a deep cut on his left palm, just under the small finger, which was presumably the result of an attack with a knife.

The boy was later on handed over to the Saket Police Station for the charges of theft. Knowing the violence committed on the child, child rights activists intervened and released the child. They found serious violations of law by the local police. Then the case was transferred to the Commissioner of Police, Delhi.

Forced Labour

Name	:	Tulsi Katelkar
Sex	:	Female
Residence	:	Kumbharwada, Tal: Joida, Dist: North Kanara, Karnataka.
Occupation	:	Domestic child labour at Margao, Goa.
State	:	Goa

Facts

Family history: Harijans. Family migrated from Goa about 50 years back. Earlier stayed in a temporary hut with bamboo mats for walls and rice hay for roof. Since three years live in a mud walled, tiled house. No agricultural land. Bamboo work only source of income. Total monthly income about Rs.1000-1500. A son works in Goa as a mason on construction sites. Apparently does not support the parents. Daily food of rice, curry and dal. Fish once in a month and mutton once in 2-3 months. Anant drinks. Quarrels with and beats wife if not allowed to drink. He spends about Rs.10-15 per day on drinks. According to her, his drinking is the main cause for their not being able to same anything. Subandi wishes to save something for Tulsi's marriage. But cannot do so on account of Anant's drinking habit.

Tulsi working with the present family for last three and half years. Before that she has worked for one year with another family in Goa. Her Salary is Rs.500. Plus some clothes. Tulsi gets up at 6.00 am to prepare breakfast. After that she has to wash clothes and swab the house. The employers own a shop in town and at 8.30 am both husband and wife go to the shop. Tulsi does all the cooking and other housework. She is happy with the work, but sometimes the lady uses harsh language.

Forced Labour

Name	:	Vijay
sex	:	Male
Age	:	12 years
Education	:	Class 3.
Residence	:	Gaudewada, Tal:Joida, Dist: North Kanara, Karnataka.
Occupation	:	Child labourer in a house at Vasco
State	:	Goa

Facts

Vijay's Family is from Supa, North Kanara, Karnataka. Moved to Pradhani in 1985 on account of submergence of the village due to construction of Supa dam. Moved to Gaudewada in 1990. In Pradhani, the family worked for a landlord who had given them a place to stay and paid them for work. He also extended credit in times of need. The elder son (Prabhakar) gets work for 10-15 days in a month and earn about Rs.400-500 a month. The mother gets a pension of Rs.100 a month. The family can afford to have rice and curry meal only once a day. For other meal they have canji. Fish they eat about once a month and mutton about in four months. The family lives in a single room mud house with tile roofing.

Vijay working in Goa for last once an half years as a house boy. The job was arranged by a person from Joida. It is not known whether he is a commission agent or did it just out of goodwill. His salary was Rs.350. The employers give Vijay some old clothes, but never new. His work is from 7.00 am to 9.30 pm. His work includes reaching child to school, gardening, shopping and supplying milk. The mother has not visited Vijay's place of work any time and does not know first hand his working condition.

Forced Labour

Name	:	Chhaya N. Naik
Sex	:	Female
Age	:	12 years
Residence	:	Santri, Joida, Dist: N. Kanara, Karnataka.
Occupation	:	Domestic Child Labour in Goa

Facts

Family history: Chhaya's great grand father migrated from Maharashtra. Initially that family was staying in a house provided by the "sahukar" at Haliyal. Her father Namdeo bought a piece of land in Santri and the family moved to the present location 15 years ago. The parents work on daily basis at construction sites, road sites and sometimes collect wood from jungle for selling. Work is not available for full a month. They get work for hardly 10 to 15 days. From this they earn Rs.800 to 1000 per month. They do not have any source of agricultural income. It is very difficult to manage two meals a day with these earnings. The family can usually afford to have black tea with murchi, for lunch and dinner they usually have rice and curry. Fish is bought about once in two weeks and mutton about once in 2-3 months. The family lives in a two rooms mud house with tile roofing.

Work history: Chhaya has been working in Goa for last one and half years. Before that she was working in Mumbai (Deonar). When her employer was transferred out of Bombay, she left that place and got work in Goa through "sahukar". Sccording to Chhaya's father the "sahukar" got Rs.500 from Chhaya's employer and also some gift. Her Salary was Rs.400 and old clothes. Intially it was Rs.300. At the time of festivals like Ganapati and Xmas the employers give her some new clothes. Her Work includes sweeping the floor, washing utensils and clothes and taking care of baby. There is no harassment, but work is heavy.

Forced Labour

Name	:	Balma
Sex	:	Female
Age	:	15 years
Education	:	Illiterate
Residence	:	Janata Colony, Joida. (Govt, India Indira Avas colony)
Occupation	:	Domestic Child Labour in Goa
Father	:	Expired 4 years ago
Mother	:	Fatima Bibi, 40 years
State	:	Goa

Facts

15 years ago the family migrated from Bijapur in search of work. Initially they were staying in mud house in a govt. plot in Joida. 5 years before they got a room in Indira Avas Colony in Janata Colony. Mother, is the chief wage earner of the family. Sfhe works on daily wages and earns about Rs.600 per month. Sometimes her other daughter Khalida also works on daily wages. The mother earns Rs.25 to 30 per day. But she gets work for hardly 15 days in a month. The family can afford to have only rice and curry daily and very rarely meat.

Balma has been working in Goa for last four years as a domestic worker. The job was arranged by her relatives. Before two years she was getting Rs.600 per month and now it is Rs.700 per month. She also gets some old and new clothes.

Working condition: Her work is from 7 am upto sleeping at night. Her work includes preparing tea and breakfast, cooking, washing clothes and utensils and sweeping the floor. Practically all the house work. The mother visits Balma's work place and collects salary to two - three months. For last 4 years Balma has come home twice only. But she has no complaints. Lot of work but no harassment.

Forced Labour

Name	: Sangita Mapusekar and Kabita Mapusekar
Sex	: Female
Age	: 15 years and 16 years
Education	: Both class 5
Residence	: Bappeli, Dist: N. Kanara,Karnataka.
Occupation	: Domestic Child Labourers at Sangita - Ponda, Kabita - Madgao
State	: Goa

Facts

Family history: Natives of Goa. Long ago Raghunath's great grand father migrated from Goa to Supa in search of work. He moved to Bappelik in 1985 on account of submergence of the village due to construction of Supa da. Both husband and wife work as a daily wage labourers and earn Rs.1500 to 1,600 per month. The handicapped daughter runs a small shop sponsored by government. The family lives in a 3 room mud house with tile roofing. The family can afford two meals a day of rice with vegetable and dal. Once or twice a week they eat fish and once a month meat.

Work history: Sangita is working in Goa for last four years. Kabita is working in Goa from last six years. The jobs were arranged by her father. Sangita initially earned Rs.300 per month. Now it is Rs.700 per month and some old clothes. For festivals she gets new clothes. Kabita initially earned Rs.400. Now it is 700 and clothes.When the father or mother visits them the employer pays about Rs.100 to 150 for travel or as goodwill.

Sangita - Her work is from 7.00 am up to the time to sleep. Her work includes washing clothes and utensils, sweeping the floor, cooking, preparing tea, almost all the house work. Kabita - Her work is from 6.30 am upto the time to sleep. It includes preparing tea, washing clothes and utensils, sweeping the floor and baby care. The father and mother sometimes visit the work place of Sangita and Kabita and collect salary.

Forced Labour

Name	:	Sabita
Sex	:	Female
Age	:	15 years
Education	:	No schooling
Residence	:	Bappeli, Tal. Joida, North Kanara, Karnataka
Occupation	:	Domestic Child Labour at Ponda
State	:	Goa

Facts

Family history: Natives of Supa, N. Kanara,Karnataka. Moved to Bappeli 15 years before on account of submergence of the village due to construction of Supa da. The family worked for a sahukar who had given them place to stay and paid them for work. Then they got a plot and made their own house. Sahukar extends credit in times of need. Sabita's parents cultivate sahikar's field, spending on seeds and fertilisers. The produce is divided equally between the sahukar and them. Rest of the time they work as a daily wage labourers. They get work for 15-18 day in a month and earn about Rs.1200 to 1400 per month. Thek family can afford to have two meals of rice and amti. They have fishk and mutton not in certain time more or less it is once in 2/3 months. The family lives in a single room mud house with hay (gavat) roofing. Pandurang drinks. Work history: Sabita has been working in Goa for last six years. The jobn was arranged by a lady from nearby village who also works in Goa. It is not known that whether she is a commission agent or did it just out of goodwill. Sabita has changed employer three times. Initially she worked for a year on payment of Rs.200 and some old clothes. After few days she joined another job. Payment was Rs.300. But the work was heavy, from morning 6.30 upto time to sleep at night. Three years ago she is joined the present job. Salary: Rs.500. The employer give some old clothes. Never new. Her father visits Sabita place and collecting salary in once in 3-4 months.

Sabita gets up at 6.00 am and collects milk to prepare breakfast. After that she has to wash clothes and sweep the house, wash utensils and look after the baby. Some times she has to go to the market to buy vegetables. Lot of work.

Forced Labour

Name	:	Fatima Shaik
Sex	:	Female
Age	:	16 years
Education	:	Class 5
Residence	:	Gandhi Nagar, Dandeli, Karnataka
Occupation	:	Domestic Child Labour in Goa.
State	:	Goa

Facts

Family history: Long time ago Fatima's father migrated from some village of Karnataka to Dandeli in search of work. He was working in a paper mill, but that mill closed down. Fatima's mother is old and unable to work. She depends on Fatima. The mother gets a pension of Rs.100 a month. Usually they have rice and dal for food. Only for festivals like Mohariam they eat meat. They live in a single room mud house with handmade tile roofing.

Fatima is working in Goa for Rs.1000 and old clothes. Fatima sends some money to her mother once in every 2-3 months.She visits Dandeli for festivals like Id and Moharam and brings some clothes for her mother.

Begam, her mother does not have any idea about Fatima's work. She says that she only knows that Fatima is working in Goa. Where and what type of work she does there, the mother does not know. Fatima does not permit her mother to visit Goa.

Forced Labour

Name	:	**Shalini and Priyadarshini (Sisters)**
Sex	:	**Female**
Age	:	**8 years & 12 years**
Sex	:	**Male**
Occupation	:	**Domestic Child Labourers in Coorg**
State	:	**Karnataka**

Facts

Shalini and Priyadarshini, living in Vinayakanagar in Mysore disappeared from school in April 1998. In early 8th August, 2000, the sisters were found working in some coffee estates in Coorg. A friend who saw them working immediately informed their mother, Jayaputri, who in turn approached Odanadi, a Mysore based NGO working with children. CACL-Central Secratariat and Odanadi complained to the Deputy Commissioner and SP of Mysore and with the support of Virajpet police raided the coffee estates of Mr.Kariappa, K.K.Chinnappa and B.Shetigeri. Investigations revealed that their school teacher, Swaroopa conspired with her husband Aiyappa to sell the children to the coffee planters.

On several occasions when the children pleaded to allow them to visit their mother, the employers sprinkled chilli powder on their eyes as punishment. The employers tried to use money and muscle power to hush up the case but Odanadi persisted. A third child, Manju was also rescued.

Press Clippings
Hotel Sector

DECCAN Chronicle

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS VIJAYAWADA 3

Four kids tortured for seeking wages

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada, Oct 16: Four young boys were detained, abused and tortured by a hotelier at G Kondur in Mylavaram mandal of Krishna district. The children, aged below 13 years, were working as dish-washers in a hotel. Their only crime was demanding their wages.

Their plight came to light when these boys fled and reached the city yesterday. Some social workers of Navajeevan Bala Bhavan, who came across the boys at Gandhinagar, admitted them to the rehabilitation centre for street children.

K Ramesh (12), K Raju (12) Sekhar (13) and M Suribabu (13) were recruited as dish-washers on a daily wage of Rs 30 plus food. They were forced to work for more than 12 hours at a stretch. Three lads toiled for over a week and Suribabu had worked for 45 days.

Although hotelier Venkateswara Rao had agreed to pay their wages at the end of the day every day, he skipped paying them on some pretext. Finally when the boys demanded their wages, the hotelier and one worker Suresh confined them to a room and thrashed them with a thick wire. Suribabu was also branded with a hot iron.

When the boys escaped their tormentors and reached the city yesterday Bala Bhavan director Fr Thomas Koshy lodged a complaint with Mylavaram police. He also took the matter to the notice of mayor T Venkateswara Rao who is also president of the Child Rights Forum. Koshy also claimed that another boy, K Srinu, was put to similar harassment by another hotel owner of the village.

Acting on the complaint, Mylavaram inspector S Prasada Rao arrested the owners of the two hotels.

A hotel worker Suribabu (inset) was branded at the back by his employer at G Kondur in Krishna district recently: seen in Express

32 Tuticorin children freed from bondage

By Mahesh Vijapurkar

MUMBAI, JULY 7. As many as 32 children, from Tuticorin district of Tamil Nadu, were today released from bondage to a sugar candy-making factory owner near Chiplun town in the Konkan region of Maharashtra by a voluntary agency, Samarthan.

Bonded child labourers preparing sweets in a factory near Chiplun in Maharashtra.

The children, aged between 12 and 14, were bonded into labouring in making sugar candy and *chicki* in Johnson Sweets in Valope near Chiplun. About 36 grownups are also employed there. The children told the rescuers startling tales of excruciating hard work.

Disclosing the details, Ms. Shabana Warne of Samarthan said the children, rescued by the police after a complaint by the NGO, were made to work from 3 am to 12 midnight with a mere 10- minute lunch break.

The children, who were brought to Chiplun from their homes to work to redeem loans to their poverty-ridden families, were given two shorts and two vests at Christmas time and nothing else besides. None of them was given any money and if any one did get anything at all, it was by another petty loan which had to be redeemed by more work. What the kin of the children received as loans was not disclosed.

The entire practice came to light, the NGO said in a press communique here today, when Mr. J.P. Pandian came to visit his nephew at the factory and realised that the children were in bondage. Estimating the size of the victims to be about 50, he contacted Mr. Vivek Pandit, who heads Shramjivi Sanghatana. Samarthan is its off-shoot.

As most rescued children were Dalits, the NGO wanted laws relating to atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Tribes to be used against the factory owner, Mr. Johnson Nader.

The workplace, where the children sweated out, had nine ovens where they handled in huge pans oil and sugar syrup to make sweets. Many children sustained burns, the NGO said.

Though the release took place this morning, the legal procedures were quite long and by late afternoon, Labour Department officials of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu as well as the Centre were contacted. Issues of how to rehabilitate them after being sent back home are being discussed.

HINDU 8/7/97

CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD LABOUR
(CACL)
No. 5, Gayathripuram 2nd Stage,
Udayagiri Post, Mysore-570 019

SECOND INCIDENT OF LABOURERS BEING CHAINED BY EMPLOYERS COMES TO LIGHT

Hoteliers chain 12-yr-old to work

They wanted to prevent him from escaping

Manu Alyappa

MYSORE: Even as the Hangarahalli bonded labour episode is fresh in public mind, a shocking case of a 12-year-old boy being chained by his employers has come to light.

Police sources say Nizar Ahmed and Mukthar Ahmed, who run a small hotel near the Prabha theatre in the city, employed Mehboob after paying some amount to his parents. They claimed the boy was a distant relative of theirs.

The boy, unable to bear the workload, escaped. Annoyed, the employers launched a manhunt and found the boy working for another hotelier in the city.

Fearing that the boy would again give them the slip, the employers shackled him. Some members of the public who saw the 12-year-old in chains reported the matter to Police Commissioner C. Chandrashekar, who had the boy rescued.

Police sources informed *The Times of India* that the hoteliers revealed during interrogation that they chained the boy on his parents' advice.

The parents were annoyed with Mehboob because he was naughty and never stuck to the place where they wanted him to work.

Another version is that the boy, after giving his employers the slip, returned home. But the parents themselves took him back to the employers and asked them to chain him so that he did not escape again.

The parents also threatened the boy that they would teach him a lesson if he came back again, the police said.

Unlike the bonded labourers in Hangarahalli, Mehboob could move around freely.

The sources admitted that the police did not made the chaining incident public fearing that it would send out wrong signals.

The police commissioner said Nizar Ahmed and Mukthar Ahmed were arrested under the Child Labour Act, and it was not a case of bonded labour.

He denied that the boy was chained.

The hoteliers were produced before the second additional judicial magistrate first class and later released on bail. Lawyer B.S. Subhakar appeared for the accused.

Times of India 2001

44

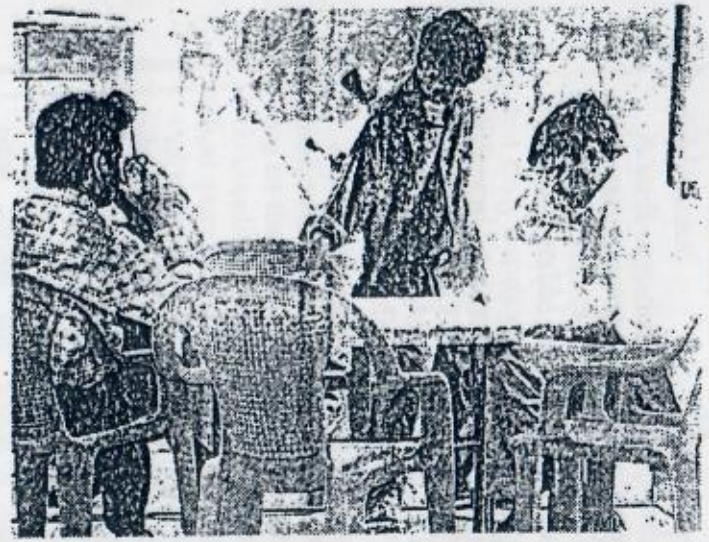
19.6.2002 The Hindu

KARNATAKA / HUNDREDS FALLING PREY EVERY MONTH

Trapping lonely, aimless children

By Rasheed Kappan

BANGALORE, JUNE 18. Trapping young, runaway children for cheap hotel labour is big business on the crowded streets of Bangalore's Gandhinagar, the city's gateway, and its surroundings. A well-networked racket of commission agents, hotel owners and informers has turned the ultimate killer of childhood dreams, hundreds falling prey every month.



A young boy cleaning a table at a restaurant in Bangalore.

The whole racket is well planned, executed to near perfection. At daybreak, the brokers — there are, at least, 50 of them — fan out from Tulasi Park, their meeting point, to catch the lonely, aimless children roaming around the City railway station, the Central bus station and the nearby streets. Promising these kids a place to stay, money to spend and food forever, the children in their early teens and below are lured away. The dreams don't take long to die.

Enquiries by *The Hindu* revealed that the going rate (commission) for each child was Rs. 50 to Rs. 60. This cost is usually borne by the needy hotel and restaurant owners spread over the city. However, a few small-time hotel owners themselves frequent the railway and bus stations to catch the children soon after their arrival. "Many of these brokers and owners have vehicles, some of them even cars," a social worker at the railway station said.

The City police, however, claimed that the hotel broker menace had been wiped out after a crackdown on them in mid-1998. "There are no active brokers now," said Mr. Nissar Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West). "But there may be some tussle for children among the various voluntary agencies working for rehabilitation."

Mr. Ahmed recalled the 1998 operation, when about 25 children were rescued from hotels, their parents traced and reunited with their long lost wards. Yet, the ground reality tells a different tale. The racket apparently thrives. Over the years, the brokers' network has mastered the art of smooth talk and duplicity. "These men," explained Ramesh Babu, a street contact person, "come to the railway platform as passengers or visitors. The children, particularly the new ones, who land up for the first time, are usually hungry and dazed. They fall easy victims to the lure of job and money." Once caught, the endless ordeal shatters the child. "The children are made to work for hours together for about three to four months. Salaries are rarely paid. Torture tactics such as pouring hot water on their body and physical assaults are frequent," said Babu. The more enterprising ones manage to run away for a life back on the streets. The freedom beckons them.

Eleven-year-old Dastagiri has seen it all since he arrived in Gandhinagar eight years ago. Long used to the tough life on the street, the articulate teenager explained: "The brokers make tall promises. I was once approached with an offer of Rs. 800 as monthly salary. But, I know, all of them are lying. They just trap you for months and dump you when your hands turn grimy and swollen doing all that cleaning job."

With the setting up of two child rescue booths, one at the KSRTC bus stand and the other at the railway platform 5, it was hoped the brokers would make a hasty retreat. But the brokers knew better. However, the booth staff had their tales of success. "Three weeks ago, a broker was hurrying to a hotel with four children. A booth staff intercepted them and managed to rescue all the kids," recalled Fr. Varghese Koottungal from Bosco. Such success stories, though rare, had dented the brokers' pride. But they knew they could compensate the very next day with more children.

45

Child labourers rescued from hotels in Hassan

HASSAN, Jan 9 (DHNS) DH 10/1/2000

Labour department officials who conducted a surprise raid in several hotels this morning rescued six child labourers and took action against the hotel owners.

The officials rescued two children from Keralapura Hindu Military Hotel on Kasturba Road, one child from Sudha Hotel in Park Road, two from Hotel Pushpak and two from the Rajat Military Hotel. The children have now been admitted to an informal school established by the Sangameshwara Shikshana Trust, said Deputy Commissioner for Labour J T Jinkalappa in a release here.

The raid was conducted under the leadership of Labour officer H Gopala Gowda and Child Welfare programme officer Shivaswami.

Labour Gen. Child labour. Govt Rep
. Child labour Hotel
. Child labour Raids/Rehabilitation

Not only cattle, even children are sold here

By Rajesh Kumar Thakur
The Times of India News Service

HAJIPUR: It is an irony of sorts that in the world famous Sonepur cattle fair even child labourers are sold like cattle, notwithstanding the worldwide campaign against child labour.

A well-organised gang of some 15 persons is reportedly involved in this racket. According to knowledgeable sources, the gang not only sends child labourers to different states such as Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, but also "supplies" them to various factories in some industrialised states.

A shopkeeper who has set up a makeshift tent on the street leading to the cattle market, admitted on condition of anonymity that he had purchased two child labourers, one of them being a 12-year-old girl. He had to pay Rs 900 to a Jogbani based broker-cum-contractor who supplied the children.

Sources say there is nothing new about the sale of child labourers at the Sonepur fair. This has been going on for over a decade, claims an elderly person. This time, the children were brought here by contractors from Raxaul, Sitamarhi, Jogbani and some other towns close to the Nepal border only a day before the fair's inauguration.

In the beginning, some poverty-stricken children were sent here by their parents so that they could earn something. Taking advantage of their helplessness, some contractors engaged in "supplying" labourers to factories, grabbed the opportunity to sell these child labourers, say the sources.

According to them, over 200 child labourers have already been sold over the last one decade. But the whereabouts of the sold children are not known.

Over 1,000 children in the six-11 age group are working in different hotels and establishments here. Volunteers of the Nehru Yuva Kendra project cell, after a day-long survey, identified altogether 40 child labourers working at different stalls in the fair.

Lab. Gen, child labour, Atrocities
1) Child labour
2) child labour - economic

PRESS CLIPPING

INDIAN EXPRESS: 15/07/1993.

Report highlights State inaction

Child labourer tortured to death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

BOMBAY — A fact-finding committee which probed the death of an eight-year-old child at the hands of his employer in Wani in Yevatmal district has exposed the appalling lack of concern on the part of the State authorities.

Shiva Murugan (8) died on June 29 after being tortured by his employer Ganesh Rajput, according to the report of the Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), an organisation which was formed to eradicate child labour and raise public awareness.

Rajput had reportedly travelled to Madurai in May to procure child labourers and purchased Shiva, his brother Raja (10), Rajesh (13), Muniyand (15) and Mukesh (13) for sums ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 1,500. The CACL report states that in Wani the boys' work entailed preparing snacks in Rajput's poorly ventilated house and selling this in the market. The children worked from 3 am to 11 pm and were fed small amounts of food and provided with one set of clothes.

Talks with the boys and neighbours revealed that severe thrashings were common and Rajput would even pour boiling water on the boys' feet. The CACL found that since the boys were from Tamil Nadu they were unable to speak the local language and communicate their plight to anyone.

Shiva met a tragic end came when he tried to escape from the constant harassment. He was caught by Rajput and beaten with hot iron rods, cable wires, petrol pipes, wooden sticks and cycle tubes, according to the probe report. The multiple injuries sustained resulted in Shiva's death and the murder was sought to be hushed up.

Fortunately, the neighbours decided to act and informed the police. Rajput was arrested (under Sections 302 read with 34) and is presently in police custody awaiting trial.

Upto the date of the arrival of the CACL team in Wani on July 8, neither the State authorities nor political representatives had visited the children. The children continue to stay in Rajput's house. "They carry on his business in morbid dread of his (Rajput) return," states the report.

When the police were contacted, the reaction was that the boys were able to earn instead of starving and were under police protection. However, when CACL members spoke to the boys they found the children in a state of shock. Shiva's elder brother Raja is traumatised by his brother's death and wished to return home, but the other three preferred to shift to a safer place. The neighbours told the committee that incidence of child labour was high in Wani. When the police were questioned, the matter was dismissed and the officer concerned replied that the practice prevailed wherever he had been posted!

The CACL has demanded protection and emotional support for the children, expediting legal proceedings against Rajput along with concerted action to prevent trade in child labour.

48

प्रभात खबर

14 जनवरी, 2001, रविवार 9

बाल मजदूरी रोकने की मांग

■ बरवाडीह (पलामू) : बाल मजदूरी विरोधी अभियान के पलामू जिला संयोजक गणेश रवि ने आज बरवाडीह प्रखंड विकास पदाधिकारी रतन कुमार भगत से मुलाकात कर बाल मजदूरी समाप्ती व बाल मजदूरों को पुनर्वास शिक्षा चलाने संबंधी मांग किया. उन्होंने कहा कि बाल मजदूरी प्रथा जोरों से चल रही है. गरीब बच्चों से 12 से 14 घंटों तक काम लिया जा रहा है. जिससे सैकड़ों बच्चों का भविष्य खराब हो गया है. उन्होंने कहा कि प्रखंड के विद्यालय की हालत जर्जर है, जिससे कई विद्यालय बंद पड़े हुए हैं.

प्रभात खबर 2001

बाल श्रम कानून के तहत एक वर्ष की सजा

डालटनगंज, 7 फरवरी : न्यायिक दंडाधिकारी डीएन सिंह की अदालत ने बाल श्रमिक कानून के उल्लंघन करने के आरोपी होटल मालिक को दोषी पाकर एक माह का साधारण कारावास की सजा सुनायी. इस मुकदमें में अभियोजन पक्ष की ओर से सहायक लोक अभियोजक धरेंद्र कुमार जायसवाल ने बहस की.अभियोग के अनुसार स्थानीय सरकारी बस डिपो के निकट राजस्थान होटल में कार्यरत बाल मजदूर जीतेंद्र कुमार को उसके मालिक द्वारा बाल श्रमिकों को मिलनेवाली सुविधा और मजदूरी नहीं दी जा रही थी. इस मामले में श्रम प्रवर्तन पदाधिकारी सह बाल श्रमिक निरीक्षक सरयू बिहारी सिंह ने गत पांच मई 1998 को जांच करने के बाद होटल मालिक प्रह्लाद शर्मा के खिलाफ बाल श्रमिक निषेध एवं विनिमय अधिनियम की दफा 14 के तहत मामला दायर किया था. इस मामले की सुनवाई के दौरान अदालत अभियोजन पक्ष द्वारा प्रस्तुत साक्ष्यों व गवाहों के बयानों के आधार पर आरोपी प्रह्लाद शर्मा को दोषी पाते हुए सजा सुनायी. सजा सुनाये जाने के बाद अभियुक्त को जेल भेज दिया गया.

हो आग का रणनीति पर विचार किया जायेगा.

बाल श्रम कानून के तहत एक वर्ष की सजा

डालटनगंज, 7 फरवरी : न्यायिक दंडाधिकारी डीएन सिंह की अदालत ने बाल श्रमिक कानून के उल्लंघन करने के आरोपी होटल मालिक को दोषी पाकर एक माह का साधारण कारावास की सजा सुनायी. इस मुकदमें में अभियोजन पक्ष की ओर से सहायक लोक अभियोजक धरेंद्र कुमार जायसवाल ने बहस की.अभियोग के अनुसार स्थानीय सरकारी बस डिपो के निकट राजस्थान होटल में कार्यरत बाल मजदूर जीतेंद्र कुमार को उसके मालिक द्वारा बाल श्रमिकों को मिलनेवाली सुविधा और मजदूरी नहीं दी जा रही थी. इस मामले में श्रम प्रवर्तन पदाधिकारी सह बाल श्रमिक निरीक्षक सरयू बिहारी सिंह ने गत पांच मई 1998 को जांच करने के बाद होटल मालिक प्रह्लाद शर्मा के खिलाफ बाल श्रमिक निषेध एवं विनिमय अधिनियम की दफा 14 के तहत मामला दायर किया था. इस मामले की सुनवाई के दौरान अदालत अभियोजन पक्ष द्वारा प्रस्तुत साक्ष्यों व गवाहों के बयान के आधार पर आरोपी प्रह्लाद शर्मा को दोषी पाते हुए सजा सुनायी. सजा सुनाये जाने के बाद अभियुक्त को जेल भेज दिया गया.

13 फरवरी , 2001, मंगलवार 3

राज्यपाल को ज्ञापन सौंपा

■ बरवाडीह : जिले में कार्यरत स्वयंसेवी संस्था संपूर्ण ग्राम विकास केंद्र की अनिमा लकड़ा एवं दीप्ति किरण बाड़ा ने झारखंड के राज्यपाल के पोखरी ग्राम आगमन के दौरान एक ज्ञापन देकर बाल मजदूरों की ओर ध्यान आकृष्ट कराया है. सुश्री लकड़ा व किरण बाड़ा ने अपने मांग पत्र में पोखरी कला एवं खुर्दगांव में कालीन बुनाई में लगे बाल मजदूरों को शिक्षा का उचित स्थान देने, गांव में निर्धन बच्चों के लिए आवासीय विद्यालय, कालीन उद्योग में लगे सभी बच्चों के लिए शिक्षा पर आधारित रोजगार की व्यवस्था करने शामिल हैं. उल्लेखनीय हो कि संपूर्ण ग्राम विकास केंद्र द्वारा पोखरी गांव में बाल मजदूरों के लिए शिक्षा केंद्र चला रही है, जिसमें बच्चों के अलावा उनके निर्धन अभिभावकों को भी जागरूक करने की दिशा में आवश्यक कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं.

EMPLOYER TRIED TO STOP THE VICTIM BY FORCE: WITNESSES

Boy falls from II floor after chase

Crime Correspondent

BANGALORE: A 14-year-old boy working for Bangalore Medical College (BMC) canteen suffered severe multiple injuries including one on the head after he tripped from the second floor of the college building on Friday. He was reportedly trying to run away from his employer who had 'tortured' him.

The victim, Chandrashekhar, is battling for life in Victoria Hospital and a medico-legal case has been registered. The police said they will have to gather statements from the victim before proceeding to arrest the accused. Chandrashekhar's condition is critical and he is not in a position to speak, the police added.

According to some witnesses, Chandrashekhar's employer, who runs the college canteen, abused him physically and verbally on Thursday for a 'mistake' he had committed and locked him up in a room. On Friday, the employer opened the room and asked Chandrashekhar to resume work in the canteen. The boy refused and expressed his wish to go home. This irritated the employer and he attempted to stop Chandrashekhar by force. The boy then tried to run away from the canteen.

While being chased, Chandrashekhar lost balance and tripped from the second floor. Badly injured, he was hospitalised in an unconscious condition.

Reacting to the canteen contractor's statement that Chandrashekhar "jumped from the building on his own", DCP (South) Sunil Kumar said: "Nobody will jump from the second floor of a building for fun. We will probe the matter".

It may be recalled that Chief Minister S.M. Krishna had just 24 hours ago suspended two policemen working in Mysore for allegedly torturing a girl following a complaint from an NGO during the launch of the first state-level Child Labour Action Plan.

Fouzia Hamza

Fourteen-year-old Chandrashekhar battles for life in hospital after falling off the II floor of the Bangalore Medical College building on Friday.

TIMES OF INDIA 02/06/01

50

Minor boy tortured, village tense

BHUBANESWAR: The air is tense in a village in Orissa following an incidence of atrocity against a 14-year-old boy by a hotel owner.

It is said the boy was tied up using an iron chain and was stubbed with cigarettes on his body.

Villagers of Belaguntha in Ganjam near here, were irked by the behaviour of the hotel owner who allegedly tortured the boy who worked for his hotel, said Inspector of Bhanjanagar police station, Prasanta Kumar Jena.

"As the situation in the village is tense, police personnel have been deployed to avoid law and order problem," Jena added.

The irate mob blocked the village road for two hours on Wednesday after lodging a complaint with the police. However, the accused is absconding, he said.

Trilochan Behera, 45, who runs a hotel allegedly tortured the boy, last Sunday for taking off from work on Saturday and Friday.

The victim, Ranjan Dalai's mother Rajalakshmi said in her complaint that she lodged a complaint at the village police outpost on Wednesday.

Immediately after the incident, she took the boy to the local hospital for treatment, Jena said.

There were torture marks on the boy's body and his legs were swollen. The boy has been sent for medical examination for which the results are awaited.

"We have registered a case against Behera who is absconding. He may have fled to the neighbouring district of Phulbani. However, we are making an effort to arrest him at the earliest," he said. (IANS)

TIMES OF INDIA
01/06/2001

ಜನವಾಹಿನಿ, ಬುಧವಾರ ಜನವರಿ 3, 2001

ಬಾಲಕಾರ್ಮಿಕನ ಸಂಶಯಾಸ್ಪದ ಸಾವು- ಪ್ರತಿಭಟ

ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ, ಜ.2: ಹೊಟೇಲೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಬಾಲಕಾರ್ಮಿಕನ ಸಂಶಯಾಸ್ಪದ ಸಾವು ಕೊಲೆ ಎಂದು ಆರೋಪಿಸಿ ಬಾಲಕನ ಕಡೆಯವರು ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆಯೆದುರು ತಮಟೆ ಬಾರಿಸಿ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ವಿಗ್ನ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಬಾಲಕ ಹಾವು ಕಡಿದು ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾನೆಂದು ಹೊಟೇಲ್ ಮಾಲೀಕ ದೂರು ನೀಡಿದ್ದ. ಇದನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟಿಸಿ ಬಾಲಕನ ಕಡೆಯವರು ಇದು ಒಂದು ಕೊಲೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಎಂದು ದೂರಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮೃತನ ಕಡೆಯವರು ಎನ್ನಲಾದ ಕೆಲವು ಜನರು ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ನಿನ್ನೆ ಸಂಜೆ ಹೊಟೇಲಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಕಿ ಹಚ್ಚಿ, ಪ್ರತಿಭಟಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ವರದಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.

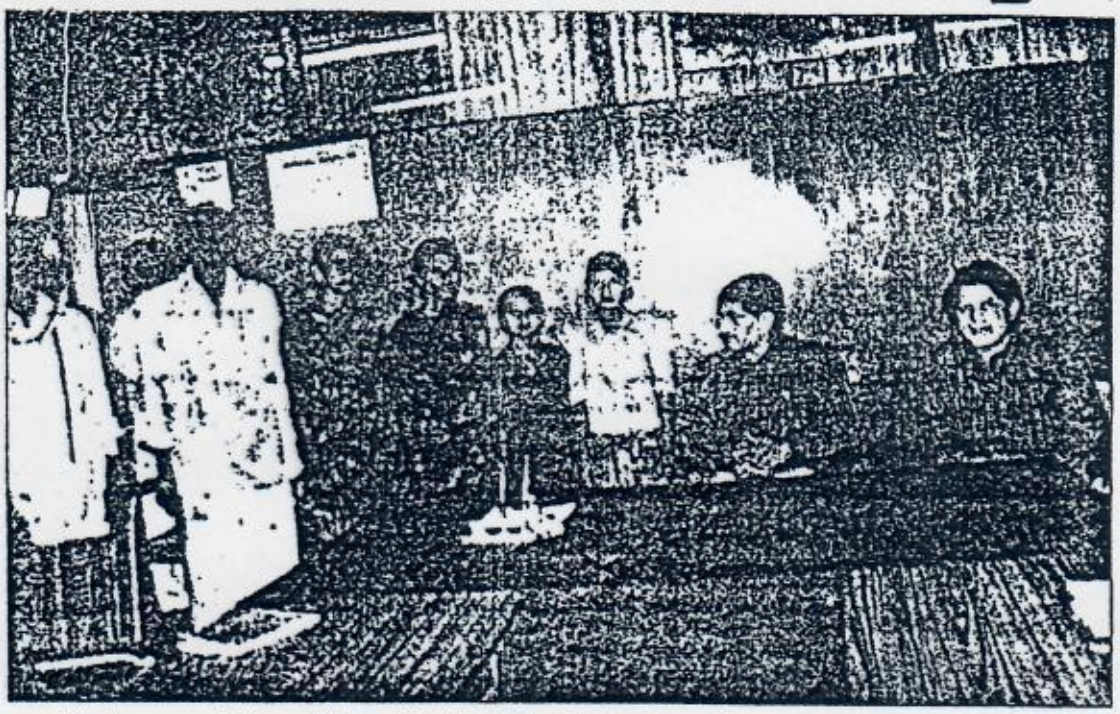
ನಗರದ ಕಂಟೋನ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಹೊಟೇಲೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ದುಡಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಬಾಲಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಬಲರಾಮ (13) ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟನೆಂದು ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಂಡಿವೋಟಿನ್ ಕೊರಚಗೇರಿಯ ಸೂರಾರು ಜನರು ಮುಂಚಾನೆ ರಾಸ್ತಾರೋಕೋ ನಡೆಸಿದರಲ್ಲದೆ, ಹೊಟೇಲ್ ಮಾಲೀಕನನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸಿ, ನಿಷ್ಪಕ್ಷಪಾತ ತನಿಖೆ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಆಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದರು.

ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆಯ ನೇತೃತ್ವವನ್ನು ಯುವ ಮುಖಂಡ ಶ್ರೀರಾಮುಲು ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಸಂಜೆಯ ತನಕ ಪ್ರತಿಭ ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿದ್ದು, ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣ ಉದ್ರಿಕ್ತ ವಾತಾವರಣ ನೆಲೆಗೊಂಡಿತ್ತ

ಮರಣೋತ್ತರ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ನಂ ಪ್ರಕರಣದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಿರ್ಧಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬರಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಡಿವೈಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಜನತಾ ವಾಣಿ - 25-07-2001
ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

ಐವರು ಬಾಲಕಿಯರ ಜೀತ ವಿಮುಕ್ತಿ



ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ಜು. 24 - ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಹುಲಿಕೆರೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾವಿನ ಕಟ್ಟೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಜೀತಕ್ಕಿದ್ದ ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ನಿಂಗದಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ 5 ಬಾಲಕಿಯರನ್ನು ಇಂದು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಎಸ್.ಜಿ. ಹೆಗಡೆ, ಜೀತಮುಕ್ತಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಹುಲಿಕೆರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಪಾಪಾಜಯ್ಯ ಎಂಬುವರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಭಾರತಿ (10), ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ರಾಜು ಎಂಬುವವರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಗಾಯತ್ರಿ (10) ಹಾಗೂ ಆಶಾ (13) ಮಾವಿನ ಕಟ್ಟೆ ಜಯಣ್ಣ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಚೈತ್ರ (13), ಸುಮಾ (11) ಎಂಬ ಬಾಲಕಿಯರು ಜೀತ ಮುಕ್ತರಾಗಿದ್ದವರು.

ಜೀತಕ್ಕಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಬಿಟಿತ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಎಸ್.ಜಿ.ಹೆಗಡೆ, ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಸೈಯದ್ ಅರ್ಶಿ ಅವರ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ತಂಡವನ್ನು ತನಿಖೆಗೆ ನಿಯೋಜಿಸಿದ್ದು, ತಂಡವು ಸಮಗ್ರ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ.

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ತಂದೆ - ತಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರೆಸಿ ತನಿಖೆ ಮಾಡಿದಾಗ ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ನಿಂಗದಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಬಸವರಾಜಪ್ಪ, ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ ಹಾಗೂ ಶೇಖರಪ್ಪ ಅವರುಗಳು ದುಡಿತಕ್ಕಿಟ್ಟು ಹಣ ಪಡೆದಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಬಸವರಾಜ ತನ್ನ ಮಕ್ಕಳಾದ ಚೈತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಸುಮ ಎಂಬುವವರನ್ನು ಮಾವಿನಕಟ್ಟೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಜಯಣ್ಣನ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ 15,000 ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದಾನಲ್ಲದೆ, ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ರಾಜು ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತನ್ನ ಕಿರಿಯ ಮಗಳು ಗಾಯತ್ರಿಯನ್ನು ಜೀತಕ್ಕಿಟ್ಟು 3,500 ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ ತನ್ನ ಮಗಳು 13 ವರ್ಷದ ಆಶಾಳನ್ನು ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ರಾಜು ಎಂಬುವವರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 2 ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ 9,000 ರೂ. ಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದಾನೆ. ಶೇಖರಪ್ಪ ಎಂಬಾತ ತನ್ನ 10 ವರ್ಷದ ಬಾಲಕಿಯನ್ನು 1 ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ 2,000 ರೂ. ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದಾನೆ.

ಜೀತಕ್ಕಿದ್ದ ಬಾಲಕಿಯರನ್ನು ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದ ಗಾಯತ್ರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಆಶಾ ಅವರನ್ನು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹಾಸ್ಟೆಲ್‌ಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣವನ್ನು ಮುಂದುವರೆಸುವಂತೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪತ್ತೆ ತಂಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಸಿ.ಟಿ.ರಾಜು, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ವಿಜಯಕುಮಾರ್, ಬಾಲ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಕ ಜೆ.ಎಂ. ವೆಂಕಟಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹೆಚ್.ಹಿರೇಗೌಡ, ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಕಿ ಸುಜಾತ, ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಶಿರಸ್ತೇದಾರ್ ಬಿ.ಮಹಬೂಬ್ ಸಾಬ್, ಸಬ್‌ಇನ್ಸ್‌ಪೆಕ್ಟರ್ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿನಾರಾಯಣ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಅವರುಗಳ ತನಿಖೆ ನೇತೃತ್ವ ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದರು.

Press Clippings

Domestic Sector

Servant found dead at SouthEx home

By Our Correspondent

AA 5/12/99

New Delhi, Dec. 4: A 14-year-old maid servant was found hanging from a nylon rope inside a south Delhi house on Saturday afternoon.

Sumati, a maid servant working for the Malhotra household, was found hanging from a nylon rope at around 3 pm inside a room on the top floor of the house. The door of her room, on the second floor of the house, South Extension II P-6 NDSE II, was bolted from inside and the girl's back could be seen from the verandah on the floor, the family members said.

The maid had been employed in the house for 10 months. She was working for the joint family, which consists of two brothers, their wives, mother and teenage children. A 14-year-old boy, Chotu, is also employed as a servant by the family.

Police sources said the girl went upstairs to take a bath and get ready. But when she did not come down for a while a family member went upstairs and discovered her body.

"She often went upstairs during the afternoon to sle... Today, I realised that she did not clean the utensils, which she did everyday. I had to send my son for cricket practice. But I found that she did not come down for several hours. So I along with Chotu went upstairs and found her hanging from a rope," said Ms Malhotra, the elder brother's wife, who lives on the first floor.

"One of the maids who knows her family, told us that Sumati's father also committed suicide and her mother had also attempted it several times," she said. The deceased has a mother and a brother.

At the time the body was discovered both the Malhotra brothers were at work, the family members said. "I went to my factory in Faridabad in the morning and was informed about the incident at the office," said Mr Rajkumar Malhotra, the elder brother who runs a printing factory in Faridabad. The younger brother also works at the same unit.

"She was depressed for the last one and a half months, since her mother's slum had been demolished at Gautam Nagar area. Her mother stopped coming here to collect the money. She asked us to call her mother but we could not locate her since her slum had been shifted," said Ms Malhotra.

Crime on and by domestic help

LAW & ORDER

By Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar

The relationship between domestic helps and their employers seems to have reached a low ebb in the Capital of late. The urgency to earn money by hook or by crook on part of the servants and the tendency among employers to play prosecutor and judge has led to an increase in crime — both by servants and employers.

Over the years, Delhi has witnessed numerous cases in which servants have injured or even killed their employers for money. As recently as on October 16, four members of a family were killed and another seriously injured, by their Nepali servant, Din Bahadur Maajhi, at their Uttam Nagar house in West Delhi.

While 40-year-old Arvind Babbar, his 32-year-old wife Rama, 10-year-old daughter Swati and seven-year-old son Gagan were found battered to death with a hammer in their RZ-32 Indira Park Extension house, his eldest son Prince (14), was found unconscious with serious head injuries.

The police had subsequently learnt that the accused was normally confined to the house and had thus developed criminal tendencies, which made him strike against the family. After killing and injuring his employers, he had fled with the cash and jewellery and gone to Nepal. Though with the help of Nepal police the stolen property was recovered, Maajhi remained at large.

But while such cases have been witnessed in the past, the police is these days faced with a new problem: of employers taking the law into their hands for uncovering suspected thefts and recovering stolen property. In the past month, there have been three instances where servants have been accused of theft and treated cruelly, by their employers.

A teenaged domestic help, Suraj Kumar Das, was accused by his employer of a theft of Rs 800 which took place about a month prior to his taking up the job, and beaten up, chased and then thrown off the second floor of 11-14 Greater Kailash Enclave Part II house in South Delhi on November 22. The boy survived the fall and lived to narrate the account to the police, who subsequently arrested the house owner, Satish Walia.

A child victim of a new kind of violence against domestic help. ..12-year-old Mangal.

But since the boy — who had come from Katiyar district of Bihar in search of work three years ago — needs a lot of money to pay for his 10-week stay in hospital, how he would go about with the case is anybody's guess. It is this growing tendency among the rich to think that they can even get away with murder — for they have the resources to pay for the lawyers, and 'purchase' or influence those involved in the investigations — that has manifested in such violence.

Moreover, domestic workers are not organised and do not have a platform to air their grievances. They also rarely open their mouth against ill-treatment for fear of losing their job. While Suraj Kumar Das did stir the conscience of a few because of his statement, 18-year-old Neetu Ray — who had been accused of stealing Rs. 2,000 from her employer, and was found dead at her master's house in the posh Jangpura locality of South Delhi on December 3 did not even live to narrate her story.

Neetu Ray was found hanging from the shower of the bathroom of Justice Anand Lal Anand Kapoor's house in Jangpura. A resident of the Ambedkar Camp jhuggi clusters, she had been working as an 'ayah' for the Kapoor family for the past one year.

On the fateful day, Anshu Kapoor's wife, Rita, had questioned her about some missing money. Neetu had reportedly failed to answer her queries and had began sulking. And at about 2:30 p.m., her body was found by Padma, another of the maids employed at the house.

And if this was not enough to highlight the plight of servants in the city, the police rescued a 12-year old domestic help, who had been kept illegally confined in a house and was being regularly tortured by the wife, two daughters and a servant of his employer at their Shalimar Bagh house.

For a month, Mangal — who had come from Samastipur district of Bihar about six months ago — was beaten with ladle, belts, bats and wickets by his employers.

He was accused of stealing a jewellery box around Diwali. The 'theft' was detected on November 11 and from that day the child was being regularly beaten. Incidentally, the family members had not considered it proper to take police help. As a result, the accused find themselves behind bars now.

The Joint Commissioner (Southern Range), Mr Amod Kanth, says these incidents reflect on the growing tendency of people to take law into their hands. On why people are not approaching police, he says, "either they feel the police won't question the people they suspect of committing the crime in the manner they would like to. Also, once the police is involved, the recovered items go to the court. And people try to bypass this procedure."

Closely associated with Prayas, a non-governmental organisation working for children, Mr Kanth is of the view that domestic help should be treated properly and at par with family members to elicit an equally favourably response. This might just hold the key for reducing both crime by servants and on them.

Labour Gen [illegible] · Abuse
· Child labour. Domestic
· Child labour Atrocities

Maid's death was no news, torture was

Neighbours say they learnt cause of her death through media

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10 11/6/2000

TILL the time the police and the media stormed the Saraswati Apartment in Pusa Institute after the death of Rinku, the 8-year-old housemaid, the scholars living in the apartment had no clue that this girl, who worked in their neighbourhood, was being tortured.

Rakesh Ranjan, a research scholar in Pusa Institute, was arrested by the police on Friday on charges of torturing his 8-year-old maid to death. Rinku had been working with Ranjan's family for about one year, it is learnt.

Since Ranjan's arrest, his apartment has been locked. His parents came from Bihar and took his wife and his baby back with them.

Rinku's parents also came to Delhi to perform their daughter's last rites. That done, they too have returned to their house in Bihar.

Ranjan's neighbours in the Saraswati Apartment say they were aware that the girl had died, but did not know that she was tortured to death. "We had little interaction with Rakesh Ranjan. We knew that the girl had died, but no one knew how she died," says R.C. Dash, an engineering student, who lives in the neighbourhood.

"We have come to know that Rakesh himself took the girl to the hospital. But he did not utter a word to anyone about the incident," says Dash. "Perhaps he wanted to patch up things," he adds.

"Surprisingly, everybody came to know about the incident through the media," he says, adding, "A few months ago, Rakesh had gone to Bihar along with his family. They had taken Rinku along with them and had returned recently."

Most of the occupants in the apartment are foreign students, who are pursuing studies at the institute. "Most of the occupants here are Phd students and they don't interact much. My roommate is Iranian and that is all I know about him," adds Dash.

According to Ranjan's neighbour, Anthony Kibe of Kenya, the case should not be seen in isolation. "You cannot just blame Rakesh, the whole system is responsible for it. The system should be strong enough to stop such incidents," he says.

He adds, "Child labour should be banned."

"In this particular case, Ranjan might be an accused but then, you find children working as labourers every where. They get up early in the morning and work till midnight," Kibe says.

And then he adds: "We saw the girl. She used to fetch drinking water from the tap outside and took care of Rakesh's child. It is very sad that she died of torture."

15-year-old victim of domestic abuse rescued

By Roja Kandath
Times News Network

BANGALORE: A domestic worker, Shobha, aged 15, who was subjected to physical abuse by her employer in New Delhi, was rescued by human rights activists and sent back to her grandmother, Chikkamma, here.

Shobha has said her employer, Seetha Vijaykumar, the wife of a central government official, branded her with a hot iron. Her hands were scalded with piping hot *sambhar* and her head was often banged against the wall. The girl was rescued on January 31, thanks to a few social activists: Aparna Bhat (Human Rights Law Network), Ellora (Butterflies Childline) and Sujata and S. Lahari (Campaign Against Child Labour).

Mr Vijaykumar is currently serving in Kosovo. It is said that his wife suffers from high blood pressure and is short-tempered.

Shobha was frequently threatened and physically and verbally abused. She was told that if she complained she would be sold.

Eventually, she was rescued by the human rights activists. A complaint was filed with the National Human Rights Commission on February 1. But no police complaint has been lodged. "As per the legal advice of Human Rights Law Network in the capital, no complaint was filed with the police to avoid Shobha's unnecessary harassment and detention," says Mathews Phillip, executive director of the South India Cell for Human Rights Education and Monitoring.

Shobha lost her father, a construction worker, four years ago. Her mother has been ill and the family has been in debt. Malarkodi, a neighbour, approached the family with the offer of domestic work for her in the Vijaykumars' residence in New Delhi.

Shobha and her grandmother refused to pose for photographs and declined to speak to the media. But there were bruises on her face and body and she claimed that a neighbour of Ms Vijaykumar would bear witness to her claim that she had been abused.

A strong case for banning domestic child labour

By Laiqh A.Khan

MYSORE, AUG. 8. The death of a 12-year-old housemaid in Mysore city under mysterious circumstances has not only brought into sharp focus the hazards of domestic child labour, but has also renewed the demand for banning employment of children as domestic servants.

The deceased girl Lakshmi was working as a maid in the house of Mr. Anand in Jayalakshmipuram. The girl reportedly committed suicide by consuming poison on Monday night. Her death resulted in unruly demonstrations by members of a number of voluntary organisations. The Mysore City Police registered a case of murder under Section 302 of the IPC.

Lakshmi's death takes the number of deaths of child labourers in Karnataka to 15 since 1997, and it calls for urgent action to safeguard the interests of children employed as domestic servants.

According to Mr. Joy Maliekal, convenor of Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), an organisation which has been in the forefront of the movement against child labour, many cases of violence against child labourers have been reported. "Employers have their own justifications and loopholes, which help them escape punishment. Unfortunately, there is no law with regard to employment in the domestic sector. The employers go scot-free despite evidence that can prove their guilt," he regretted.

The CACL has made out a case for banning employment of children as domestic servants by bringing the domestic sector under the list of hazardous occupations.

Though the Centre had declared 54 industries as hazardous in which employment of children was banned under the Child Labour (Protection and Regulation) Act 1986, the employment of domestic workers, especially girls, who comprise an overwhelming majority, has not been declared. The CACL plans to lead a delegation of more than 200 child labourers from the domestic and the hotel sectors and stage a protest in front of Parliament House in Delhi in November, demanding a ban on employment of child labour in the domestic and the hotel sectors.

A report on "Sectoral interventions to eradicate child labour in the domestic sector" prepared by the CACL points out that there are several cases where children doing domestic work are subjected to beating, sexual abuse, burn injuries, battering and killing. "We believe that there must be a comprehensive review of the politico-economic and sociological angles that allow children to be brutally beaten up and even killed in such an inhuman manner," CACL said.

A national survey conducted by the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) reveals that one-sixth of the workers in the domestic sector comprise children, of which Karnataka has the highest percentage of 30.48 per cent.

"As many as 15 child labourers have been killed in Karnataka alone since 1997", the CACL report said. The case studies of child labourers dying since 1997 in Karnataka, include the burning to death of an 11-year-old domestic servant. Padma, who was working in the house of a corporator of the Bangalore City Corporation in Jalahalli. Padma died of third degree burns on April 28, 1998.

As per the CACL's case study, Padma was accused of stealing jewellery from the house where she was working. She was brutally beaten up to extract the truth. Her parents were also tortured. But, according to the First Information Report (FIR) filed by the police, Padma committed suicide by setting herself ablaze after dousing herself with kerosene.

The CACL report pointed out that the parents and neighbours confirmed that she was subjected to severe torture by the employer.

In another case study prepared by the CACL, the body of 13-year-old Jyothi, who was working as a domestic servant in Mysore, was found hanging in her employer's house on November 26, 1997. Jyothi was working as a housemaid for one-and-a-half years, and was paid a meagre sum of Rs. 100 per month.

The study pointed out that the employers, who were working in the police and health departments, made attempts to cremate the body after getting the post-mortem done in a hurry.

According to the CACL finding, the rising demand for domestic help in urban centres and the poverty in rural areas has led to an increasing number of children from villages being pressed into domestic service. Poor parents prefer to send their children as residential domestic helps. The money earned in domestic work usually does not reach the children as the parents collect them directly.

Studies in most of the cities reveal that 90 per cent of the children employed in the domestic sector are girls. Their exploitation is generally in the form of long hours of work (from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. in most cases) physical abuse, sexual abuse, and lack of rest or leisure.

The Hindu Date 09-08-2001

CACL-K

60

Meek child labour law puts police in spot

Minors employed as domestic servants face abuse, torture

BY VISHWA MOHAN

PTI 13/6/2010. Tapti

New Delhi, June 12: Growing violence against minor domestic servants in the capital has put the Delhi police under pressure to play a pro-active role to reverse this trend. It however is faced with a number of hurdles, including absence of tough laws against child labour.

Poverty among the family of victims, local police's preoccupation with handling other crime and non-availability of safety net in terms of law has left the minor servants vulnerable to violence.

The police says it is difficult to know the actual condition of minor domestic servants working in different households. The police actually remains unaware of the incidents of violence until someone files a complaint.

Joint commissioner of police, southern range, Amod Kanth, says, "It is really unfortunate that the minor domestic servants have to face tyranny of their masters in the absence of any safety net." He says a pro-active policing can reverse the the trend but accepts that the police has failed to prevent such incidents.

Mr Kanth says the Child Labour Prevention Act, 1986, does not have any provision to stop people from employing minors as domestic servants. The Act only prohibits people from employing minors in the hazardous sectors. Only change in law can provide a safety net for the minors, he adds.

SPOTLIGHT

Another senior police officer says the past record of violence against minors shows that the domestic servants are safer in the rich and upper middle class households than in the middle and the lower middle class ones.

The recent cases of violence against the minor servants in the capital show that almost all the victims had been facing rough handling by their lords since long. The matter came to light only when they either succumbed to their injuries or their conditions had become so pathetic that their parents themselves informed the matter to the local police.

The police officer says since minor domestic servants come from very poor families, their parents do not come forward to complain to the police, fearing loss of job and so the loss of one bread-earning member of the family.

Past records show that violence against minor domestic servants genefally led them to become revengeful in the course of time. And by this they were generally forced to move into the more heinous crime in order to teach their masters a lesson. Mr Kanth

■ Turn to Page 11

Child labour

■ Continued from Page 9

says in several cases of brutal killings by servants, we found that they had never been treated well by their employers. And moreover, in many cases the domestic helps were minors and more vulnerable to abuse.

In one of such case which was reported from the Punjabi Bagh area in November last year, a 10-year-old domestic servant hanged himself from the ceiling fan after assaulting his employer's two-year-old son with an iron road. All over the room, the domestic help had scribbled how he was ill-treated by his employer.

In yet another case reported from the same area, a teenage domestic maid hanged herself to death in her employer's house. Her employer was later arrested when the victim's parents complained to the police that their daughter had been regularly beaten and harassed by her employer.

The police says it is, in fact, in the interest of the employers to treat their domestic servants well as the latter can anytime be forced to take a harsh action in retaliation.

Times of India 14/6/2010

Domestic Children The Most Exploited Lot

Annapurna Jha

The brutal killing of 16-year-old Nazir by his employer and suicide by 17-year-old sexually-harassed Nita has once again highlighted the plight of hapless domestic servants who are forced to silently suffer physical, emotional and sexual exploitation at the hands of their employers.

Nazir, a dye shop employee, was mercilessly beaten, strangulated and set ablaze by his employer in Chandni Chowk. All this brutality was perpetrated to extract a 'confession' from him about Rs 7000 which went missing from the office chest. His employer is absconding. On the other hand, Nita, a maid, herself to death in her employer's home at Noida after being allegedly sexually harassed. The employer is yet to be arrested.

But these are not isolated cases as physical and sexual abuse of child domestic workers keep hitting the newspapers regularly. In September last year, 12-year-old domestic maid, Iti, was allegedly sexually harassed and murdered by her employer. The police first dismissed it as a suicide and only after a lot of protests by Human Rights organisations agreed to order an inquiry into the case.

"This is a tip of an iceberg as only a minisculc number of cases of exploitation of domestic servants is reported. Being illiterate, poor they donot know town where to seek help. These children suffer silently," said Richa a Delhi University student. Often the neighbours know about the exploitation of these children, but do not report it, she said and added that in most cases police were always sympathetic to the victims and sided with the employers.

The exact number of child domestic servants was not known as neither private not public agencies have ever bothered to conduct a census. But according to South Asian coalition on child servitude, an NGO working with bonded labourers, the number of child labourers in the country was 60 million and approximately 10 to 20 per cent of them were employed as domestic servants.

"Domestic servants are one of the most exploited child labourers the practice in many cases is very close to slavery where everything depends on the mood of the employer, according to Mr Kailash Satyarthi, chairman of SACCS. He said domestic servants were the most vulnerable and exploited lot as they remain invisible workers, dispersed, hidden and mostly ignored.

On Mr Satyarthi's complaint about the burning of a child domestic worker Ashraf by a senior IAS officer for drinking the left over milk, the National Human Rights Commission had recommended the Centre and the State Governments in 1997 to amend the rules to prohibit government servants from employing children below the age of 14 as domestic servants.

After years of persuasion, the Centre finally issued a notification in October last year amending the Civil Services (Conduct) rules, 1964. According to the amendment, 'no government servant shall employ to work any child below the age of 14 years."

However, the change in rule has not changed the ground reality as many government servants are still employing young children, said Sudha Dhavan, a social worker. She felt that this amendment in rule should be given more publicity to create awareness and regular police verification should be done to check employment of children.

Most often these children know that they were being ill-treated, but they resign to their fate. Some of their relatives mortgage them and they receive no renumeration for the backbreaking work.

Thirteen-year-old Manoj, who is working in a East Delhi household for the last four years, said Hum Kya Kar Sakte Hain, Jo Hamari Kismat Mein Hai Wo Pate Hain. Lekin Main School Jana Chahta Hun.

"Par Mere Pita Ke Pas Paise Nahin Hain Isliye Majboori Mein Kam Karna Parta Hai (What can I do, this is my fate. I want to go to school but my parents have no means).

Ironically, Manoj goes twice every day to the school gates to leave and pick up his employer's son. Manoj is among the most fortunate of his lot. He doesn't [illegible] like 12-year-old [illegible] who was found hanging on May 24, 1999 in Chittaranjan park, a posh South Delhi locality.

Though child domestic work may not be harmful in itself, the circumstances in which they work damages their physical, mental and social development. For girl domestic servants, sexual abuse is the most common problem they face. Away from their families, they have no one to confide in about their predicament. With no help in sight, they run away or commit suicide to escape the exploitation, according to Child Rights activist Satyarthi.

"Earlier, we used to hear that domestic servants have killed their employers. But now news of employers killing their servants have become common," observed Seema Chaudhari, a housewife. "Both these situations are wrong. We should try to develop a system where both the employers and the employees felt safe and respect each other's needs and aspirations," she added. (UNI)

Mithilesh at AIIMS, glad that it is all over.

Eight-year-old girl tortured and battered by Surat couple

TOI 25/2/2000

By A Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Her toothless smile and her wide eyes are captivating. Her teeth, unlike others of her age, have not fallen on their own. She lost them when she was hit repeatedly on the face with a wooden *belan* (rolling pin).

Her left arm is in plaster and her right leg is swollen. Yet the moment you look at her, she smiles.

Eight-year-old Mithilesh presently recuperating in the paediatric ward at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has endured a lot. She was beaten and tortured by a couple in Surat who took her away from her family on the pretext of adopting her.

Asked how she was hurt, she spoke fluently about each and every incident. "*Mujhe kothi wali ne gode liya tha Diwali ke two mahine pehle* (I was adopted by the woman who owned a house two months before Diwali)," she began.

Mithilesh said the woman and her husband then took her to Surat where they lived in a two-bedroom house along with their minor daughters. "*Mujhe jharu, poncha, kapra aur bartan karna parta tha* (I used to mop, sweep, wash clothes and do the utensils) and whenever I would do anything wrong, she used to beat me up," she said.

The child's father has registered a complaint with the south district police. As of now, an FIR is yet to be lodged.

The beatings were rarely ever with bare hands. She said the woman used sandals, sticks and a *belan* to hit her. Other than this, Mithilesh said she would also put red chilli powder in her eyes and mouth to punish her.

The child showed both her legs, and all over, she had marks of freshly-healed wounds. "*Uske lambe, lambe nakhun they aur woh mujhe nakhun marti thi* (she had long nails with which she used to scratch me)," she said.

Mithilesh's trauma began when her father, an autorickshaw driver and mother, a maidservant, decided to give her away to this couple. "They told my father that they would educate her and she would be a playmate to their two daughters," said her brother Jitender Kumar who was there with her in the hospital.

It was not a difficult decision for the family. Mithilesh has three sisters and three brothers in her house.

However, once Mithilesh landed in Surat, a different story began. "They used to make me sleep in the bathroom without any mattress and I had to even eat my food there," she said.

The child even had to iron the clothes of the entire family. "*Ek bari maine galat press kar diya to usne mujhe garam press laga diya* (Once, I did not iron properly and she branded me with the hot iron)," she said as she showed her shoulders which had two big, skinless burnt patches.

Mithilesh's brother said when she became very sick due to all the wounds on her body, the couple brought her back to her house in early February. From there, she was rushed to the casualty department of AIIMS where she was admitted and administered intravenous fluid. It was then, that her broken limbs were plastered.

नयी दिल्ली, मंगलवार, 24 अक्टूबर, 2000

मां की मौत व निकम्मे बाप ने छीना मऊ का बचपन

कलकत्ता में नौ साल की मऊ नामक लड़की कुछ दिन पहले तक मैत्रेयी बनर्जी परिवार में घर का काम करने वाली नौकरानी थी। लेकिन इस माह दुर्गापूजा के अवसर पर उसकी मालकिन श्रीमती बनर्जी मऊ को घर के अंदर बंद करके कुछ दिन के लिए बैंगलूर भ्रमण पर चली गयीं। छोटी बच्ची घर के दरवाजे बाहर से बंद कर दिये जाने और घर में अकेली होने पर रात को घबरा गयी और जोर-जोर से रोने लगी जिसकी आवाज सुनकर पास-पड़ोस के लोगों ने पुलिस को सूचना दी और घर का ताला तोड़कर पुलिस ने बच्ची को बाहर निकाला।

दरअसल मऊ नामक यह बालिका नौ साल की उम्र में घरेलू नौकरानी क्यों बन गयी? इसकी प्रमुख जड़ अभाव और गरीबी है। मऊ का पिता पश्चिम बंगाल के दक्षिण 24 परगना के विष्णुपुर गांव में एक गरीब खेतिहर मजदूर है। मऊ की दो बड़ी बहनें पिता के काम में हाथ बंटाती हैं, जबकि मऊ अपने मामा के पास कलकत्ता में रहती है। उसका मामा रोबीन मंडल यहां की एक गंदी बस्ती में बनी झोपड़ी में रहता है और जीवन यापन के लिए साल्ट लेक में मजदूरी ही उसकी आमदनी का प्रमुख सहारा है। अभाव के कारण जब रोबीन मंडल को मऊ के लिए भोजन जुटाना मुश्किल हो गया तो उसने उसे भी काम पर लगा दिया। मऊ की मां पर पति का अत्याचार देखकर रोबीन अपनी बहन को अपनी झोपड़ी में ले आया था। मऊ की मां पर उसका पति अक्सर अत्याचार करता रहता था क्योंकि दो जून के लिए भोजन जुटाना मऊ के पिता के लिए भारी हो रहा था।

मऊ जब दो साल की थी तो सांप काटने से उसके मां की मौत हो गयी थी। आठ साल की मऊ को उसके मामा ने न्यू अलीपुर की मैत्रेयी बनर्जी के अनुरोध पर घर का काम करने की इजाजत दे दी। चुलबुली और मासूम मऊ ने अभाव के कारण अपने बचपन को बाल मजदूरी में झोंक दिया। मैत्रेयी के घर में छोटा-बड़ा काम करने में उसने कभी कोताही नहीं की। गैस चूल्हे पर चाय बनाना और भोजन करना भी उसके काम में शामिल हो गया था। जिस लगन और अपनापन के साथ मऊ मैत्रेयी के घर में काम कर रही थी, एक दिन वही मालकिन उसके साथ अमानवीय व्यवहार करेगी, यह मासूम मऊ को मालूम नहीं था। यही वजह है कि जब मैत्रेयी बनर्जी ने अपने पुत्र-पुत्री के साथ बैंगलूर जाकर छुट्टी मनाने का फैसला किया तो मालकिन के घर में अकेले रहने को तैयार हो गयी। यह उसकी नासमझी और बाल स्वभाव था लेकिन मऊ को पता नहीं था कि थोड़ा सा भोजन और बड़े मकान में सात दिन अकेले रहना किसी यातना से कम नहीं था। फिर भी मालकिन के कहने पर मऊ ने उसे भरोसा दिया कि वह सात दिन अकेली रह लेगी। मैत्रेयी बनर्जी अपने पुत्र और पुत्री के साथ बैंगलूर चली गयीं। तीन बेडरूम के फ्लैट में पहला दिन लूडो खेलकर, फ्रीज में रखा ठंडा भोजन खाकर और ऊधम मचाकर मऊ ने गुजार दिया। लेकिन रात में इतने बड़े फ्लैट में मासूम मऊ अपने को अकेली पाकर घबरा गयी और रात भर जागकर उसने रात बितायी। सप्तमी के रोज उसे पता चला कि उसकी मालकिन ने बाहर से दरवाजा बंद कर रखा है तो उसे और घबराहट होने लगी। सभी बच्चे रंग-बिरंगे कपड़े पहन कर पूजा देखने के लिए सुबह से ही मुहल्ले में घूम रहे थे लेकिन मासूम मऊ अकेले घर में बंद थी। मऊ ने रोना शुरू किया और पड़ोसियों की मदद से पुलिस ने उसे फ्लैट से निकाला।

मासूम मऊ खुली हवा में आकर बहुत खुश हुई। उसने जिद पकड़ी कि उसे नयी कमीज और गुब्बारे चाहिए। न्यू अलीपुर के दारोगा काका सुब्रत घोष ने उसकी जिद पूरी की। फिर कानूनी कार्यवाही के बाद मऊ को अदालत में पेश किया गया। मऊ रिहा हो गयी और पुलिस ने उसे उसके पिता के पास भेज दिया। घर जाने से पहले मऊ ने बालस्वभाव के अनुरूप पुलिस काका से कहा कि उसकी मालकिन अच्छी है। लेकिन मासूम मऊ को नहीं मालूम था कि उसकी मालकिन ने उसके साथ कितना अमानवीय कृत्य किया है। बैंगलूर से लौटने पर पुत्र-पुत्री के साथ पुलिस ने मैत्रेयी बनर्जी को गिरफ्तार कर लिया। अदालत ने दो हजार की जमानत पर उनकी रिहाई के आदेश दिये, लेकिन मैत्रेयी बनर्जी के कृत्य से क्षुब्ध ल्याइसेंसशुदा जमानतदारों ने जमानत लेने से इनकार कर दिया। अंततः तीनों को जेल जाना पड़ा। यह दीगर बात है कि सहानुभूति जताते हुए दूसरे दिन जमानतदारों ने तीनों को जेल से छुड़ा लिया।

मऊ के पिता को जब अपनी बेटी के साथ गुजरी उक्त घटना की जानकारी मिली तो वह कलकत्ता आया और उसके मामा के पास से मऊ को अपने घर ले गया। मऊ के गरीब खेतिहर मजदूर बाप ने रोते हुए कहा कि अब वह मऊ को पढ़ायेंगे-लिखाएंगे लेकिन बाल मजदूरी में नहीं धकेलेंगे।

● दीपक सान्याल

Police rescue 10-year-old maid locked in flat for three days by employers on Puja holiday

Home alone and hungry

BY A STAFF REPORTER

Mou Mondal, 10, spent three days of the Pujas locked inside the New Alipore flat she works in — without food or drinking water. She had been left alone from Tuesday evening, Saashthi, after the lady of the house, Maitrayee Banerjee, and her two sons left for their Puja holidays to Bangalore.

Mou was finally 'rescued' by the police on Friday morning after being alerted by anxious neighbours, who had heard faint cries of the girl from the house.

"I survived the first two days on two packets of biscuits and water from the tap. After the biscuits finished, I didn't know what to do. I was hungry and scared... I thought I would die," recounted Mou, tears streaming down her cheeks.

"By Thursday night, I was too weak to move or shout for help, but I still tried to draw the neighbours' attention. The last thing I remember is lying down on the floor and crying..."

After being alerted by the neighbours, the New Alipore police broke into the flat early on Friday.

"The girl was almost unconscious when we rescued her," an officer of the local police station said.

Mou was produced before the sub-divisional magistrate's court at Alipur on Friday afternoon and then handed over to her maternal uncle.

A case has been registered against Maitrayee Banerjee under Section 342 of the IPC for illegally detaining a mir or girl. Officials said action will be initiated against her as soon as she returns from Bangalore.

Officer-in-charge of New Alipore police station, Subruta Ghosh, said: "We rescued the girl around 3 am. But we could not take her to the police station as we have no separate rooms for women. So, we requested some relatives of the Banerjees, who live in the same apartment, to shelter the girl for some time. But they refused."

The police then contacted several groups of social workers.

"Ultimately, two women from the locality, who are engaged in social work, agreed to take care of the girl till it was time to take her to court," Ghosh added.

Preliminary investigations revealed that five years ago, Mou's father, Amal Mondal, married a second time and abandoned the girl and her mother, who also left soon after.

Mou then went to live with her maternal uncle in a Salt Lake shanty.

According to the police, Banerjee picked up Mou from there and employed her as a maid a few months back.

Mou at Alipore court. Picture by Aranya Sen

Nepali boy tortured, confined in a house

TOI 9/6/2010

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, June 8: For 12-year-old Ramu, the last few months have left many marks on his fragile frame. He was kept under wrongful confinement, regularly beaten up, harassed and threatened by his employee.

Ramu, a resident of district Pilakot, Nepal, was brought to Delhi by one of his relatives, Prasad, about six-months back. He had come here with dreams of making enough money to send it back home and later return. He was employed as a domestic help at the house of Deepak Arora, a businessman. Ramu was beaten up for small offences and his salary payments were also erratic. Arora's neighbours claim that the boy was beaten up often for minor offences. For the past few months he was locked in a small room and threatened to death until he was rescued by the Kirti Nagar police on Wednesday.

None of the family members had any pity for the boy. They would force on him long hours of hard work, neither food or any other facilities were provided to him, said one of the neighbours.

A case under the Juvenile Justice Act has been registered against the employer. One of the accused Shyam Arora has been arrested, hunt is on for Deepak and Renu Arora.

Girl tortured by her Surat 'employer'

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, February 21

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD Maithilesh was often branded with iron rods and severely beaten over six months at her employer's house in Surat. She fell ill and was brought back to her parents here. She is recovering, very slowly, at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences hospital here from the physical and emotional scars of her trauma in Surat.

Maithilesh's mother Chandravati is a domestic help in the home of a South Delhi college lecturer. Chandravati's employer convinced her that Maithilesh would be better off in the home of her daughter in Surat.

Life in Surat was a nightmare without an end. Maithilesh was assigned domestic tasks - and over punishingly long hours - which even an adult would have found difficult.

"The lady of the house was never satisfied with my work. I was often branded with iron rods, and sometimes when she was very angry, she would scratch me with her nails," Maithilesh recalled to this reporter today, between sobs.

Eight-year-old Maithilesh recovering at AIIMS. Photo: Vipin Kumar

The Surat "employers" had two daughters of almost Maithilesh's age.

Her mornings began early. After a bath with ice cold water, she would be ushered into the kitchen to perform her domestic duties. She survived the whole day on two pieces of bread and water.

"I would often think of running away. But I stopped myself because if I did, who would take me to my parents," recalled a still traumatised Maithilesh.

On February 4, Chandravati was summoned to her employer's house. The girl had been reportedly brought back to Delhi because she had taken ill and was "of no use" to her employers. The girl had several broken teeth, and a fractured arm. She was threatened dire consequences if she revealed the truth.

"My girl had a swollen eye, a broken arm and several marks on her neck. Madam said that she had sustained these injuries after slipping in the bathroom," said Chandravati.

The mother grabbed Maithilesh, who was semi conscious and took her home.

The frantic parents rushed the girl to AIIMS the next day. After regaining consciousness, Mithilesh revealed her horrifying tale of torture to her parents.

This 8-yr-old has injuries, others the 'truth' on her

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

THE smile on eight-year-old Mithilesh's face conceals the horrifying tales she has to tell. Yet, even as she lies recuperating from injuries at AIIMS her tale has found two authors. One is her family and the other the family of the teacher who apparently sent her to work in Surat.

According to her family, Mithilesh was beaten and tortured by her employers in Surat and brought back to Delhi on February 3 when her condition worsened. They say that her state was explained away by saying that she had had a fall in the bathroom.

The girl's father, Ram Singh, who is an autorickshaw driver in the Capital, also alleges a cover-up. Singh says he was given Rs 5,000 by the teacher's family for his daughter's treatment and was told not to report the matter to the police.

He adds that the family did not know Mithilesh was working as a servant; they only knew she had been sent to the house of the teacher's daughter, who lived in Surat.

Also, the teacher, he continued, had assured them that Mithilesh would be enrolled into a school and would only be a companion for the children. They were reportedly also promised that she would come home on Diwali.

However, when she did not come home that day, her parents got worried and asked the teacher about her. The teacher — who is employed at a reputed girls' college in the Capital — reportedly said Mithilesh had been unable to get leave from school.

Confront the teacher's family with this, however, and they give another version: They did not want to take the girl as she was very young but it was Mithilesh's mother who was insistent. The family denies that any atrocities were meted out on the girl. They add that her father is an alcoholic and has used the incident to demand money.

But, the doctor who was attending on young Mithilesh told *Newsline* that though the girl was admitted for some infection on the lower part of her leg, there are traces of old injuries. He rules out the possibility of these injuries having been sustained because of a fall.

Mithilesh, 8, recuperating in AIIMS. *Newsline photo by CHERIAN THOMAS*

On the other hand, Singh's claim that he did not know the whereabouts of his daughter is contradicted by his own son, Jitender.

Jitender says he used to call up Surat every Sunday "but never had any inkling about what she was going through".

According to the police, it is a case of domestic violence. "The girl has sustained injuries on head, shoulders and other parts of her body," DCP (South) Sudhir Yadav said yesterday. He added that a Medico-Legal Complaint was referred to the police on February 4 and a formal complaint was lodged by Singh on Tuesday last.

The Greater Kailash police confirmed late this evening that they have recorded the statement of the victim's mother, who had worked as a domestic help for two years in the teacher's house.

Earlier in the day they had said that a case can be registered only in Surat where the alleged incident occurred.

Singh says he had lodged a complaint with the Amar Colony police post on February 21.

The story then? Let's have it from Mithilesh's mouth: "I was beaten very often as I couldn't do all the chores I was asked to. Sometimes traces of soap used to be there in the clothes I was given to wash. I couldn't do the sweeping and cleaning very properly."

But then she is quick to add, "I was good at ironing clothes and washing dishes."

Labour. Gen. Domestic Workers. Policies
. Child Labour. Domestic
Child [illegible]

Domestic Children The Most Exploited Lot

Annapurna Jha

The brutal killing of 16-year-old Nazir by his employer and suicide by 17-year-old sexually-harassed Anita has once again highlighted the plight of hapless domestic servants who are forced to silently suffer physical, emotional and sexual exploitation, at the hands of their employers.

Nazir, a dye shop employee, was mercilessly beaten, strangulated and set ablaze by his employer in Chandni Chowk. All this brutality was perpetrated to extract a 'confession' from him about Rs 7000 which went missing from the office chest. His employer is absconding. On the other hand Anita, a maid, herself to death in her employer's home at Noida after being allegedly sexually harassed. The employer is yet to be arrested.

But these are not isolated cases as physical and sexual abuse of child domestic workers keep hitting the newspapers regularly. In September last year, 12-year-old domestic maid, Iti, was allegedly sexually harassed and murdered by her employer. The police first dismissed it as a suicide and only after a lot of protests by Human Rights organisations agreed to order an inquiry into the case.

"This is a tip of an iceburg as only a miniscule number of cases of exploitation of domestic servants is reported. Being illiterate, poor they donot know from where to seek help. These children suffer silently," said Richa a Delhi University student. Often the neighbours know about the exploitation of these children, but do not report it, she said and added that in most cases police were always not sympathetic to the victims and sided with the employers.

The exact number of child domestic servants was not known as neither private agencies have ever bothered to conduct a census. But according to South Asian coalition on child servitude, an NGO working with bonded labourers, the number of child labourers in the country was 60 million and approximately 10 to 20 per cent of them were employed as domestic servants.

"Domestic servants are one of the most exploited child labourers the practice in many cases is very close to slavery where everything depends on the mood of the employer, according to Mr Kailash Satyarthi, chairman of SACCS. He said domestic servants were the most vulnerable and exploited lot as they remain invisible workers, distributed, hidden and mostly ignored.

On Mr Satyarthi's complaint about the burning of a child domestic worker by a senior IAS officer for drinking over milk, the National Human Rights Commission had recommended the Centre and the State Governments in 1997 to amend the rules to prohibit government servants from employing children below the age of 14 as domestic servants.

After years of persuasion, the Centre finally issued a notification in October last year amending the Civil Services (Conduct) rules, 1964. According to the amendment, 'no government servant shall employ to work any child below the age of 14 years.'

However, the change in rule has not changed the ground reality as many government servants are still employing young children, said Sudha Dhavan, a social worker. She felt that this amendment in rule should be given more publicity to create awareness and regular police verification should be done to check employment of children.

Most often these children know that they were being ill-treated, but they resign to their fate. Some of their relatives mortgage them and they receive no renumeration for the backbreaking work.

Thirteen-year-old Manoj, who is working in a East Delhi household for the last four years, said Ham Kya Kar Sakte Hain, Jo Hamari Kismat Mein Hai Who Pine Hain. Lekin Main School Jana Chahta Hain.

"Par Mere Pita Ke Pas Paise Nahin Hain Isliye Majboori Mein Kam Karna Parta Hai (What can I do, this is my fate. I want to go to school but my parents have no means).

Ironically, Manoj goes twice every day to the school gates to leave and pick up his employer's son. Manoj is among the most fortunate of his lot as he doesn't have to suffer [illegible] like 12-year-old Shiv Shankar who was found hanging on May 24, 1999 in Chittaranjan park, a posh South Delhi locality.

Though child domestic work may not be harmful in itself, the circumstances in which they work damages their physical, mental and social development. For girl domestic servants, sexual abuse is the most common problem they face. Away from their families, they have no one to confide in about their predicament. With no help in sight, they run away or commit suicide to escape the exploitation, according to Child Rights activist Satyarthi.

"Earlier, we used to hear that domestic servants have killed their employers. But now news of employers killing their servants have become common," observed Seema Chaudhari, a housewife. "Both these situations are wrong. We should try to develop a system where both the employers and the employees felt safe and respect each other's needs and aspirations," she added. (UNI)

and added that in most cases police were always sympathetic to the victims and sided with the employers.

mood of the employer, according to Mr Kailash Satyarthi, chairman of

gives mortgage them and they receive no renumeration for the backbreaking

other's needs and aspirations. he added. (UNI)

Law — child labour — living & work.
Child labour — domestic
domestic worker

13-yr-old child labourer crippled for life

Yasin broke his hip after falling from 2nd floor while painting landlord's house, was taken to hospital 4 days later

PRADEEP DUTTA
JAMMU, OCT 22

TI 23/10/00

THIRTEEN-year-old Mohammad Yasin had always wanted to be a policeman. He still does. But now the very thought brings tears to Abdul Majid's eyes because the doctors have told him his son will never walk again without crutches — the result of a stint serving a family that promised to ease their financial burden so Yasin could study well.

Majid had agreed to let Yasin help out with domestic work at his landlord's house in exchange for the waiver of the Rs 200-rent. He had taken the house on rent only so that Yasin could study at the middle school in Sha Mohalla, which is several kilometres away from their Dashna, their village.

"I was well aware of the problems in my family. In order to take away a bit of my father's burden, I agreed to work at Niaz's house," recalls Yasin.

But instead of the light household chores that he had been told about, the boy's day began early: he washed dishes and made tea for the family before leaving for school. After returning, he had to wash clothes and work in the kitchen again, leaving him with hardly any time to study.

A little before New Year's Eve, the Rishoos told him to whitewash their eight-room house — and to be quick about it. Yasin had balanced himself on the ledge of a second-floor window to paint the outer wall when he slipped and fell.

Since there was no outward injury and Yasin could move, the couple told him to wash blankets — which is when he found his leg beginning to swell. The pain grew but the couple did not take him to a doctor. With no treatment, septicaemia set in.

"Rishoo *sahib* took me to hospital only when the pus started oozing from my leg. And bringing me here, he vanished. I have not seen any of them since then," Yasin says.

The couple did not even inform Yasin's parents about this incident. It was only when the boy's mother came to visit him — two weeks later — that Rishoo's wife told thim that her son was in hospital with fever. "I was shocked to find my son fighting a lonely battle on the hospital bed," recalls Yasin's mother.

When contacted, Rishoo said: "We have already given Rs 3,000 for Yasin's treatment. What else should we do?" However, he refused to say anything when asked about using Yasin as child labour at his house.

Majid admits he got Rs 3,000 from Rishoo. "But tell me *sahib*, is that money going to bring my son's legs back? I had kept my son there to study and they used him as a servant. What type of humanity is this?" he asks.

Even after working overtime, Majid is not able to earn enough to get medicine for his son. Neck deep in debt, he has run away from Doda so that he can find some work in Jammu and save his son's life.

The government hospital at Doda has referred Yasin to the Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu for further treatment but doctors here have expressed little hope for the youngster.

Majid hopes to file a complaint with the State Human Rights Commission against the Rishoos. But, like he says, money will hardly compensate for Yasin's loss.

HT-P 21/7/00

Bank employee arrested for torturing maid

HT Correspondent
Dhanbad, July19

IN A hair-raising incident of child abuse, a woman reportedly gorged in a heated iron rod down to the throat of her seven-year-old maid-servant at Jharia.

The sadist woman, a Central Bank employee, did not stop there. She further tortured the girl by slashing her tongue with a heated knife.

Hearing the girl's shrieking in pain, the neighbours flocked her house in Koeribandh and rescued the girl.

The girl was found in an unconcious state and gave her statement after she was treated at the local hospital. She is reported to be out of danger.

The atrocities of the woman were reported to the police, who intervened into the scene following a demonstration by the neighbours.

Later, a case under sections 341, 342, 323, 324 and 374 of Child Abuse Act was registered with the Jharia police.

The case was lodged against the woman by the neighbours. The accused was later arrested and sent to jail.

Labour. Gen Domestic workers Atrocities
· child labour - Atrocities
· child Atrocities.

NGOs demand action in child torture case

11-year-old Shashikala was rescued from her employers' home with 20 human bites

Express News Service

Bangalore, Nov 21: We want justice, they yelled. The accused are 'absconding'. NGOs protested in front of their vacant home to make the neighbourhood aware. Shashikala, the 11-year-old victim of child abuse only knew she was the centre of attention for Tuesday: Child Rights Day.

Campaign Against Child Labour and the NGO forum for Street and Working Children that represent organisations working for child workers and street children staged a dharna in front of the house of Iladevi and Venkatesh, the two employees of Karnataka State Financial Corporation who employed her, and against Iladevi in particular, who bit Shashikala, and banged her head against a wall for inconsequential reasons.

Shashikala was rescued on Oct 2 from her employers' Nandidurg home with 20 human bite marks on her left arm, 12 on her right, five on her back and a swelling on her neck and legs. CACL and NFSWC proceeded to KSFC and staged a dharna there.

The NGOs demanded that KSFC punish Iladevi and Venkatesh to set a precedent for Government officials employing children. KSFC officials were in for a "shock", when they saw the photographs of Shashikala taken when her wounds were fresh. "I have seen cases of abnormal behaviour as a clinical psychologist in the past. But this one beats them all," said Dr S S Chandrashekar, Deputy General Manager.

Executive Director (Operations) V Chandramohan said he sould suspend the employees till the case was heard. He said if the two employees were otherwise "well-behaved" in their workplace. The two hold posts of Deputy General managers in different capacities of KSFC, Bangalore. "The two employees are absent today," said officials. Meanwhile, some protestors informed this newspaper that KSFC employees collected Rs 5,000 for the child.

'DISTRESS' CALLS

Makkala Sahaya Vani sources said they received at least eight calls urging them to "do something to save Shashikala's torturers because they're not bad." Most of them persuaded MSV officials into withdrawing the complaint against Shashikala's employers.

Shashikala displaying a placard demanding action against her former employers who tortured her– Express photo

NEW INDIAN EXPRESS 22/11/2001

Ban domestic child labour, urges study

By Roli Srivastava

MUMBAI: Domestic child labour should be included in the list of 'prohibited occupations' mentioned in the Child Labour Act, 1986. This recommendation is part of a recent study conducted by YUVA, an NGO, on domestic child labour.

The study also suggests the setting up of a committee vested with powers to check employment of children as domestic servants.

The study was conducted as part of a week-long campaign against domestic girl child labour. The campaign, which ended on April 30, was organised by [illegible] organisations working with Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) Maharashtra [illegible] in tying with the Coordination Committee of Vulnerable Children.

Highlighting the deplorable condition of children employed as domestic servants, the study reveals that of the 296 children rescued by CHILDLINE 1098, a help line, since 1996, 90 per cent were domestic workers. It further quotes a CRY survey (1998), which estimated that of every three children in India, one was a child labour. It adds that though the number of working girl children has increased, the number of working boys has declined in the past ten years.

The study estimates that the average age of girls when they start work is between 5.4 and 6.5 years as compared to the average age of 6.3 to 8.4 years of boys. Moreover, school attendance among girls is 27.4 per cent as compared to 48.33 per cent attendance of boys.

However, it is the treatment meted out to these child domestic servants which is of growing concern. The report states that violence and sexual abuse are among the most "serious and frightening" hazards facing domestic working children. In addition, these children also face other risks like household accidents, isolation leading to low self-esteem and lack of emotional support.

The conditions under which these children work, too, is a far cry from the standards set by the UN Convention on rights of the child. For instance, the convention gives every child, who is separated from his or her parents, the right to maintain regular contact with them. However, case studies of tortured children indicate that they are deprived of such contacts. Other rights of the child like education, leisure, rest, protection from sexual exploitation, are, of course, unheard of.

Child domestic workers are also excluded from legislations like the Workmen's Compensation Act, Payment of Minimum Wages Act, Weekly Holiday Act and Gratuity, the study pointed out.

Times of India 04/05/01

26.11.1

The Times of India

Page 13

Child workers' sobs drown in cacophony of concrete jungle

By Roli Srivastava

MUMBAI: There are no bandhs or protest rallies when one of them dies a silent death. They are referred to as 'invisible labour' by activists. And the inhuman treatment meted out to them fails to move citizens.

Indeed, life is no child's play for innumerable children, under 14, who are employed as domestic workers in the city. While there are sporadic reports of them being tortured by employers, activists feel that these cases merely form the tip of the iceberg.

"It is only when the cases are of extreme exploitation that we get to know about them," says Archana Shrivastav, core group member with Campaign Against Child Labour. She adds that there are several more cases which remain unnoticed because nobody knows what's happening inside a house. "Of all the cases reported to us last year, eight of them were extreme in nature," she says.

Of these eight cases, she revealed, two children had died of torture, one girl had attempted suicide and another girl, when rescued, was severely injured. "The tragedy is that by the time these cases are reported to us, the child has suffered enough," she says.

"Moreover, the cases that we get are those witnessed by an outsider," says Meghna Sawant of CHILDLINE 1098. For instance, she says, a guest in the family who has seen the worker being ill-treated or a shopkeeper who notices wounds on a child's face and he [illegible] employers are the kind of people who call up to report.

She recalls a case when a shopkeeper noticed bruises and burn marks on the face of 13-year-old girl, Sarita, who worked as domestic worker. When probed, Sarita revealed that she worked from 4 a.m. to 11 p.m. and was also beaten regularly by her employers. There was another case of a young girl working with a family at Charni Road, who was beaten with an iron rod for every small reason. When the help line's activists reached there with the police, she just pleaded to be taken away.

However, one of the most gruesome cases reported so far has been that of an eight-year-old child, Chengappa, employed in Navy Nagar, Colaba. The child was allegedly beaten brutally by his employers. The employers realised that the child was dead only after he didn't move for two days.

According to activists, these children are under tremendous stress and the recent case of the 12-year-old domestic worker who allegedly poisoned his employer is just a reflection of their level of frustration.

Ironically, most of these children in the age group of five to eight years are employed by working parents to baby-sit children who are at times their own age. While they are employed as baby-sitters, they end up doing all the household chores. There are numerous cases reported where these children are not even allowed to write to their parents, leave alone visit their native place.

For this reason, several children support groups have joined hands to create awareness among people regarding their domestic servants. Over 40 organisations working with the Coordination Committee of Vulnerable Children Mumbai, and 100 organisation working with CACL, Maharashtra, are presently holding a one-week campaign against domestic child labour.

However, say activists, sensitising employers is not enough as even the law need to be more supportive. "Domestic labour is not even mentioned in the Child Labour Act," says Ms Shrivastav. Activists thus feel that there should be a 'prohibited section' in the Child Labour Act which would ban employing children below 14 years of age as domestic workers.

Foul play suspected in maidservant's death

Newstoday 7/7/2000 Tapti

Hyderabad: Foul play has been alleged in the death of a 12-year-old maidservant, whose death was registered three months back as 'suicide'.

Alleging that girl was raped and killed, the parents of the girl, P Nailaiah and Lakshmi, at a press conference here on Thursday, demanded a thorough probe into the circumstances leading to their daughter's death.

According to them, the girl, Durga, had been working as a domestic hand in the house of a retired railway employee in Gemini colony at Musheerabad. She was found dead under suspicious circumstances on April 12.

Askec as to why they had been silent for three months, the parents (the press conference was organised by a mahila mandali) said that there was nobody to guide them.

The parents appeared to be ignorant of matters such as whether or not a case was registered against the employer by the police and whether a post-mortem was conducted.

The parents merely said the body was handed over to them at the hospital and that they performed the last rites in Kakinada. (When contacted, the Musheerabad police said that they registered a case of suicide by hanging).

Nailaiah and Lakshmi stated that Durga was working in the house of Harikrishna of Kakinada. They claimed that in January Harikrishna took Durga to Hyderabad without their consent.

Initially, Durga spoke to her parents over phone and said she was 'happy'. In March, she started complaining that she was 'not feeling good'.

Subsequently, when the parents came to Hyderabad and sought to take her back, the employer reportedly told them that he had entered into an "agreement" with Harikrishna for "three months", and hence, could not take Durga with them.

The parents returned to Kakinada and received some more calls from Durga that she was 'feeling threatened'. When they came to Hyderabad on April 12, they were shocked to learn that Durga had committed suicide.

President of Bhavani mahila mandali (which organised the press conference) Manthrekalavathi demanded a thorough probe into the incident to do justice to poor parents.

COULD CACL PROBE INTO THIS ?
WE COULD FORM A FACT FINDING
TEAM AND SEEK THE DETAILS OF
THIS MYSTEREOUS DEATH.

THPA

74

Her dreams of adoption turned sour

DH News Service

BANGALORE, Sept 27

In a moving case of child labour which came to light recently, eight-year-old Sumitra was sent to the house of Karnataka Minister of State for Women and Child Development Vimalabai Deshmukh as a housemaid by the city-based Sumangali Sevashrama in the belief that she would be 'adopted'.

Sumitra was a sprightly young child who went to school at Shivasandra in Channapatna taluk. Having lost both her parents at a tender age, she grew up in abject poverty at her grandfather's house. But she always nursed a dream of going to school. About two months ago, an older woman sister Shivanamma brought her to the Sumangali Sevashrama where she could be fed and taught to read and write.

Shivanamma said that she left the girl behind only after the head of the institution, Susheelamma, said Sumitra will be provided free food, shelter and schooling. When

Sumitra

she went to meet the girl a few days later, Sumitra was nowhere to be seen. When she enquired about her, the Sevashrama authorities told her that the girl had been given away for adoption, but refused to reveal the names of people who had 'adopted' Sumitra.

Fearing the worst, Shivanamma contacted Sudha Lakshmamma, president of Anchipura Netravathi Mahila Sangha. They then contacted Vikas, a non-government rural development organisation working for the cause of child labourers.

Co-ordinator and activist Raghavendra, with co-worker Rajeev visited the Sevashrama and found that Sumitra had been sent to the minister's house in Nalavathawada village, Bijapur district. Bowing to pressure from them, the Sevashrama brought back Sumitra and handed her over to Shivanamma on September 25.

When asked what she did in Minister Vimalabai Deshmukh's house, Sumitra said that she would get up at 5 am everyday and wash vessels, sweep and mop the entire house. "Though I was interested in reading and playing, I was not sent to school," she said.

"We had not permitted the Sevashrama to give her for adoption or send her as a housemaid to anyone's house. But the authorities, by sending her away to the minister's house without even informing us, have caused a lot of mental agony to us and the child in the past one month," Shivanamma said.

Head of the sevashrama Susheelamma acknowledged that they had sent Sumitra to the minister's house in the belief that she will be adopted. "The minister herself said that they would observe the girl's behaviour and then adopt her," she added.

When asked about valid documents for adoption, Ms Susheelamma said they did not possess any such documents. She did not have a convincing answer when asked how they decided to send the child without the permission of her guardians.

MINISTER'S REPLY: When contacted, Ms Vimalabai Deshmukh agreed that they had taken Sumitra to her house where she worked as a housemaid. She also said that they had not been able to send her to school or paid her any salary. The minister said that they had intended to adopt her "if possible". She also said that no documents had been prepared for the process.

DECCAN HERALD 28-9-1999

TIMES OF INDIA 2-10-1999

Minister employs minor maid

NGO charges minister of pact with orphanage

By Our Special Correspondent

Bangalore, Oct. 1: The Campaign Against Child Labour, an NGO working for children, has charged that women and child welfare minister Vimalabai Deshmukh colluded with an orphanage to employ a girl to do chores at her residence. The organisation on Friday demanded that the minister pay compensation to the child's guardian and has also demanded an inquiry into the affairs of the orphanage.

Narrating the incident on Friday, organisation convenor Matthew Philip said on July 12, a 10-year-o.d girl, Sumitra, was handed over to the custody of Sumangali Sevashram by her guardian Shivanamma. Shivanamma wanted the girl to get an education.

A week later, when the guardians visited the orphanage, they found Sumitra missing from the orphanage. Worse, the orphanage administrators did not give the guardians a convincing reply, he said.

After many visits to the orphanage, on July 22, the Campaign Against Child Labour and the child's guardians were told that the girl was handed over to the minister. Two months later, on September 24, the Campaign Against Child Labour went to the orphanage and demanded that the child be returned. The orphanage was given a deadline of one week. Sumitra was returned to her guardian the next day.

IN SAFE HANDS: Ten-year-old Sumitra (right), who worked as a maid in women and child welfare minister Vimalabai Deshmukh's house, at a function organised by an NGO working for children, Campaign Against Child labour, in Bangalore on Friday. A photograph by V. Srinivas Murthy

According to Mr Philip, the child told them she did chores at the minister's residence. She said was made to work there from 5 am to 10 pm. Mr Philip has now demanded an impartial investigation into the activities of the orphanage and Ms Deshmukh's alleged role in taking a girl under the guise of adoption. The Campaign Against Child Labour also demanded that the government immediately issue an order prohibiting employment of children below 14 years as domestic servants.

It has also demanded provision of education and other compensation to Sumitra.

NGO files PIL on child labour

A CITY-BASED NGO has filed a PIL in the Orissa High Court to intervene in the case of mysterious death of a child worker Mamata of village Rangatahli.

Mamata, an 11-year-old girl was working as domestic help in the house of Duryodhan Nahak, who is allegedly the murderer.

The petition submitted by the Campaign Against Child Labour says the child in her dying statement has accused the employer of dousing her with kerosene and setting fire to her. The PIL demands immediate arrest of the culprit, starting a CBI inquiry, compensation to the family of the deceased besides calling for the State Government's action to ban child labour. The NGO also sent a fact-finding mission to the victim's village to talk to witnesses who revealed that the victim on 8th May had called a neighbour of her employer to rescue her. Mamata was admitted to the government hospital in Talcher by Duryodhan. Her parents were present when she breathed her last. In her dying statement ,Mamata named Duryodhan as the culprit. Duryodhan is absconding. An ex-gratia Rs 2000 has been sanctioned by the Angul district collector. The victim's elder sister who was also working as a domestic help has been released and admitted to a school.

HTC, Cuttack

76

THE TELEGRAPH SUNDAY 17 JUNE 2001

Tales of nowhere children

Trained in housework since their wee years, girls make great servants. So what if sexual abuse is a professional hazard? Manipadma Jena on the scene in Orissa

Doctors failed to locate even one square inch of unburned skin on her body where they could insert the saline needle. Finally, they dug it into her left foot — the feet alone remained unscarred, grimly clean against a charred body. With third degree burns, 11-year-old Mamata had no chances of survival. Throughout her last few hours she kept repeating, "*Babu* poured kerosene on me and then flung a lighted matchstick."

Only four days back, on May 4 this year, Duryodhan Nahak had taken Mamata from her parents' home saying she would work at his house in Talcher where his parents, wife and children lived. Instead he took her to Rangathali village in Dhenkanal, where he stayed alone. Villagers later told the Orissa fact-finding team of the nationwide network, Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), that Nahak was a drunkard and an anti-social.

Why the man killed the little girl who had been alone with him for four days is a question that will perhaps remain unanswered. Interestingly, the CACL team points out that when Mamata was giving her dying statement, the police and the hospital personnel asked her parents to leave the room. CACL suspects the authorities of suppressing information Mamata had earlier given them. A case has been filed under IPC 302, FIR no. 49/8.5.2001, with the Parjang police station, Dhenkanal. It remains to be seen if justice will ever be rendered, even posthumously, to this girl domestic worker (DW), many like whom are trapped in similar prisons of abuse, economically and sexually exploited and sometimes murdered in cold blood.

In March this year, a case of rape of a 13-year-old DW was filed with the Sadar village police station in Balasore district under IPC 370 and 506. Kamali was feeding her master's cows in the evening when his nephew emerged from the shadows and molested her. Half an hour later, Kamali ran back home and cried out the facts to her mother. When the CACL team went over to investigate a month later, the alleged culprit had not been arrested. And Kamali had not received wages due for six years.

Girls are seen as natural DWs, trained as they are at their own homes for housework. These girl child labourers are, to quote the International Labour organisation, 'the nowhere children', a category of child population which neither attends school nor is reported to be economically active. Official estimates or policies related to child labour do not take cognisance of DWs, a large majority of whom are girl children. This is not surprising. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1987 does not include employment of children as domestic labour in the list of seven occupations and eight processes prohibited by it.

In the absence of official sources of data, rough estimates available from sporadic studies do not actually reveal the magnitude and nature of the problem. According to the Shramshakti report (1998) there are 16.8 lakh female DWs as against 6.2 lakh males. A 12-city study conducted by the Catholic Bishops Conference of India in the early 80s says females constitute 78 per cent of DWs. In Orissa, a 1997 study by the department of applied economics of Vani Vihar, Utkal University, reveals a strong preference of employers for girl DWs.

The Orissa study found that nearly 90 per cent of girl DWs start work before the age of 12. More than three-fourths belong to the age group of 12-14 years. Girls of pre-puberty age, while themselves still unaware of their sexuality, are common targets of sexual abuse. Again, while 70 per cent step out to work to supplement the family income, the remaining 30 per cent are forced into it by a broken family: the father may be a drunkard or a drug addict or may have deserted the family; the mother may be living with another man. Absence of a supportive family structure makes the girl DW more vulnerable.

Mothers are often known to accept hush money when their daughters are abused. This is prompted by a sense of ignorance and helplessness with regard to registering official protests as also by the fear of stigma resulting from any form of social protest. In fact various studies reveal one common aspect of the problem. DWs themselves recognise that they have no fixed hours or legitimate rights. Abuse, even sexual abuse, is accepted as a professional hazard which must be endured on pain of being sacked.

Fourteen-year-old Chabbirani Padhi ran away from her stepmother's torture only to be caught by two women constables in Titlagarh in Bolangir district who deposited her in a local home for the disabled. Padhi was employed as a DW by the man running the home. His wife was a cruel mistress and after seven months the girl fled. She was caught and handed over to her employers. They kept her locked up in a room for 17 days. She was rescued by the district collector of Bolangir who somehow came to know about it all. It was found that in those seven months she had been sexually assaulted a number of times by a staff, had conceived and been made to undergo an illegal abortion in the government hospital. In February 2001 a case was lodged against her employers under IPC 342, 323 and 334.

VIOLENT FATE: Mamata's bereaved parents — their daughter was killed by her employer

Ranjan Mohanty, Orissa co-convenor for CACL, which is conducting a statewide study on child labour in the domestic sector, says they do not expect to get much authentic data on sexual abuse of DWs. He assesses, "More than 90 percent of girls engaged in domestic work face different forms of sexual harassment by employers or their relatives." Girls of nine or 10 innocently reveal, "My *babu* is very loving, he sits me on his lap and pets me saying, good girl, good girl." "Men ask DWs to massage their bodies, and nobody thinks anything of it," adds Mohanty.

Normally, if the employers turned predators possess some clout, arrests are delayed and so is justice. With this being an invariable trend, the cases that come to light are mostly of rural or small-town background. But this in no way means that DWs in cities have a happy time.

THE HINDU 3.3.2001

Girl rescued from employer's house

By Our Staff Reporter

BANGALORE, MARCH 2. The Makkala Sahayavani is reported to have rescued a girl, Lakshmi, from the house of her employer, Anita Punja, who had allegedly injured her by hitting her on the head with an iron rod, on February 23. The girl called up police the next day, and pleaded with them to rescue her.

It is learnt that her mother, Krishnaveni, a resident of Karneli village on Sarjapura Road, had left the girl at Anita's apartment on Airport Road in Domlur to work as a domestic servant. She was ill-treated and beaten up repeatedly by her employer, the girl alleged in a complaint to the Ulsoor police. She also said that she had informed her mother about the harassment.

Anita allegedly hit Lakshmi with an iron rod as she did not polish shoes properly. When she shouted for help, Anita is said to have abused her and locked her up in a room. She called the police after this incident. According to Ms. Brinda, Coordinator of Makkala Sahayavani, the girl called police four times, and the activists of her organisation managed to locate Anita's house, and rescue her. Anita told them that the girl was mentally ill, and had injured herself, Ms. Brinda said.

The activists took the girl to Ulsoor police station, where she lodged a complaint against Anita. She was examined at Bowring Hospital, and is now with the Association for Promoting Social Action (APSA) at Annasandrapalya, HAL.

DECCAN HERALD 4.3.2001

Girl rescued from clutches of house-employer

DH News Service

BANGALORE, March 3

The Makkala Sahayavani is learnt to have rescued a child labour, Lakshmi, from the house of her employer Anita Punja, who had allegedly assaulted her with an iron rod. The action came when Lakshmi called up the police and pleaded for rescue. Lakshmi's mother, from Karneli village near here, had left her in Anita's Apartment on Airport road to work as a maid. Lakshmi told Ulsoor police that she was illtreated and beaten repeatedly by Anita. Anita allegedly hit the girl with an iron rod as she did not polish shoes properly. When she shouted for help, Anita is said to have abused her and locked her up. The Makkala Sahaya Vani co-ordinator, Ms Brinda, said the girl called the police and the organisation. They managed to locate Anita's house and rescue Lakshmi. However, Anita told Brinda that the girl was mentally ill and had injured herself. Brinda took Lakshmi to Ulsoor Police Station where she lodged a complaint against Anita. She was examined at Bowring Hospital and is now with Association for Promoting Social Action (Apsa) at Annasandra Palya HAL.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
BANGALORE 3

Battered servant girl dials 100, gets rescued

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, March 2: The City police rescued a 12-year-old maid who sought their help after she was allegedly beaten up by her employer, under the Ulsoor Police station, jurisdiction recently.

According to the police, the girl, Lakshmi, called up the police over phone No 100 four times. Makkala Sahaya Vani (MSV) immediately rushed to the house and rescued her. A case under Sections 341, 342 (wrongful restraint and confinement) of the IPC has been filed against her employer who works for a private TV channel.

According to MSV, Lakshmi's mother, unable to make ends meet, had sent her daughter to a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Jeevodaya. The NGO in turn sent her to work as a maid in the house. In the FIR, the MSV alleged that Lakshmi was beaten up and locked up in the house.

Lakshmi's employer allegedly hit her on the head with a rod causing a serious injury. Profusely bleeding she decided to seek help from the police.

With her remarkable presence of mind, Lakshmi, who has studied only up to 4th standard, dialled 100 for help.

Initially she could not give the exact address. Finally, she memorised the mobile phone number of her employer and passed it onto the police, MSV said. After four hours of frantic phone calls MSV traced the house and rescued the girl. The employer has now claimed that the child was mentally unstable and all the injuries were self-inflicted.

NEW INDIAN EXPRESS 3.3.2001

मुंह में कपड़ा ठूंसा, गरम चिमटे से दागा

17/8/98

सहारा समाचार

नोएडा, 16 अगस्त। उसकी उम्र 14 साल है-नाम ओमप्रकाश। वह निठारी में गमले बनाने वाले एक व्यक्ति रामस्वरूप के यहां मजदूरी करता है। यह व्यक्ति उसकी बुआ के लड़के का लड़का है। ओमप्रकाश उन्नाव का रहने वाला है। रक्षा बंधन पर घर जाना चाहता था। मालिक रामस्वरूप ने पैसे नहीं दिये। ओमप्रकाश को दुख हुआ। 13 तारीख को उसने एक हजार रुपये पार कर दिये और कश्मीरी गेट वाले आईएसबीटी पहुंच गया, घर जाने के लिए। मालिक को पता चला। वह उसे बस अड्डे से पकड़ लाया।

मुंह में कपड़ा ठूंसकर उसे पलंग से बांध दिया और आग पर चिमटा गरम करके उसके शरीर को बुरी तरह दागा, धमकी भी दी कि किसी से दुखड़ा रोया तो अच्छा नहीं होगा। घाव अपने दिये थे, इसलिए पीड़ा बहुत हुई, पर इससे और बुरा क्या हो सकता है, यह सोचकर ओमप्रकाश चुप रहा।

लेकिन आसपास के लोगों से घाव छिप न सके। 14 अगस्त को पुलिस को पता चला। पुलिस आयी और ओमप्रकाश को ले गयी। फिर उसे छोड़ गयी और रामस्वरूप व उसके साथी राजेन्द्र को ले गयी। पर 15 अगस्त को वे दोनों वापस आ गये और इसी दिन स्वतंत्रता दिवस की स्वर्ण जयंती के आयोजन समाप्त हो गये। कुछ समाजसेवियों ने एसपी और थाना सेक्टर 20 की पुलिस पर दबाव बनाकर रिपोर्ट दर्ज करवायी, मेडिकल करवाया और रामस्वरूप व राजेन्द्र को धारा 324 के तहत गिरफ्तार करवाया।

ओमप्रकाश को उसके घरवालों ने रिश्तेदार के संरक्षण में कमाने के लिए भेजा था। वह रामस्वरूप के साथ ही रहता खाता और काम करता। हजार रुपये प्रतिमाह नकद देने की बात तय हुई थी। पर रामस्वरूप ने छह महीने से पैसे नहीं दिये थे। उसके पास पैसे थे पर रक्षाबंधन पर भी उसने उसे पैसे नहीं दिये। ओमप्रकाश गुमसुम है। परेशान और खौफजदा। उनकी धमकी उसे याद है। वे छूटकर आएंगे तो उसका क्या हश्र करेंगे, यह सोचकर वह कांपकर रह जाता है।

प्रताड़ना का शिकार 14 वर्षीय ओम प्रकाश। छाया : राष्ट्रीय सहारा

दैनिक भास्कर
ग्वालियर, विक्रम संवत २०५८, ज्येष्ठ वदी ३, गुरुवार १० मई २००१

चश्मा टूटने पर नौकर को दो दिन कमरे में बंधक रखा, मारपीट भी की

नगर संवाददाता

ग्वालियर, 9 मई। अपने घरेलू नौकर दस वर्षीय बालक राम को दो दिन से बंधक बना कर कमरे में बंद रखने और उसकी मारपीट करने वाला डा. राणा और वसुन्धरा के खिलाफ आज मुरार पुलिस थाने में मामला दर्ज कर लिया गया। पुलिस ने रामू नामक इस बालक को डा. राणा के घर से बरामद कर लिया गया। बालक के शरीर पर चोटों के निशान पाए गए हैं।

पुलिस का कहना है कि कालमी ब्रिज क्षेत्र में रहने वाली गुड्डी उर्फ वैजयंती नामक एक महिला ने आज रिपोर्ट दर्ज करायी थी कि उसका दस वर्षीया बेटा रामू सीपी कालोनी में रहने वाले डा. राणा के घर पर ढाई सौ रुपए प्रतिमाह की नौकरी करता है। पहले वह सुबह जाकर शाम के के समय वापस लौट आता था लेकिन पिछले दो दिन से डा. राणा ने उसे अपने कमरे में बंद कर रखा है।

गुड्डी उर्फ वैजयंती का कहना है कि आज सुबह जब वह अपने बेटे को तलाशने गयी तो वहां डा राणा उसकी पिटाई कर रहा था जब उसने विरोध किया तो उसके गाल पर चांटा मार दिया गया। वैजयंती का कहना है कि डा. लड़के को छोड़ने के बदले तीन हजार रुपए मांग रहा है। गुड्डी और वैजयंती की रिपोर्ट पर पुलिस ने संबंधित डा. राणा के खिलाफ़ मामला दर्ज करने के बाद जब छापा मारा तो डा. राणा के निवास पर उक्त बालक मिल गया। बालक डरा और सहमा था और उसके शरीर पर चोटों के निशान भी पाए गए।

बालक ने बताया कि उसे डंडे से पीटा गया है। पुलिस का कहना है कि राजू नामक उक्त बालक डा. राणा के यहां नौकरी करता है। ऐसा पता चला है कि इस बालक से कार का शीशा और डा. राणा का चश्मा टूट गया था। डा. राणा हर्जाने के रूप में तीन हजार रुपए की मांग रहा था और इसके लिए उसने रामू को अपने घर में बंद कर रखा था।

खास बातें

- आरोपी मालिक व उसकी पत्नी के खिलाफ आपराधिक मामला दर्ज
- पुलिस ने बालक को डाक्टर राणा के घर से बरामद किया

सीपी कालोनी स्थित डाक्टर के निवास से बालक को ले जाते हुए पुलिस। बालक पिटाई के निशान दिखाता हुआ। फोटो: भास्कर

ಶಶಿಕಲಾಳ ಜೀತಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊನೆಗೂ ಮುಕ್ತಿ

ಮೈಸೂರು. ಮಾ. 28– ಮಾತನಾಡಲು ಶಕ್ತಿಯಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಣ್ಣುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಲ್ಯದ ಕಾಂತಿ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಬೆಳಗಿನ ಜಾವ ಐದು ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ರಾತ್ರಿ 12ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಕೆಲಸ.

ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಒಡನಾಟ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹುಣಸೂರಿನ ಮುಷ್ಕರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರೊಬ್ಬರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆದ 4 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಬಾಲಕಾರ್ಮಿಕಳಾಗಿ ದುಡಿದು ನಿಸ್ಸಹಾಯಕಳಾಗಿರುವ ಹತ್ತು ವರ್ಷದ ಬಾಲಕಿ ಶಶಿಕಲಾಳ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇದು.

'ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲಿಗೂ ಕಳುಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಕೆಲಸ. ಬಾತ್ರೆ ತೊಳೆದು ಮುಗಿಸುವ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೆ ರಾತ್ರಿ 12 ಗಂಟೆ ಯಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಮತ್ತೆ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ ಐದು ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಎದ್ದು ಮನೆಗೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ' ಎಂದು ಬಾಲ್ಯದ ಚೈತನ್ಯ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಅವಳು ಪತ್ರಕರ್ತರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದಳು. ಅವಳ ಬಿಡು ಗಡಿಗೆ ಶ್ರಮಿಸಿದ ಕೆಲವು ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತರು ಇದು ಪತ್ರಕರ್ತರ ಎದುರು ಶಶಿಕಲಾಳ ಕರಾಳ ಕಥೆಯನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು. ಶಶಿಕಲಾಳ ತಾಯಿ ತಾಯಿಕ್ಕ ಮಗಳ ಹೀನೆಯ ಕಥೆಯನ್ನು ದುಃಖದಿಂದ ಬಿಡಿಸಿಟ್ಟಳು.

ಹುಣಸೂರಿನ ಮುಷ್ಕರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ 4 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಮನೆಗೆಲಸದಲ್ಲಿ ದುಡಿದು ಸೊರಗಿರುವ ಶಶಿಕಲಾ.

ವಿಕಾಸ ಮತ್ತು ಬಾಲ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಆಂದೋಲನ ಎಂಬ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತರಾದ ಮಂಜು ಕೊಡಗು ಹಾಗೂ ಮಂಜು ಅವರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 'ಬಡತನದ ಬೇಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನರಳುತ್ತ ಕೂಲಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಜೀವನ ಸಾಗಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಚನ್ನಪಟ್ಟಣ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಬಾಣಗಳ್ಳಿಯ ನಾರಾಯಣ ಗೌಡ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಯಕ್ಕಳ ಮೂರನೆ ಮಗಳು ಶಶಿಕಲಾ. ಮನೆಯ ಸಣ್ಣಪುಟ್ಟ ಕೆಲಸ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಶಶಿ ಕಲಾಳನ್ನು ಮುಷ್ಕರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಎನ್.ಕೆ.ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ ಎಂಬವರ ಮನೆಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿಕೊಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಪರಿಚಿತರೊಬ್ಬರು ಸಲಹೆ ಮಾಡಿದರು. ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಮೂರು ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಪಣ ನೀಡುವುದಾಗಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದರು. ಮೊದಲು ಐದುನೂರು ರೂ., ನಂತರ ನೂರು– ಇನ್ನೂರಿನಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 1500 ರೂ.ನೀಡಿದರು. ಅಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಶಶಿಕಲಾಳ ಜೀವನ ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ ಮನೆಯ ಬಂಧನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾಯಿತು.'

ತಂದೆ ಸತ್ತರೂ ಕಳಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲ: ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ ಅವರ ಮನೆಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಳ ತಂದೆ ತೀರಿ ಕೊಂಡರು. ಶಶಿಕಲಾಳನ್ನು ಊರಿಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿಕೊಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಒತ್ತಾಯವನ್ನು ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ ಅವರ ಕುಟುಂಬ ತಲೆಗೇ ಹಾಕಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳಲಿಲ್ಲ. ನಂತರ ಮಗುವಿನ ಅಜ್ಜ ಹಾಗೂ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮ್ಮ ಸತ್ತರು. ಕೆಲ ದಿನಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಅವಳ ಅಣ್ಣ ಸತ್ತ. ಈಗಲಾದರೂ ಅವ ಳನ್ನು ಕಳಿಸಬೇಕೆಂಬ ತಾಯಕ್ಕಳ ಒತ್ತಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ ಮಣಿಯಲಿಲ್ಲ.'

'ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಯತ್ನ: 'ಶಶಿಕಲಾ ಒಮ್ಮೆ ತೋಟದ ಬಾವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿದ್ದು ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆಗೂ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಿದಳು ಏನುಬೂ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಗಲೂ ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿಗೆ ಮನ ಕರಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ವಾಪಸ್ ಕಳುಹಿ ಸಿದರೆ ಮನೆಗೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವವರಾರು ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದರೆಂದು ಶಶಿಕಲಾಳನ್ನು ಕರೆದು ತರಲು ಹೋಗಿದ್ದವರು ಹಲುಬುತ್ತಾರೆ.'

'ಈ ಘಟನೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ತಾಯಕ್ಕ ಜರ್ಜರಿತಳಾದಳು. ಮಳವಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಡವರ ನಡುವೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿಕಾಸ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ವಿಷಯ ಮೊದಲು ತಿಳಿಯಿತು. ನಂತರ ಶಶಿ ಕಲಾಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿಸುವ ಯತ್ನಗಳು ಆರಂಭವಾದವು.'

'ನಿನ್ನೆ ತಾನೇ ಬಾಲ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ನಿರ್ಮೂ ಲನೆ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಜರ್ಜಿಸಲು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಅಧಿ ಕಾರಿಗಳ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಸಭೆ ಕರೆ ದಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಜರಿದ್ದ ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮತ್ತು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಜಾಯ್ ಮಾಲಿಕಲ್ ಅವರು ಶಶಿಕಲಾಳ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು. ತಕ್ಷಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರು ಹುಣಸೂರು ಪೊಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಪೆಕ್ಟರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದರು. ತತ್‌ಕ್ಷಣ ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ ಮನೆಗೆ ಈ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ತೆರಳಿ ಶಶಿಕಲಾಳನ್ನು ರಕ್ಷಿಸಿ ಕರೆತಂದರು.

ಶಶಿಕಲಾಳ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಈಗ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಕೆಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಶಶಿಕಲಾಳ ಹಿಂದಿರುವ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದರೆ ಕಿತ್ತು ತಿನ್ನುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಬಡತನದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅವಳ ತಂದೆ ಶಶಿಕಲಾಳನ್ನು ಹಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಕಾಣುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಸೂಲಿಗೆ ಒತ್ತಾಯ: ಇದೇನೇ ಇದ್ದರೂ ಮಗುವಿಗೆ ಅನ್ಯಾಯವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಮಗುವಿನ ಮುಂದಿನ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಬದುಕಿಗಾಗಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ ಅವರಿಂದ ವಸೂಲಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆ ವಿಧಿಸಬೇಕೆಂಬುದು ಸ್ವಯಂ-ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತಾಯ. ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ವೇತನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 85 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ.ಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಹಾರವಾಗಿ ಕೊಡಿಸ ಬೇಕೆಂಬುದು ಅವರ ಆಗ್ರಹ. ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಮಸತಿಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಳಿಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕೊಡುವ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹೊರಬೇಕು. ಮನೆಗೆಲಸ ಮತ್ತಿತರೆ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಾಲ್ಯವನ್ನೇ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅಸಂಖ್ಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೂ ಬದುಕುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೊಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಬಾಲ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ನಿರ್ಮೂಲನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮಾಲಿಕಲ್, ಎಂ.ಎಂ. ವರ್ಗೀಸ್ ಕ್ಲಿಂಟಸ್ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಯೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

Prajavani
March 30, 2000

ಬಾಲೆಯ ಕಾಲಿಗೆ ಬೇಡಿ: ಬೆನ್ನಿಗೆ ಬರೆ

ಉದಯಶಂಕರ ಭಟ್

ತುಮಕೂರು, ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 28– ಹಂಗರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಜೇತ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹಚ್ಚ ಹಸಿರಾಗಿರುವಾಗಲೇ ತುಮಕೂರು ನಗರ ಮಧ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂಬತ್ತು ವರ್ಷದ ಬಾಲಕಿಯ ಕಾಲಿಗೆ ಬೇಡಿ ಹಾಕಿ, ಬೆನ್ನಮೇಲೆ ಬರೆ ಎಳೆದು ಚಿತ್ರಹಿಂಸೆ ನೀಡಿ ಜೇತಕ್ಕೆ ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ.

ರುಕ್ಸಾನ ಎಂಬ ಒಂಬತ್ತು ವರ್ಷದ ಬಾಲಕಿಯನ್ನು ಮೂಳೆ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ಕಳೆದ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಅಮಾನುಷವಾಗಿ ದುಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದು ಈಗ ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ನಗರದ ಬೆಳಗುಂಬ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಚೇರಿ

ತುಮಕೂರಿನಲ್ಲೊಂದು ಜೇತ ಪ್ರಕರಣ

ಬಳಿಯ ಒಂಟಿ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈಕೆಯನ್ನು ದುಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. 'ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷದ ಹಿಂದೆ ಬಾಲಕಿಯ ತಾಯಿಗೆ ಹಣ ನೀಡಿ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಕರೆ ತರಲಾಗಿತ್ತು' ಎಂದು ತನ್ನನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡಿದ 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ ಬಾಲಕಿ ತನ್ನ ಬಾಳಿನ ದುರಂತ ಅಧ್ಯಾಯ ವಿವರಿಸಿದಳು.

'ನನ್ನ ಕಾವಲಿಗೆ ಒಬ್ಬನನ್ನು ಇಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಎರಡೂ ಕಾಲುಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೇಡಿ ಹಾಕಿ ಕೂರಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವ ವೇಳೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಕಾಲಿನ ಬೇಡಿಯನ್ನು ತೆಗೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ನಂತರ ಮತ್ತದೇ ಬಂಧನ' ಎಂದು ಆಕೆ ನೋವಿನಿಂದ ನುಡಿದಳು. ಮೂಳೆ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಯ ವಯಸ್ಸಾದ ತಾಯಿಯು ಹಾಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಹೇಸಿಗೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು.

☛ 7ನೇ ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ

ಬಾಲೆಯ ಕಾಲಿಗೆ ಬೇಡಿ: ಬೆನ್ನಿಗೆ ಬರೆ

ಒಂದನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ

ಅದನ್ನು ತೆಗೆಯುವುದು ನನ್ನ ದಿನನಿತ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕೆಲಸವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿ ಹೇಸಿಗೆ ತೆಗೆಯಲು ಹಿಂಜರಿದ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಮುದುಕಿಯೇ ಬೆನ್ನಿಗೆ ಬಿಸಿಯಾದ ಕಬ್ಬಿಣದ ಸಲಾಕಿಯಿಂದ ಬರೆ ಎಳೆದಿದ್ದಳು ಎಂದು ಮೈತುಂಬಾ ಇರುವ ಸುಟ್ಟಗಾಯ. ಹೊಡೆತ ದಿಂದಾಗಿರುವ ಗಾಯ ತೋರಿಸುವ ಬಾಲಕಿಯ ಕಣ್ಣಂಚಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಜಿನುಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.

ಈ ನತದೃಷ್ಟ ಬಾಲಕಿಯ ತಾಯಿಯೇ ಬಡತನದ ಬೇಗೆ ತಾಳಲಾರದೆ ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಜೇತಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಳು. ರುಕ್ಸಾನಾಳ ತಾಯಿ ಪ್ಯಾರಿಗೆ 13 ಮಂದಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳು. ತಂದೆ ಮಹಮ್ಮದ್ ಅಹ್ಮದ್ ಕೆಲ ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ತೀರಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ. 14 ಮಂದಿಯ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸಂಸಾರವನ್ನು ನಿಭಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುವುದು ಪ್ಯಾರಿಗೆ ಅಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಯಿತು. ಏಳು ಮಂದಿ ಗಂಡು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಮತ್ತು ಆರು ಮಂದಿ ಹೆಣ್ಣುಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದ ಪ್ಯಾರಿ ತನ್ನ ಕೊನೆಯ ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಜೇತಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿಸಿದಳು.

ಮತ್ತೆ ನರಕದ ಕೂಪಕ್ಕೆ: ಜೇತಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಕೆಲವೇ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ಹೊರೆ ನಿಭಾಯಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗದೆ ರುಕ್ಸಾನಾ ತಪ್ಪಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ತಾಯಿ ಮನೆಗೆ ಓಡಿ ಬಂದಳು. ಆದರೆ ಮೂಳೆ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಯು ತಾಯಿಯ ಮನೆಗೆ ಬಂದು ಈಕೆಯನ್ನು ಮತ್ತೆ ಕರೆದೊಯ್ದ. ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಡೆದು ಬಡಿದು ದುಡಿಸಿದ ಪ್ಯಾರಿ. ಮಗಳ ಯಮಯಾತನೆಯನ್ನೂ ಲೆಕ್ಕಿಸದೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ನರಕದ ಕೂಪಕ್ಕೆ ತಳ್ಳಿದಳು.

'ಈ ಘಟನೆಯ ನಂತರ ಕಾಲಿಗೆ ಬೇಡಿ ಹಾಕಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಓಡಿ ಹೋಗಲು ಹಲವಾರು ಅವಕಾಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕಾದರೂ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲೇ ಇಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ನತದೃಷ್ಟ ಬಾಲಕಿ ಗೋಳಿಡುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

ಮೈತುಂಬ ಗಾಯ: ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಇದ್ದ ಬೇಡಿಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಕಾಲುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗಾಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಸುಟ್ಟ ಗಾಯಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಎಳೆದ ಬರೆಗಳು ಮೈಯ ಮೇಲೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾಣುತ್ತವೆ. ಎದೆ, ಮುಖ, ಕೊರಳು, ಕೈ ಹೀಗೆ ಗಾಯಗಳಿಲ್ಲದ ಅಂಗಾಗಗಳೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. 'ಇಷ್ಟೆಲ್ಲ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರೂ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಊಟವನ್ನೂ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಮೇಲ್ನೋಟಕ್ಕೆ ಆರುವರ್ಷದ ಹುಡುಗಿಯಂತೆ ಕಂಡುಬರುವ ಸಣಕಲು ಶರೀರದ ರುಕ್ಸಾನಾ ದೂರುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಮೂಳೆ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಯ ಮನೆಯ ಅಕ್ಕಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಮನೆಗಳೂ ಇಲ್ಲದಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಈ ನತದೃಷ್ಟ ಬಾಲಕಿಯ ಕೂಗು ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗೂ ಅರಣ್ಯರೋದನವಾಗಿಯೇ ಉಳಿದಿತ್ತು.

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ - 29-03-2001

ಮನೆಗೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಮಾರಾಟ: ಶಿಕ್ಷಕಿ ಸಹಿತ ಇಬ್ಬರ ಬಂಧನ

ಕನ್ನಡಪ್ರಭ ವಾರ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು, ಆ.16

ಶ್ರೀಮಂತರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಲು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಇಬ್ಬರನ್ನು ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಜಯಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀಪುರಂ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಬಂಧಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮಾತೃಮಂಡಳಿ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದ ಸ್ವರೂಪ ಹಾಗೂ ಜೇಪ್ ಶೆಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ. ಆಕೆಯ ಪತಿ ಅಯ್ಯಣ್ಣ ಬಂಧಿತ ಆರೋಪಿಗಳು.

ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಪಡುವಾರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 5 ನೇ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಪ್ರಿಯದರ್ಶಿನಿ ಹಾಗೂ 3ನೇ ತರಗತಿಯ ಶಾಲಿನಿ ಎಂಬ ಸಹೋದರಿಯರು ಮತ್ತು ಐದು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಗೌಸಿಯನಗರದ ಅಂಬುಜಮ್ಮ ಎಂಬವರ ಮಗ ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್ ಎಂಬ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಅಪಹರಿಸಿ ಹಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿದ ಆರೋಪದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಅವರನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಅವರನ್ನು ನ್ಯಾಯಾಂಗ ಬಂಧನದಲ್ಲಿಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ಮೂರು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಕೊಡಗಿನ ಕೋಣಕೇರಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ನಿವಾಸಿ ಎಂ.ಆರ್. ಕಾರಿಯಪ್ಪ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಿ.ಶೆಟ್ಟಿಗೆರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಕೆ.ಕೆ. ಚಿನ್ನಪ್ಪ ಎಂಬ ಶ್ರೀಮಂತರ ಮನೆಗೆ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ವಿಷಯ ಗೊತ್ತಾದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಪೊಲೀಸರ ನೆರವಿನಿಂದ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ತರಲಾಯಿತು ಎಂದು ಬಾಲ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ವಿರೋಧಿ ಆಂದೋಲನದ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಂಚಾಲಕ ಜಾಯ್ ಮಾಲಿಕಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ 'ಒಡನಾಡಿ' ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾನ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ಬುಧವಾರ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾಗೋಷ್ಠಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು.

ಸಾಕ್ಷಾತ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾಕ್ಷರತೆಯನ್ನು ಕಲಿಸಬೇಕಾದಂತಹ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಹಂಗರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ಹೀನಾಯವಾಗಿ, ಅಪರ ತಂದೆ-ತಾಯಿಯಿಂದ ಬೇರ್ಪಡಿಸಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು ಹೀನಕೃತ್ಯ. ಇದು ಶಿಕ್ಷಕ ವರ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಕಳಂಕವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಖಂಡಿಸಿದ ಅವರು, ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಹಣಕ್ಕೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ದುಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಶ್ರೀಮಂತ ವರ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಾಲಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ಜರುಗಿಸುವಂತೆ ಪೊಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ದೂರು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಡಿಸಿಪಿ ನಾಣಯ್ಯ ಅವರು ಕುಮ್ಮಕ್ಕಿನಿಂದ ಇನ್ನೂ ಕ್ರಮ ಜರುಗಿಸಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಆರೋಪಿಸಿದರು.

ನೋವುಂಡ ಆ ದಿನಗಳು...: ಅಪಹರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿದ್ದ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ತಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲಾಯಿತು ಹಾಗೂ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಗೆ ಅಮಾನೀಯವಾಗಿ ದುಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿದ್ದು ಹೀಗೆ:

ಪ್ರಿಯದರ್ಶಿನಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದಾಗ ಸ್ವರೂಪ ಮೇಡಂ ಅವರು ಕರೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಿ ಕೊಡಗಿನ ಕಾರಿಯಪ್ಪನವರ ಮನೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸಿದರು. ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 5 ಕ್ಕೆ ಎದ್ದು ಒಲೆಗೆ ಬೆಂಕಿ ಹಾಕಿ ನೀರು ಕಾಯಿಸಿ, ಅಡುಗೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತು. ನಂತರ ಗದ್ದೆ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಕಾಫಿ ಬೊಡ್ಡೆ ಆಯ್ದುಕೊಂಡು ಬರಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಸಂಜೆ ಮನೆಯ ಹಿರಿಯರಿಗೆ ಮೈ,ಕೈಯನ್ನು ನೀವಿ ಮಸಾಜು ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇಷ್ಟೆಲ್ಲಾ ಮಾಡಿದರೂ 2 ಹೊತ್ತು ಊಟ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ರಾತ್ರಿ ಗೋಣಿ ಚೀಲ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಮಲಗಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು.

8 ವರ್ಷದ ಶಾಲಿನಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಈಕೆ 24 ಗಂಟೆಯೂ ಹಾಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನುಲಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ವೃದ್ಧರ ಮಲ-ಮೂತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆಯುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಮನೆಯನ್ನು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಬತ್ತದ ಹರಳುಗಳಿಂದ ಮೆಟಿಯನ್ನು ಗೀಚಿ ಮೆಣಸಿನಪುಡಿಯನ್ನು ತುಂಬಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಇವರಿಬ್ಬರಂತೆ ಮಂಜುನಾಥನಿಗೂ ವಿಚಿತ್ರ ಹಿಂಸೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುವಾಗ ಮುಗ್ಧ ಕಂದಮ್ಮಗಳ ಕಣ್ಣಲ್ಲಿ ಭಯ ಆವರಿಸಿತ್ತು.

ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗಿಯಾಗಿರುವವರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಆಯುಕ್ತರಿಗೆ ದೂರು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾನ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಾಯ್ ಮಾಲಿಕಲ್ ಅವರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಆರೋಪಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಜಯಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀಪುರಂ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆಯ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಪೆಕ್ಟರ್ ಕೆ.ಎಸ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ, ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಸಿ. ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್, ಡಿಸಿಪಿ ಶಿವಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಅವರು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಬೀತ ವಿಮುಕ್ತರಾಗಲು ಅಗತ್ಯ ನೆರವು ನೀಡಿದರು ಎಂದು ಅವರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ದೊಡ್ಡ ಜಾಲ: ಇದೇ ರೀತಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಿಂದ, ಕೊಳಚೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಂದ ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ, ವಿರಾಜಪೇಟೆ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಕಡೆ ಬಡ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಸಂವಿಧಾನಬಾಹಿರವಾಗಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿ, ದುಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಜಾಲವೇ ಇದ್ದು, ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಅವರು ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದರು.

'ಒಡನಾಡಿ' ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಸಂಚಾಲಕಿ ಪ್ರೊ. ಅನುರಾಧ ಪೊಲಂಕಿ ರಾಮಮೂರ್ತಿ, ಪರುಶುರಾಂ ಇನ್ನಿತರರು ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತರಿದ್ದರು.

KANNADA PRABHA - 17-08-2000

ಮನೆ ಕೆಲಸದ ಬಾಲಕಿ ದಾರುಣ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ

ತಡವಾಗಿ ದೂರು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಪೊಲೀಸರು

ಜನವಾಹಿನಿ ವರದಿ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಸೆ.20: ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತರ ಮನೆಯೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಬಾಲಕಿಯೊಬ್ಬಳು ನಿಗೂಢ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಎರಡು ದಿನ ಕಳೆದರೂ ಭುಟ್ಟಳದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಆಕೆಯ ಪೋಷಕರಿಗೆ ವಿಷಯ ತಿಳಿಸದೇ, ತಡವಾಗಿ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ದೂರು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಪೋಷಕರು ಉಹಾ ಪೋಹಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಡೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದೆ.

ಸುಮಾರು ಎರಡು ಗಂಟೆಗಳ ಸಂತರ ದೂರನ್ನು ಪೊಲೀಸರು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರೂ ಇದುವರೆಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಯನ್ನು ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಕೈಗೆತ್ತಿಕೊಳ್ಳದೇ ಇರುವುದು ಈ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಕುತೂಹಲಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ಮೂಲತಃ ಭುಟ್ಟಳದ ನಿವಾಸಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ತುಳಸಿ (14) ಸೇಣು ದಿಗೆ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದು ಮೇಲ್ನೋಟಕ್ಕೆ ಖಚಿತವಾದರೂ ಎಂದು ಸಾಧ್ಯತಾದರೂ ಸೂಕ್ತರು ಸಂಶಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಡೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದೆ.

ಈ ಸಂಶಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಈಗ ತೊಡಕಾಗಿರುವುದು ಪರೇಲರೆ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ, ಪ್ರಭಾವಶಾಲಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟ ತುಳಸಿ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಸಿಗುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟ ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಕುಟುಂಬ ವರ್ಗಗಳು 'ಜನವಾಹಿನಿ'ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮಾಡದ ತುಳಸಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಒಂದು ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿ ತಾನೇ ಹಣ ಸಂಪಾದಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ಆಸೆಯಿಟ್ಟು ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಹೋದರರನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ತುಳಸಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಬರಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಯಿತು.

ಮೂವರು ಸಹೋದರರಿಗೆ ಒಬ್ಬಳೇ ಸಹೋದರಿಯಾಗಿ ಹುಟ್ಟಿದ್ದ ತುಳಸಿ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಪ್ರೀತಿಗೆ ಪಾತ್ರಳಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆದಿದ್ದಳು. ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ಹಠ ಜಾಸ್ತಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಆಕೆಯ ಅಣ್ಣ ಕಳೆದ ಆರು ತಿಂಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ತುಳಸಿಯನ್ನು ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿಪುರಂನ ಸರ್ಫಂಟೈನ್ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ನಿವಾಸಿ ಪರೇಲ ಕೆ. ಎ. ಭಟ್ ಎಂಬುವರ ಮನೆಗೆ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ. ಎ. ಭಟ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಅವರ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲ ಪತ್ನಿ ವಾಸಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ತುಳಸಿ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರುವ ಮೊದಲೇಷ್ಟೇ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನೊಬ್ಬಳು ಕೆಲಸ ಕ್ಕಿದ್ದು, ಈಗ ಸೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೂವರಿದ್ದರು.

ತುಳಸಿಯ ಸಹೋದರರಿಬ್ಬರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಹೋಟೆಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕಿದ್ದು, ಮತ್ತೋರ್ವ ಭುಟ್ಟಳದಲ್ಲಿಯ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು ಪೋಷಕರ ಸೇವೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದನು. ವಾರಕ್ಕೊಮ್ಮೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿಯ ಸಹೋದರರು ತುಳಸಿ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಬಂದು ವಿಚಾರಿಸುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟ, ಹೊಂದಿಕೆಯಾಗುವುದೇ ಎಂದು ಆಕೆಯ ಯೋಗಕ್ಷೇಮದ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಹೊತ್ತಿದ್ದರು.

ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ ದೊರೆತ ವೇತನವನ್ನು ಸಹೋದರರಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲು ಬಂದಾಗಲು ಅದನ್ನು ನೀನೇ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸು, ನಮಗೆ ಬೇಡ ಎಂದು ಆಕೆಯ ಸಹೋದರ ಸುರೇಶ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದ. ಪರೇಲ ಕೆ. ಎ. ಭಟ್ ಅವರು ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ದವರೇ ಆಗಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಯಾವ ತೊಂದರೆ ಇಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಆಕೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಳು.

ಆದರೆ ಮಂಗಳವಾರದಂದು ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇವಲ ಭಟ್ ಅವರ ಪತ್ನಿ ಇರುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಠಡಿಯೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇಣು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡು ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ ಹನ್ನೊಂದು ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮನೆಗೆ ಭಟ್ ಅವರ ಮಗಳು ಮನೆಗೆ ಬಂದಾಗ ವಿಷಯ ತಿಳಿದು ತುಳಸಿಯನ್ನು ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿಯ ಆಟದ ಮೈದಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ಕೂಲಿಗೆ ಹೊಂಗೆ ಕೆಳಕ್ಕು ಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಿದ್ದರೆನ್ನಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆದರೆ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರು ತುಳಸಿ ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾಳೆ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಮೃತದೇಹ ವನ್ನು ಪುನಃ ಮನೆಗೆ ಕರೆದೊಯ್ಯಲಾಯಿತು.

ಸುಮಾರು ಮೂರು ಗಂಟೆಯ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಲ್ಲಿಯ ಆಕೆಯ ಸಹೋದರ ರಿಗೆ ವಿಷಯ ವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಆದರೆ ಮನೆಗೆ ವಿಷಯ ತಿಳಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ಬುಧವಾರ ಬೌರಿಂಗ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮರಣೋತ್ತರ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಶವವನ್ನು ಸಹೋದರರು ಭುಟ್ಟಳದ ಮೂಡಬಿದ್ರಾರಿಗೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ತುಳಸಿ ಸೇಣು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡು ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾಳೆ ಎಂದು ವೈದ್ಯರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಆದರೆ ಈಕೆಯ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆಗೆ ಕಾರಣ ತಿಳಿದುಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ, ಮನೆಯವರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಬೀದಿ ಹುಡುಗರು ಚುಡಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈಕೆ ಈ ರೀತಿ ಮಾಡಿರಬಹುದು, ಪೊಲೀಸರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಸತ್ತು ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾಳೆ, ಆದರೆ ನಿಜವಾದ ಕಾರಣ ಯಾರಿಗೂ ತಿಳಿದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹೋದರರು ಮಾತ್ರ ತುಳಸಿ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿಲ್ಲ, ಇದೊಂದು ನಿಗೂಢ ರೀತಿಯ ಕೊಲೆಯಾಗಿರಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಶಂಕಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಕೊರತೆ ಇಲ್ಲದೆ ಇರುವ ತುಳಸಿ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ, ಆಕೆಗೆ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಯಾರು ದೈಹಿಕ ಕಿರುಕುಳ ನೀಡಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾಳೆ ಎಂದು ಅವರು ವಾದಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಇವೆಲ್ಲದ್ದಕ್ಕೂ ದೂರು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ ಕೊಂಡ ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿಪುರ ಠಾಣಾ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಭಾವಶಾಲಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳ ಕೈಗೊಂಬೆಯಾಗದೇ, ತುಳಸಿ ಜೊತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕಿದ್ದ ಮತ್ತೋರ್ವ ಬಾಲಕಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಹುಡುಗನನ್ನು ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನಡೆಸಿದರೆ ನಿಜಾಂಶ ಬಯಲಿಗೆ ಬರುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಶಯವಿಲ್ಲ.

PAGE - 5 JANAVAHINI DAILY DATE: 21-09-2000

ಬಾಲಕಿಯನ್ನು ಗೃಹಬಂಧನದಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟ ಮಾಲೀಕರು!

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಏ.29: ಉಲ್ಲಾಸ, ಉತ್ಸಾಹಗಳಿಂದ ಜೀಗಿಯಬೇಕಾದ ಆ ಬಾಲೆ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಮನೆಯೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂಧಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಳು. ನಗರದ ಮಕ್ಕಳೆಲ್ಲಾ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಶಿಬಿರದಲ್ಲಿ ರಜೆ ಕಳೆದರೆ ಈ ಬಾಲಕಿಗೆ ಹಳಸಲು ಅನ್ನವೇ ದಿನದ ಮೂರು ವೇಳೆಯ ಆಹಾರ. ಇಬ್ಬರನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಬೇರೆಯವರ ಜೊತೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿಲ್ಲ.

ಇದು ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಸುಂಟಿಕೊಪ್ಪದ ಸುಮಿತ್ರಳ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ. 10 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನ ಸುಮಿತ್ರಳನ್ನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಸುರೇಶ್ ಹಾಗೂ ರೀನಾ ಎಂಬುವರ ಮನೆಗೆಲಸಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕರೆತರಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ ಮಾಡುವ ಸುರೇಶ್ ಹಾಗೂ ರೀನಾ ಅವರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಿತ್ರ ದಿನಾ ಪಾತ್ರೆ ತೊಳೆಯುವುದು, ಬಟ್ಟೆ ತೊಳೆಯುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಕೆಲಸಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಳು.

ಕಳೆದ ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ ಸುರೇಶ್ ಮತ್ತು ರೀನಾ ತಮ್ಮ ಊರಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುವಾಗ ಸುಮಿತ್ರಳನ್ನು ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂಡಿಹಾಕಿ ಹೊರಗಿನಿಂದ ಬೀಗ ಹಾಕಿದರು. ಹೋಗುವಾಗ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ನೀಡಿ, ಯಾರ ಬಳಿಯೂ ಮನೆಯ ಬಾಗಿಲನ್ನು ತೆರೆಸದಂತೆ ತಾಕೀತು ಮಾಡಿದರು. 1 ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ತೂಕದ ಅನ್ನ ಮಾಡಿ ಫ್ರಿಜ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಟ್ಟು ತಾವು ಬರುವವರೆಗೂ ಇದನ್ನೆ ತಿನ್ನಬೇಕು, ಬೆಳಗಿನ ಆಹಾರವಾಗಿ ಬ್ರೆಡ್ ಇಟ್ಟಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಿ ಹೊರಟವರು ಸೋಮವಾರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ

ವಾದರೂ ಸುಳಿವಿಲ್ಲ.

ಫ್ರಿಜ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಅನ್ನ ಒಂದೇ ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ ಹಳಸಿಹೋಗಿದೆ. ತಿನ್ನಲು ಯೋಗ್ಯವಲ್ಲದ ಅನ್ನವನ್ನೇ ತಿನ್ನಲು ಆಗದೆ ಬಿಡಲೂ ಆಗದೆ ಬಾಲಕಿ ಕಷ್ಟಪಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದು ಅಕ್ಕಪಕ್ಕದ ಯಾರಿಗೂ ತಿಳಿಯಿತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ.

ಹೊರಗೆ ಬೀಗ ಹಾಕಿದ್ದು ಕಿಟಕಿಯ ಬಳಿ ಬಾಲಕಿಯನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರೊಬ್ಬರು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಯ 1098ಕ್ಕೆ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಮೂಲಕ ವಿಷಯ ತಿಳಿಸಿದಾಗ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಯ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಬಾಲಕಿಯನ್ನು ಗೃಹಬಂಧನದಿಂದ ಸೋಮವಾರ ಸಂಜೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಕರೆತಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಮಡಿವಾಳ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆಗೆ ದೂರು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮನೆಯ ಮಾಲೀಕರಾದ ಸುರೇಶ್ ಮತ್ತು ರೀನಾ ಮೂಲತಃ ಸುಂಟಿಕೊಪ್ಪದವರೇ ಆಗಿದ್ದು, ಸುರೇಶ್ ತೋಟದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಸುಮಿತ್ರ ಅವರ ತಂದೆ ಅಣ್ಣಾಪೂವ, ತಾಯಿ ಪೂವಮ್ಮ, ಅಕ್ಕ ಕವಿತಾ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಾಲ್ಕನೆ ತರಗತಿವರೆಗೆ ಕಲಿತಿರುವ ಸುಮಿತ್ರಳನ್ನು ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ ತಂದೆ ತಾಯಿಯ ವಿರೋಧ ವಿದ್ದರೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಮನೆಗೆ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸೇರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಸಂಕರ ದಿನೇ ದಿನೇ ಆಹಾರ ನೀಡದೆ ಹಸಿವಿನಿಂದ ಬಳಲಿಸುವುದು ಒಂದೆಡೆಯಾದರೆ, ಚಿತ್ರಹಿಂಸೆ ನೀಡುವುದು ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆಯಾಯಿತು.

■ ಹತ್ತನೇ ಪುಟಕ್ಕೆ

ಬಾಲಕಿಯನ್ನು ಗೃಹಬಂಧನದಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟ ಮಾಲೀಕರು!

■ ಮೊದಲ ಪುಟದಿಂದ

ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಕರೆತರುವ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ತಂದೆ ತಾಯಿ ವಿರೋಧವಿದ್ದರೂ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದರೆ ಕಷ್ಟಗಳು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪವಾದರೂ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತವೆ ಎಂದು ಏನೇನೋ ಆಮಿಷಗಳನ್ನು ಒಡ್ಡಿ ಅವರ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಲಾಯಿತು. ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ತಂದೆ ತಾಯಿಯ ಕೈಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಹಣ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಸುಮಿತ್ರ ಭಯದ ನಡುವೆ ಬಾಯಿಬಿಟ್ಟಳು.

ಒಂದುವೇಳೆ ನಾ ಮನೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಬಂದಿರುವ ವಿಷಯ ಅವರಿಗೆ (ಸುಂಟಿಕೊಪ್ಪದ ಯಜಮಾನರಿಗೆ) ತಿಳಿದರೆ ನಮ್ಮ ತಂದೆ ತಾಯಿಗೆ ಏನಾದರೂ ತೊಂದರೆಯಾದರೆ ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯನ್ನು ಸುಮಿತ್ರ ಕೇಳುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಆಕೆ ಜೀವ ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿಡಿದುಕೊಂಡೆ ಆ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ಯಾರ ಜೊತೆಯೂ ಮಾತನಾಡುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೊರಗಂತೂ ಬರುವ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಆ ಬಾಲಕಿಯ ಹೆದರಿರುವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿದರೆ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ದೈಹಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಹಿಂಸೆ ಅನುಭವಿಸಿದಂತಿತ್ತು.

ಜನವಾಹಿನಿ 30/04/2002 JANAVAHINI DAILY

85

Bitter memories for boy who stole a sweet

By Our Staff Correspondent

SAKLESHPUR, OCT. 5. A teenager's desire for gulab jamun left him with bitter memories and burnt hands — his employer's punishment for stealing the sweet a fortnight ago.

According to reports, police have registered a case against Gangappa Gowda of Devalakere in Hanbal hobli of the taluk for setting fire to the hands of Sridhara (14).

Sources said the victim was employed in the farmhouse of the accused. His father, Anjanappa, of Banavar in Arsikere taluk left him there after taking Rs. 2,000 from Gowda. Anjanappa is reportedly working in the farmhouse of the son-in-law of the accused in Belur taluk. The parents are still not aware of the tragedy that has befallen their son.

Gowda allegedly wrapped the hands of the boy in a cloth, doused them in kerosene, and set fire to them after he was caught stealing gulab jamun. The accused is also stated to have stuffed the boy's mouth with a cloth to prevent him from shouting for help. Sources said that Gowda later admitted Sridhara to the Government hospital. The victim lost consciousness after the incident.

The accused, who allegedly warned Sridhara against informing others about the incident, is stated to have abandoned him at the hospital after paying him some money. Sridhara initially told the police that he had burnt his hands himself. Having recovered from the trauma, he confided to other patients in the hospital about the incident.

ಜಾಮೂನು ಕದ್ದ ಕೆಲಸದ ಹುಡುಗನಿಗೆ ಸುಟ್ಟು ಹಿಂಸೆ

ಸಕಲೇಶಪುರ. ಅ. 5- ಮನೆಯ ಫ್ರಿಡ್ಜ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದ ಜಾಮೂನನ್ನು ಕದ್ದು ತಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸದ ಹುಡುಗನ ಎರಡು ಎರಡು ಕೈಗಳನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಿ ಸೀಮೆಎಣ್ಣೆ ಸುರಿದು ಬೆಂಕಿ ಹಚ್ಚಿ. ಸುಟ್ಟು ಹಿಂಸಿದ ಘಟನೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಸಮೀಪದ ದೇವಲಗೆರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದಿದೆ.

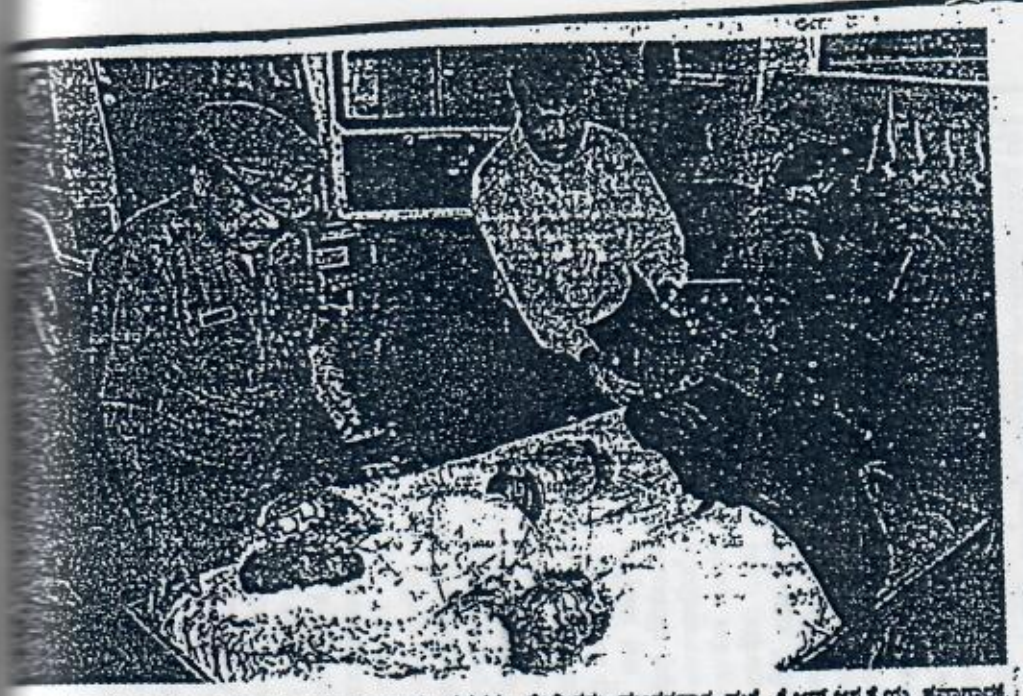
ಕಾಫಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರ ಗಂಗಪ್ಪಗೌಡ ಎಂಬುವವರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಹದಿನಾರು ವರ್ಷದ ಯುವಕ ಶ್ರೀಧರ ಎಂಬಾತ ಹತ್ತು ದಿನಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಮನೆಯ ಫ್ರಿಡ್ಜ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದ ಜಾಮೂನು ಕದ್ದು ತಿಂದಿದ್ದ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಕುಪಿತರಾದ ಮನೆಯೊಡೆಯ ಗಂಗಪ್ಪಗೌಡ ಈ ಕೃತ್ಯವೆಸಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಯುವಕ ಪತ್ರಕರ್ತರ ಮುಂದೆ ತನ್ನ ಅಳಲು ತೋಡಿಕೊಂಡ.

ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಜಾಮೂನು ತಿಂದಿದ್ದು ನಿಜ. ಗಂಗಪ್ಪಗೌಡರು ನನ್ನ ಬಾಯಿಗೆ ಬಟ್ಟೆ ತುರುಕಿ. ಕೂಗದಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿ. ಕೈಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಕಿ ಹಚ್ಚಿ ಸುಟ್ಟರು. ಈ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಹೇಳಿದರೆ ಕೊಚ್ಚುವುದಾಗಿ ಬೆದರಿಕೆ ಹಾಕಿ. ಹತ್ತು ದಿನಗಳಿಂದ ಅವರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು ಎಂದು ಆತ ವಿವರಿಸಿದ.

ಮೂಲತಃ ಅರಸೀಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಬಾಣಾವರದ ಅಂಜನಪ್ಪ ಅವರ ಮಗನಾದ ಶ್ರೀಧರ ಕೇವಲ ಒಂದು ತಿಂಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಗಂಗಪ್ಪಗೌಡರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ್ದ ಎನ್ನಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯವರಿಗೆ ಇದುವರೆಗೂ ತಿಳಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಲ್ಲದೇ ತನಗೆ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆಯನ್ನೂ ಕೊಡಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲ. ನಿನ್ನೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ದಾಖಲು ಮಾಡಿ. 50 ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಪಡೆ ನೀಡಿ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಘಟನೆಯನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿದ.

ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ದೂರನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಮುಂದಿನ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



ಮೈಸೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾವಿಗೀಡಾದ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಎಂಬ ಬಾಲಕಿಯ ಶವವನ್ನು ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಮತ್ತೆ ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ಶವಾಗಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಗಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು.

ಬಾಲಕಿ ಸಾವು ಪ್ರಕರಣ: ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರ ಮೇಲೆ ಪೊಲೀಸರ ಹಲ್ಲೆ

ಮೈಸೂರು, (ಆ. 7) ಮನೆಗೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಬಾಲಕಿ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಸಾವಿಗೆ ಕಾರಣರಾದವರನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸಿ ಅವಳ ಶವವನ್ನು ಇಂದು ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಮುಂದೆ ಇರಿಸಿ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ತಮ್ಮ ಮೇಲೆ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ನಡೆಸಿ ಬಂಧಿಸಿದರೆಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರು ಆರೋಪಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರನ್ನು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ಪೊಲೀಸು ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಸಿ.ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಗ, ವಿಚಾರವಾದಿ ಪ್ರೊ.ಕೆ.ರಾಮದಾಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ನಡುವೆ ನಡೆದ ಮಾತಿನ ಚಕಮಕಿ ವಿಕಟಕ್ಕೆ ತಿರುಗಿತು. ಅದನ್ನು ಸಹಿಸದ ಪೊಲೀಸು ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಪೆಕ್ಟರುಗಳು ಹಠಾತ್ತನೆ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಲ್ಲೆ ನಡೆಸಿದರು ಎಂದು ಆರೋಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ

ಬಾಲಕಿ ಸಾವು ಪ್ರಕರಣ: ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಲ್ಲೆ

ಒಂದನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ

ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಲಾಠಿಗಳಿಂದ ತಿವಿದರಲ್ಲದೆ, ಮುಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಪೊಲೀಸು ವ್ಯಾನಿನತ್ತ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರನ್ನು ನೂಕಿದರು. ಪೊಲೀಸರ ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಮದಾಸ್, ಮಾಜಿ ಮೇಯರ್ ನಾರಾಯಣ, ಮಾಜಿ ನಗರ ಸಭೆ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಸೋಮಶೇಖರ್ ಅವರೂ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದರು. ಒಡನಾಡಿ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಪರಶುರಾಮ್, ಪತ್ರಕರ್ತ ಆನಂದ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನೂ ಆರ್ ಟಿಎಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಸಿಎಲ್ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮೇಲೂ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಪೆಕ್ಟರುಗಳು ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದಾರೆಂದು ಆರೋಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮೊದಲು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರನ್ನು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ ಕಾನೂನು ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಾಗಿ ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡಿದರು. ಪೊಲೀಸು ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್ ಅವರು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರ ಜೊತೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು. ಶವಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮುಗಿದು ಬರುವವರೆಗೆ ಮನೆ ಮಾಲಿಕರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು. ಈ ಮಾತು ಕೇಳಿ ಬಂದಾದ ಪ್ರೊ.ರಾಮದಾಸ್ ಅವರು ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ಇಂಥ 15 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ನಡೆದಿವೆ. ಯಾವ ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಕ್ರಮ ಜರುಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಎಂಬ ಬಾಲಕಿಯ ಸಾವು ಕೂಡ ಮುಚ್ಚಿ ಹೋಯಿತು ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾಳೆ ಎಂದು ಆ ಪ್ರಕರಣದ ತನಿಖೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ ಸಿಐಡಿ ವರದಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಾಗ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರು ತೀವ್ರ ಕೋಪಗೊಂಡರು. ಈ ಪ್ರಕರಣವೂ ಹಾಗೆ ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬ ಗ್ಯಾರಂಟಿಯೇನು ಎಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆಯ ಮುಖಂಡರು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದರು. ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತಿನ ಚಕಮಕಿ ನಡೆದು ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಈ ಸ್ವರೂಪ ಪಡೆಯಿತು.

ಮನೆ ಕೆಲಸದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಬಾಲಕಿ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ(12) ಸಾವಿಗೆ ಕಾರಣರಾದ ಮನೆ ಮಾಲಿಕ ಜಯಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿಪುರಂನ ಆನಂದ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಬಾಲಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಕಾಯಿದೆ ಅಥವಾ ಜೇತ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ನಿರ್ಮೂಲನಾ ಕಾಯಿದೆಯಡಿ ಬಂಧಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರು ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಆರೋಪಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸದಿದ್ದರೆ ತಮ್ಮನ್ನೇ ಬಂಧಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಅವರು ಪಟ್ಟು ಹಿಡಿದಿದ್ದರು. ಆ ರೀತಿ ಬಂಧಿಸಲು ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ಸಮಾಧಾನ ಮಾಡಲು ಯತ್ನಿಸಿದರು. ಚಳವಳಿ ನಿರತರು ಪಟ್ಟು ಬಿಡದೆ ಮಾತಿಗೆ ಮಾತು ಬೆಳೆದು, ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ವಿಕಟನೆ ಪ್ರಯೋಗವಾದಾಗ ಉದ್ರಿಕ್ತಗೊಂಡ ಪೊಲೀಸು ಸಿಬಿ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಪೆಕ್ಟರ್ ಚಂದ್ರಪ್ಪ, ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಪೆಕ್ಟರುಗಳಾದ ಮಹೇಶ್, ಜಗದೀಶ್, ಸುರೇಶ್ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಇದ್ದಕ್ಕಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಚಳವಳಿ ನಿರತರ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಲ್ಲೆ ನಡೆಸಿದರು ಎಂದು ಪ್ರತ್ಯಕ್ಷದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಮನೆಯ ಮಾಲೀಕ ಆನಂದ್ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಾಲಕಿಯ ಅಸಹಜ ಸಾವಿನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಎರಡು ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಾಲಕಿ ಶವದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅದರ ವರದಿ ಬಂದ ನಂತರ ಅದನ್ನು ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು. ಇದನ್ನು ಚಳವಳಿ ನಿರತರಿಗೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿ ಹೇಳಿದರೂ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರೊ.ರಾಮದಾಸ್ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರನ್ನು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಚೋದನಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು. ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸಲು ಮುಂದಾದಾಗ ಪ್ರತಿರೋಧ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಯಿತು. ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರನ್ನು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಪೊಲೀಸು ಬಲ ಬಳಸಿ ಬಂಧಿಸಲಾಯಿತು ಎಂದು ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಸಿ.ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಬೆಳ್ಳಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿಯನ್ನು ವಿಷ ಕುಡಿಸಿ ಕೊಲೆ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಆನಂದ್ ಕುಟುಂಬದವರನ್ನು ಕೂಡಲೇ ಬಂಧಿಸಬೇಕು. ಮೃತಳ ಕುಟುಂಬದವರಿಗೆ ಎರಡು ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡಬೇಕು. ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಸಾವಿನ ಪ್ರಕರಣವನ್ನು 1 ವಾರದ ಒಳಗೆ ತನಿಖೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಕಾನೂನು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕಿರುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸುವ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ಮನವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ 08/08/2001

ಅಪ್ರಾಪ್ತ ಬಾಲಕಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿದ ಪ್ರಕರಣ

ಅವ್ರು ತಿಂದ್ ಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು ಊಟಕ್ಕೊಡ್ತಿದ್ರು, ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡ್ದಿದ್ರೆ ಹೊಡೀತಿದ್ರು...!

ಮಂಜುನಾಥ ಗೌರಕ್ಕಳವರ

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, 29- 'ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಹೋಗಬೇಕು ಅನ್ನೋ ಆಸೆ ಇದೇರಿ, ಆದ್ರೆ ನಮ್ಮಪ್ಪ ನನಗೆ ಬೇರೆಯವರ ಮನೇಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡೋಕೆ ಅಂತಾ ಕಳಿಸಿದ್ರು. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿದ್ರೆ ಅವ್ರು ತಿಂದು ಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಊಟಕ್ಕೊಡ್ತಿದ್ರು, ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡ್ದೆ ಹೋದ್ರೆ ಹೊಡೀತಿದ್ರು' ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಮನೆ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕಿದು. 6 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂಗೆ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಬಾಲಕಿ 13 ವರ್ಷದ ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮ ಅಳುತ್ತ ಹೇಳಿದ ಮಾತುಗಳಿವು.

ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಲಿಂಗದಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಈಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ ಎಂಬುವವರ ಮಗಳು ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮಳನ್ನು ರಾಮಪ್ಪ ಎಂಬ ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿ ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಬಕ್ಕಸುಲಿಕೆರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಜಿ.ಪಂ.ಸದಸ್ಯ ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ರಾಜು ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕಿದು 6 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಪಡೆದು ಜೀತಕ್ಕಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರೆಂದು ದೂರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಳೆದ 6 ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ಬಾಲಕಿಯನ್ನು ಮನೆಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿಕೊಡಿ ಎಂದು ತಂದೆ-ತಾಯಿ ಬೇಡಿದರೂ ಕಳಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲ, ಹೋಗಲಿ ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಒಂದು ಸಾರಿ ನೋಡಿ ಹೋಗಲಾದರೂ ಅವಕಾಶ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಿ ಎಂದು ಅಂಗಲಾಚಿದರೂ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕಳೆದ ದಿ.25ರಂದು ಬಾಲಕಿಯ ತಂದೆ ಈಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ ಮತ್ತೆ ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕಳುಹಿಸಿ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ, ಆತನನ್ನು ಗದರಿದ್ದಲ್ಲದೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಹಣವನ್ನು ವಾಪಸ್ ಕೊಡುವವರೆಗೆ ಕಳಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮಗಳು ಈಗ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿಲ್ಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾಳೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು ಎಂದು ಈಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ ನಡೆದ ಘಟನೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು.

ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನೊಂದ ತಂದೆ-ತಾಯಿ ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ಪೋಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ದೂರು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರೂ, ಪೋಲೀಸರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಘಟನೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಬಾಲಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ವಿರೋಧಿ ಆಂದೋಲನದ ಸಿಎಸಿಎಲ್‌ಕೆ ಸಂಘಟನೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪೋಲೀಸರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತಂದರೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದೂ ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೊನೆಗೆ ಈಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪೋಲೀಸ್ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕ ಮತ್ತು ಎಜೆಪಿಯವರಿಗೆ ಘಟನೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದ ಮೇಲೆ, ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ಪೋಲೀಸರು ಜಾಗ್ರತರಾಗಿ 24 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಬಾಲಕಿಯನ್ನು ಪತ್ತೆ ಮಾಡಿ ತಂದೆ-ತಾಯಿಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಸಿದರಲ್ಲದೆ, ಆರೋಪಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸಿದರು.

ಪೂರ್ವವಲಯ ಎಜೆಪಿ ಎ.ಆರ್.ಇನ್‌ಫೆಂಟ್ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಲಕಿ ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮ ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದ ತಂದೆ ಈಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ 'ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ'ಕ್ಕೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಕಥೆಯನ್ನು ಹೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತ 'ಸಾಹೇಬ್ರತ್ರ ನಾವು ಈ ವಿಷ್ಯಾ ಹೇಳ್ದೆ ಹೋಗ್ಬಿದ್ರೆ, ನಮ್ಮ ಮಗಳು ನಮ್ಗೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಸಿಗ್ತಿರ್ಲಿಲ್ರಿ' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

6ನೇ ತರಗತಿ ಓದುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಈ ಬಾಲಕಿಯನ್ನು ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ರಾಜು ತಮ್ಮ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಕರೆಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಶಿವಾಜಿನಗರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಡಾ.ಜಿ.ಕೆ.ಪ್ರಕಾಶ ಮತ್ತು ಡಾ.ಸೌಭಾಗ್ಯ ಅವರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮನೆಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆಂದು ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರೆಂದು ಎಜೆಪಿ ಇನ್‌ಫೆಂಟ್ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

6 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂಗೆ ಮನೆಕೆಲಸದ ಜೀತಕ್ಕಿದ್ದ 13 ವರ್ಷದ ಬಾಲಕಿ ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮ ಮತ್ತು ತಂದೆ ಈಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ.

ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 6 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಎದ್ದರೆ ಕಸ,ಮುಸುರೆ, ನೆಲ ಒರೆಸೋದು ಆಮೇಲೆ ಡಾಕ್ಟರ್ ಮಗುನ್ನ ಸ್ಕೂಲಿಗೆ ಬಿಟ್ ಬರೋದು ಮಾಡ್ತಿದ್ರೆ, ಬಟ್ಟೆ ತೊಳಿಯಾಕಂತ ರಾಶಿಗಟ್ಟಿ ತಂದು ಹಾಕ್ತಿದ್ರು, ನನಗೆ ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದ್ ಬಟ್ಟೆ ತೊಳಿಯಾಕ ಆಗೋದಿಲ್ರಿ ಅಂತಾ ಹೇಳಿದ್ರೆ ಹೊಡೀತಿದ್ದರೀ ಮತ್ತೆ ರಾತ್ರಿ ಮಲಗೋದು 11 ಗಂಟೆಯಾಗ್ತಿತ್ರಿ. ಎಲ್ಲಿಗೋಗ್ಲಿಕ್ಕೂ ಹೊರಗಡೆ ಬಿಡ್ತಿರ್ಲಿಲ್ರಿ. ಕೋಣ್ಮಾಗ ಕೂಡಿ ಹಾಕ್ತಿದ್ರು' ಅಂತಾ ಬಾಲಕಿ ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮ ಬಿಕ್ಕುತ್ತ ತನ್ನ ಜೀತದ ದಿನಚರಿಯನ್ನು ಹೇಳಿದಳು.

'ಮತ್ತ ವಾಪಸ್ ಬರ್ಬೇಕು ಅಂತಾ ನನ್ ಬಟ್ಟೇನೂ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿಲ್ರಿ, ಖರ್ಚಿಗಿಟ್ಟೂ ಅಂತಾ 300 ರೂ. ಕೊಟ್ಟಾರೀ. ಆದ್ರೆ ನಾನು ಓದ್ಬೇಕ್ರಿ, ಮನಿ ಕೆಲ್ಸಕ್ಕಂತ ಜೀತಕ್ಕಿಟ್ರೆ ನಾನ್ ಮಾಡೊಂಗಿಲ್ರಿ' ಎಂದು ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮ ತನ್ನ ಮನದಾಳದ ಇಂಗಿತವನ್ನು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

'6 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದ್ ವಿನ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ರಿ? ಎಂದು ಬಾಲಕಿಯ ತಂದೆ ಈಶ್ವರಪ್ಪನ್ನ ಕೇಳಿದರೆ, 'ನನ್ ಪೈಯಾಗ್ ಆರಾಮಿರಲಿಲ್ರಿ, ಆದಕ್ಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಲಿ ತೋರಿಸ್ಕೊಳ್ಳಾಕ ಅಂತಾ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡಿದೇನ್ರಿ, ನಾವು ಬಾಲ್ ಬಡುವರೀ, ಕೂಲಿನಾಲಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಜೀವನಾ ಮಾಡಬೇಕ್ರಿ. ನನಗೆ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಜನ ಮಕ್ಕಳು, ಇದ್ರು ಗಂಡು ಇದ್ರು ಹೆಣ್ಣಕ್ಕಳ್ರೀ' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ.

ರಾಮಪ್ಪನಂತ ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳು ಇಂತಹ ಅಪ್ರಾಪ್ತ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಹಣಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುವ ದಂಧೆಗೆ ಇಳಿದಿದ್ದು, ಕೆಲವಡೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂತಹ ಘಟನೆಗಳು ವ್ಯಾಪಕವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬರುವುದು ಬೆರಳೆಣಿಕೆಯಷ್ಟು ಮಾತ್ರ.

ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಇದೇ ಜಿ.ಪಂ.ಸದಸ್ಯ ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ರಾಜು ಎಂಬುವವರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಇಬ್ಬರು ಅಪ್ರಾಪ್ತ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಜೀತದಿಂದ ವಿಮುಕ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು. ಅದರ ಬೆನ್ನಹಿಂದೆಯೇ ಅವರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಇಂತಹ ಘಟನೆ ನಡೆದಿದೆ. ಒಬ್ಬ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯುತ ಜನಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಈತ, ಬೇರೆಯವರ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಜೀತಕ್ಕಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಯಾವ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಎಂದು ಸಿಎಸಿಎಲ್‌ಕೆ ಸಂಘಟನೆ ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಇವರ ತೋಟದ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 30ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು, ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಮತ್ತು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಜೀತಕ್ಕಿದ್ದು, ಕಳೆದ 4-5 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ದುಡಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆಂದೂ, ಇವರೆಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಜೀತ ವಿಮುಕ್ತಿಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಬಾಲ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ವಿರೋಧಿ ಆಂದೋಲನದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತರು ಎಜೆಪಿಗೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಬಾಲ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ವಿಮುಕ್ತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಆರೋಪಿಸಿದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತರು ಬಹುಶಃ ಈ ಪ್ರಕರಣವೂ ಕೂಡ ಎಜೆಪಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಬರದೇ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಇದೂ ಕೂಡ ಹತ್ತರಲ್ಲಿ ಹನ್ನೊಂದಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಈ ಪ್ರಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ವಿವರವಾಗಿ ತನಿಖೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಆದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಎ.ಆರ್.ಇನ್‌ಫೆಂಟ್ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

SAMYUKTA KARNATAKA 30-09-2001 ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ಕೂಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಣ್ಣೀರು: ಲಿಂಗದಹಳ್ಳಿ ಬಾಲಕಿಯ ಕತೆ

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ಸೆ. 29– 'ಆಂಟಿ, ಅಂಕಲ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹೋದ ಮೇಲೆ ನಾನು ಒಬ್ಬಳೇ ಮನೇಲಿ ಇರ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ಮನೆಗೆ ಬೀಗ ಹಾಕಿ ಕೊಂಡು ಅವರು ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಎಷ್ಟು ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿದರೂ ಸಾಕಾಗುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರು ತಿಂದು ಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದನ್ನು ನಾನು ತಿನ್ನಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತು.'

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಶಿವಾಜಿನಗರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಡಾ.ಸೌಭಾಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಡಾ.ಜಿ.ಕೆ.ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಅವರ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ಮುಕ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿ ಈಗ ತನ್ನ ತಾಯಿ ತಂದೆಯನ್ನು ಸೇರಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗ ಬಳಿಯ ಲಿಂಗದಹಳ್ಳಿ ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮ ತಾನು ಅನುಭವಿಸಿದ ಕಷ್ಟಗಳನ್ನು ಕಣ್ಣೀರು ಸುರಿಸುತ್ತಲೇ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

ಅಳುವೇ ಮುಂದು: ಮಾತಿಗಿಂತ ಅಳುವೇ ಮುಂದಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಂತಹ ಕಷ್ಟ ಮತ್ತೆ ಬರದಿರಲಿ ಎಂದು ಬೇಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಆಕೆಗೆ ತಾನು ಈ ನರಕದಿಂದ ವಾಪಸು ಬರುವುದೇ ಇಲ್ಲವೇನೋ ಎಂಬ ಶಂಕೆಯೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿತ್ತಂತೆ. 'ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕೆಲಸ ವನ್ನೂ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ಮಗುವನ್ನು ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ಮಗುವನ್ನು ಶಾಲೆಗೂ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ಆದರೆ ನಂತರ ನನಗೆ ಮನೆಯೇ ಸರ್ವಸ್ವ. ಅಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಕೂಡಿ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಅಪ್ಪ ಅಮ್ಮನ ವಿಷಯ ಎತ್ತದಂತೆ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದರು. ಅಪ್ಪನನ್ನು ನೋಡಬೇಕು. ಅಮ್ಮನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದರೆ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನೇ ನೀಡಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದವಳು ದೊರುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

'ಮೊನ್ನೆ ಇದ್ದಕ್ಕಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಬೆಳಗಿನ ಜಾವವೇ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಎಬ್ಬಿಸಿದರು. ಸ್ನಾನ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಹೇಳಿ ತಕ್ಷಣವೇ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಕರೆ ತಂದು ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವ ಬಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳ್ಳಿರಿಸಿ 300 ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೊಟ್ಟರು. ನನ್ನ ಬಟ್ಟೆಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಅವರ ಮತ್ತೆ ಬಾ ಎಂದೂ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎಂದವಳು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

'ನಾನು 6ನೇ ತರಗತಿವರೆಗೆ ಓದಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಓದಲು ಬರೆಯಲು ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ನನ್ನೂ ಕಲಿಯುವ ಆಸೆ ಇದೆ' ಎಂದಾಕೆ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಕಲಿಯುವ ಆಸೆ ಇರುವ ಮಗುವನ್ನು ಯಾಕೆ ಬೇರೆಡೆಗೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಲು ಕಳಿಸಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಆಕೆಯ ತಂದೆ ಈಶ್ವರಪ್ಪನನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ ಆತ ಮೌನವಾಗಿ ತಲೆ ತಗ್ಗಿಸುತ್ತಾನೆ.

ಬಡತನವೇ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣ. ಈಶನಿಗೆ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಮಂದಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳು. 'ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ 5 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ನೀಡುವುದಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಿ ರಾಮಪ್ಪ ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕರೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋದ. 6 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂಪಾಯಿಯನ್ನೂ ನೀಡಿದ. ನನಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ನನ್ನ ಹೆಂಡತಿಗೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸರಿ ಇಲ್ಲದಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಹಣ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕಳಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟು ಹಣವನ್ನೂ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಅವರ ಬಳಿಗೆ ಕಳಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟ ಮಾತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಆಕೆಯನ್ನು ನಾನು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ರಾಮಪ್ಪ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜು ನಾನು ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿದಂತೆಯೇ ನಡೆದುಕೊಂಡರು' ಎಂದವರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

'ಮಗಳು ಏನ್ಮಾಡ್ತಾಳೆ ಏನ್ನುವುದನ್ನೂ ಅವರು ತಿಳಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲ. ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಯಾವುದನ್ನೂ ನೀಡಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅವರ ಮನೆಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟೋ ಬಾರಿ ಅಲೆದೆ. ಅವರೂ ಮಗಳ ಸುಳಿವು ದೊರೆಯಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ನಾನು ಪೊಲೀಸರ ನೆರವು ಕೇಳುವುದು ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯವಾಯಿತು' ಎಂದವರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಜಿ.ಪಂ. ಸದಸ್ಯನ ಬಂಧನ

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ಸೆ. 29– ಮನೆಗೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಬಾಲಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೇರೆಡೆಗೆ ಸಾಗಿಸಿದ ಆರೋಪದ ಮೇಲೆ ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಚಿಕ್ಕೂಲಿಕೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯ್ತಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಬಾಲಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಏಜಂಟ್ ರಾಮಪ್ಪ ಎಂಬು ವವರನ್ನು ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಬಂಧಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಈ ಇಬ್ಬರು ಆರೋಪಿಗಳನ್ನು ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಜರು ಪಡಿಸ ಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಪೂರ್ವ ವಲಯ ಐಜಿಪಿ ಎ.ಆರ್.ಇನ್‌ಫಂಟ್ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗ ಬಳಿಯ ಲಿಂಗದಹಳ್ಳಿ ಈಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ ಎಂಬವರ ಮಗಳು ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮ (13)ಳನ್ನು ಅದೇ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ರಾಮಪ್ಪ ಎಂಬಾತ ಕರೆದು ತಂದು ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ರಾಜು ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಟ್ಟ. ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮಳ ತಂದೆಗೆ 6 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ನೀಡಿ ಆತ ಕರೆದು ತಂದಿದ್ದ.

ಸುಮಾರು ಒಂದು ತಿಂಗಳು ರಾಜು ಅವರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಇದ್ದ ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮಳನ್ನು ನಂತರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ರಾಜು ಅವರ ಸಹೋದರಿ ವೈದ್ಯೆ ಡಾ.ಸೌಭಾಗ್ಯ ಅವರ ಮನೆಗೆ ಕಳಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಆಕೆ ಮನೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಇದ್ದಳು. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮಳಿಗೆ ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ದೈಹಿಕ ಹಿಂಸೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತೆನ್ನಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸೌಭಾಗ್ಯ ಅವರ ಪತಿ ಡಾ.ಜಿ.ಕೆ. ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಕೂಡಾ ವೈದ್ಯರಾಗಿದ್ದು ಮನೆ ಯಿಂದ ಎಲ್ಲಿಗಾದರೂ ತೆರಳುವಾಗ ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮಳನ್ನು ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂಡಿ ಹಾಕಿ ಬೀಗ ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು ಎನ್ನಲ್ಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮಳ ತಂದೆ ಈಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ ಕಳೆದ 4 ನಾಲ್ಕು ತಿಂಗಳಿನಿಂದ ತನ್ನ ಮಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲೂ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ತನ್ನ ಮಗಳಿರುವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ರಾಮಪ್ಪರನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿಕೊಂಡರೂ ತಿಳಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ದೂರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ಪೊಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ದೂರು ನೀಡಿದ್ದು ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ಸರ್ಕಲ್ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಪೆಕ್ಟರ್ ರುದ್ರಮುನಿ ರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ರಾಮಪ್ಪ ಅವರನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಪೊಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ದೂರು ನೀಡಿದ ತಕ್ಷಣವೇ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಡಾ.ಸೌಭಾಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಡಾ. ಜಿ.ಕೆ.ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮಳನ್ನು ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವ ಬಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳ್ಳಿರಿಸಿ ವಾಪಸಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಚಂದ್ರಮ್ಮ ಅದೇ ದಿನ ಊರಿಗೆ ವಾಪಸಾಗಿದ್ದು ಬಾಲ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ವಿರೋಧಿ ಆಂದೋಲನ ಮತ್ತು ಪಿಮುಕ್ತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತರು ಆಕೆಯನ್ನು ಐಜಿ ಅವರ ಬಳಿಗೆ ಕರೆತಂದರು.

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