

Message from National Convenor

Dear Friends,

Greetings from CACL National Secretariat !

CACL is committed to promote the principle of 'Zero tolerance' towards Child labour. Even after so many years of the campaign, we as a society have not been able to fully dismantle several myths attached to Child labour that are used to justify the same. We still hear remarks around us such as the child at least gets some protection, food, shelter, and clothing; The child gets trained and acquires skills in business and trade; Child labourers might become owners of business in future; Rags to riches stories are quoted often; Child labour guarantees continuity of traditional family skills and occupations. The nimble hand's theory is still applied in many situations. Therefore, we need to continuously and effectively speak against these myths and wrong assumptions. Not many are aware of the violence, cruelty, ill-treatment, and abuse of children at the workplace that cannot be replaced with any of those unreal benefits.

With regards,

Mathews Philip,
National Convenor - CACL

**Child Labour Is Child Abuse
For Which You Have No Excuse**



बाल श्रम, बच्चों के साथ दुर्व्यवहार है,
यह बच्चों का शोषण है,
इस सच्चाई से आप मुँह नहीं मोड़ सकते

**Childhood is for Learning
Adulthood is for Earning**



Message from National Advocacy Convenor

Dear Friends,

Greetings from CACL National Advocacy Unit !

The second wave of COVID-19 stuck India like a Tsunami. Worst of all, the Government Machinery and resources were not sufficient at all to fight against it. Pandemic has clearly emerged as a child rights crisis, aggravating the risk of child labour as many more families are likely to have fallen into extreme poverty. The number of children in child labour has risen to 16 crore worldwide -- first increase in two decades -- with millions more at risk due to COVID-19, according to a new report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the UNICEF. The progress to end child labour has stalled for the first time in 20 years, reversing the downward trend. Another major concern is a significant rise in the number of children aged 5 to 11 years in child labour. Less privileged children are in greater risk of dropping out of school and falling victims of child labour, child marriage and exploitation.

Situation of course is very challenging but CACL has been trying to address the issue at all levels – local to global. The campaign got its momentum through '#Shramnahishiksha' a 44 days campaign. Saluting our esteemed powerful State Convenors, their local partners and children for their untiring efforts to make the campaign successful. Kudos to the organizing Committee Members who made it possible working day and night. We all together will make India free from child labour.

In solidarity,

Ashok Kumar,
Convenor, CACL National Advocacy Unit

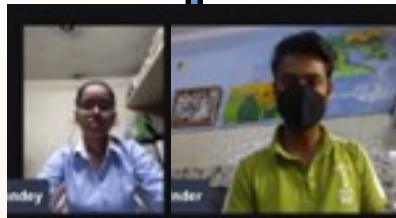
Highlights of the CACL's National Campaign

'Shram Nahi Shiksha'

Overview: Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) launched a 44 days long campaign 'Shram Nahi Shiksha' (Education ! NOT LABOUR) on 30th April 2021 to observe the 'International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour-2021'. The main objective of this national campaign was to generate public awareness on the issues of child labour and to take stock of the status of child labour after five years of the implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act – 2016 (CLPRA). It also sought to review the impact of COVID-19 on children. This campaign culminated on June 12, 2021, i.e. on the World Day against Child Labour with a national consultation that brought together child rights activists, academicians, members of civil society organizations, trade union representatives, and other stakeholders who have been fighting against this social menace from multiple fronts.

A series of webinars with adult stakeholders and consultations with children were organized over the duration of 44 days. The campaign aimed to engage with youth through the National Youth Network, School Management Committees, teacher unions, schools and colleges, corporate companies, and other community-based stakeholders to ensure that children's rights to education and a happy childhood is protected. There were plans for awareness activities like rallies, street plays, photography competitions, and poster-making competitions. However, owing to the lockdowns imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the campaign had to be moved largely online and many activities had to be scrapped. However, this also acted as an opportunity for CACL to use various social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter and other digital tools like Google Meet and Zoom to raise the issues of child labour. While the online activities lacked the kind of engagement that physical activities allow, it allowed CACL to expand its reach considerably and also ensure that people, irrespective of their geographical locations, could participate in various activities. Thus, the activities were conducted in multiple languages and through various forms of media like posters, films, and songs with videos that were released on social media. The video content released during the event included eight videos for awareness about child labour. These included four video spots and three short films focusing on the various aspects of violation of child rights.

Launch of the Campaign: The campaign was launched online in the middle of a raging pandemic and the related lockdown on 30th April 2021. The program that was live-streamed over the internet witnessed a significant participation wherein over 170 people connected directly through Facebook Live whereas 400 people were indirectly reached through Facebook streaming.



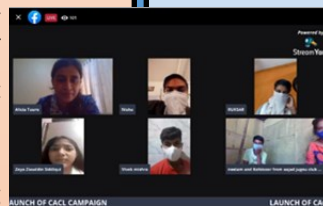
The program was anchored by young change-makers, Lakhinder and Sanjana. It included a discussion to tackle the increased vulnerability of children due to COVID-19, especially of those children who belong to the marginalized families. Over 12 children shared their lived experiences of the impact of child labour. The children emphasized that even after five years of the last amendment to the CLPRA, there has been no significant improvement to the lives of children engaged in child labor. Instead, the amendment has encouraged and legalized child labour in different occupations and processes. An awareness video on child labour was also launched during the program. Mr.

Mathews Philip, the National Convener of CACL emphasized on the need to involve young people in the 'Shram Nahi Shiksha' campaign so that it can gather momentum and can bring some change in people's outlook towards child labour. A second virtual meeting over Facebook live was conducted on May 15, 2021, when the two awareness videos were released along with a face-to-face session with children. The event was facilitated by the Karnataka CACL Unit and was organized by the National Advocacy Unit of CACL. Over 40 people had connected directly through the FB live program and around 400 people were reached indirectly through FB live streaming.

Posters on child labour issues: More than 25 posters in multiple languages were created for the campaign and were shared regularly over CACL's social media handles. Posters were also created for specific events like campaign launch, video launches, national consultations, etc.

State level consultations: In order to embody the participatory spirit in the Shram Nahi Shiksha campaign, CACL conducted state-level consultations with children and other stakeholders to make them an active part of the process. Moreover, it also gave perspective to the larger fight against child labour by foregrounding the ultimate beneficiaries of these efforts.

These state consultations also elected two-child representatives from each state who voiced the concerns of the children to the participants of the national consultation. This was effective in grounding the discussions of the day in lived realities of children who suffer through the very conditions that were discussed and theorized about during the national consultation.



Consultations with stakeholders were organized in 12 states with the participation of over 250 children. These included discussions with children about their awareness regarding the issue of child labour and the related law- CLPRA, the effect of COVID-19 in their lives. Children also prepared a list of the demands they would like to make to the government and other stakeholders to make their childhood a more enjoyable experience.

Highlights of the CACL's National Campaign 'Shram Nahi Shiksha' Contd...

These elected children represented thousands of children from their respective states and shared their personal stories in the consultation. They also shared their demands from their governments and other responsible stakeholders.

State-level consultations were held in the following 12 states - Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Karnataka, Bihar and Kerala. All these states and three other states- Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha elected two-child representatives for sharing their views in the national consultation.

National Consultation on 'Issues and Challenges of Child Labour Eradication in India': The national-level consultation was held on June 12, on World Day against Child Labour with the participation of noted activists, stakeholders, and child representatives from various states. This important milestone marked the culmination of the 44 days long campaign 'Shram Nahi Shiksha'. Ms. Alicia Tauro from YUVA, who was the moderator for the day, identified this day not as an event or a festival but as a reminder of the amount of work to be done further for the complete eradication of child labour in India.

Mr. Ashok Kumar, Convener, National Advocacy Unit, CACL kicked off the national consultation with a welcome note and a brief overview of the history of CACL. He along with Mr. Victor P. Raj, former Convener, CACL, explained the context and the objective of the Shram Nahi Shiksha campaign. Digital content created during the campaign was released at different junctures of the event. Mr. Shailesh Kumar from HAQ- Centre for Child Rights, explained the current status of child labour in India with data to bolster his argument about the increasing rates of child labour in the country.

Justice Madan B Lokur, Judge, Supreme Court of Fiji, and former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, gave the keynote address of the day. Justice Lokur reiterated that "today's programme is a reminder of our responsibilities towards children." He reminded that "we have a constitutional framework and policy framework in place, but need to take stock of how far has it succeeded." Most importantly the day also saw participation from 17 child representatives who presented their life stories and their demands to the esteemed audience. This helped bring into perspective the individuals for whom the fight against child labour is going on. The children's sharing session was facilitated by Mr. Manish Shroff (New Vision- Pune) and Ms. Neelima Bhat (Uttarakhand State Convener- CACL).

Statement by Campaign Against Child Labour: During the national consultation Mr. Mathews Philip, National Convener of CACL shared the CACL's statement on child labour and hoped that one day we would be able to make India child labour free in its real sense by taking appropriate legal and social measures.

Charter of Demands by Children: Eight child representatives from different states shared their charter of demands from the government and civil society to make the Country Child Labour Free.

Panel Discussion on the questions and demands raised by children:

A panel discussion with eminent social activists, academics, and members of civil society was held to discuss and attempt to respond to the questions and powerful demands raised by children. The panel discussion was moderated by Mr. Ranjan Mohanty, former National convener of CACL. He emphasized on the need to refocus and urgently act on children's demands. The panelists included the following members: Prof. Shantha Sinha, Former Chairperson- NCPCR, Prof. Babu Mathew-NLSIU, Comrade Amarjeet Kaur-General Secretary, AITUC, Dr. Helen R. Sekar- V V Giri National Labour Institute, Ms. Barbara Kupper- Public Affairs, Terre des Hommes, Germany, Mr. Insaf Nizam, Regional Specialist- FPRW- ILO, Ms. Vandana Kandhari- Child Protection Specialist-UNICEF, Closing Remarks by Ms. Bharati Ali, HAQ- Centre for Child Rights.

All the panelists affirmed their commitment to the two fundamental principles of CACL- that all nature of labour below the age of 18 must be absolutely abolished and that the age limit of the RTE Act should be increased to include all children until 18 years. This would allow everyone below 18 years to access free and compulsory education. In light of the worsening state of child labour in the country, Prof. Shantha Sinha emphasized the need to treat this as an emergency situation and called for urgent action against child poverty, child labour, child hunger, loss of education and also to ensure that the voices of the establishment echo the voices of children. Comrade Amarjeet Kaur pointed out that the Constitution itself is sufficient to argue for a progressive policy to address children's concerns as it does not distinguish between hazardous and non-hazardous occupations in the context of children. In her closing remarks, Ms. Bharati Ali drew attention to a secondary kind of victimization that children are subjected to wherein children who are rescued from child labour are treated as criminals. There is a need to deal with children sensitively. She wound up the discussion by urging for a renewed focus on the implementation of the Right to Education to ensure that children remain in school until 18 years. National (consultation Coverage: face book live: 75 direct, 1800 indirect, Zoom- 125) .



National Campaign “#ShramNahiShiksha’ #श्रमनहींशिक्षा”
30th April - 12th June 2021
Campaign Against Child Labour – CACL
International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour – 2021



Charter of Demands by Children

We the Children, demand that:

-  A complete ban on all forms of child labour. No child upto 18 years should be allowed or forced to work in family enterprises even after school hours or during vacations.
-  The strict implementation of provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016. There should be adequate mechanisms to monitor the involvement of children as child labour at small, medium and large-scale enterprises.
-  A constant review and amendment to the list of hazardous and non-hazardous occupations and process as mentioned in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016.
-  The scope of the right to free and compulsory education be expanded to all children up to the age of 18 years. Quality education and entitlements like free books, uniforms, mid-day meals etc. must be made accessible to the last mile for all children.
-  During COVID-19 many of our parents have lost their livelihoods which is making us vulnerable to drop out from our education and work as child labours and provide support to our families; the livelihood of our parents must be secured through effective implementation of schemes and prevent us from falling prey to child labour.
-  Children of migrant workers must be protected from becoming potential child labour. The benefit of schemes for migrant workers must be made accessible to all such families and free education of their children must be ensured.
-  Our health and nutritional needs are addressed through implementation of mid-day meal scheme. During COVID-19 take home ration was not being implemented properly which forced children to work as child labour to fulfil the basic needs of food security.
-  Child protection mechanisms are set up and activated at all levels starting from village level child protection committees to ensure that every child is monitored protected against any kind of abuse or exploitation. These committees can also assist in linking children to education, where required.
-  Child participation should be ensured through setting up and activating children’s committee / Bal Panchayats at every village/community level and schools so that they can express their views including the issue of child labour.
-  Different departments and stakeholders i.e. Department of Women and Child Development, Labour Department, Department of Rural Development, Panchayat Raj and Department of Education should work together to rehabilitate the rescued child labour.
-  Awareness with respect to Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 and other related laws is created at all levels for children, parents and community. The awareness could be created through campaigns, posters, films and other interactive modes of communication. Such awareness campaigns should also reach out to schools, teachers, aganwadi workers and other stakeholders.

STATEMENT ISSUED BY CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD LABOUR – CACL

ON 12TH JUNE 2021, THE WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

On 12th June, 2021, the International Day against Child Labour, CACL reiterates its long standing demand that there should be total prohibition of Child labour up to the age of 18 years. The fact that even after all the measures taken by the Governments and civil society, the 2011 census estimates 10.1 million child labourers in India is a great cause for concern and disappointment. One in 10 of all children worldwide in child labour are found in India. This points to the gaps that continue to exist in the policy and legal framework as well as the social and economic measures taken to deal with the issue. Children and their communities are faced with more challenging situations each day and disasters such as the COVID-19 pandemic further aggravate the situation. In this context, CACL demands immediate attention of all stake holders on the following:

1. While accepting that multi-pronged approach has to be employed to eradicate child labour, having a strong legislation in place and enforcing the same effectively is very crucial. Unfortunately, Article 24 of our Constitution brings in a concept of hazardous and non-hazardous labour and prohibits child labour only in the hazardous sector. Naturally, the legislations followed the same policy and permitted child labour in the non-hazardous sectors, providing for only regulation in those sectors. CACL strongly feels that this distinction and the provision for regulation, act as a major hurdle in eradicating child labour. The makers of the Constitution considered only the aspect of physical harm in defining 'hazardous'. Unfortunately, the facts that the social and moral facets like denial of education, denial of leisure and entertainment, denial of options and opportunities, mental and physical harassment by employers, assault, violence and sexual abuse were not taken into account, which are equally or more hazardous for children. The regulation of child labour in fact has never happened effectively. This has not only led to permitting child labour in the so-called non-hazardous sectors but also continuous deprivation of childhood, turning children into adults much before their age. Therefore, an amendment in the Constitution followed by a law that prohibits all kinds of child labour in all sectors is the need of the hour.

2. India has signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and thereby accepted 18 as the upper age of a child. Still different child related laws in India prescribe different age limits for the child making it a complex scenario. The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 as amended in 2016, which is the flagship legislation in the country on child labour, allows discrimination between children and their access to fundamental rights. The policy of regulation in the so-called non-hazardous sectors as followed in the law has ensured that some children will remain unequal and devoid of the rights and protections that India is committed to ensure to all children up to the age of 18. Therefore, CACL demands total prohibition of child labour up to the age of 18.

3. A country like India with its peculiar social, cultural and economic conditions has to facilitate free and compulsory education up to the age of 18 so that children are at least able to complete 10 plus 2 to become eligible for different opportunities and options in life. Skill development must become part of the education curriculum and not an option that allows children to discontinue schooling.

4. The child labour law happens to be one of the poorly enforced laws with no significant number of prosecutions and convictions. The penalties and punishments prescribed in law have no deterrent effect. The 2016 Amendment permits child labour in the so-called 'Home based' occupations and that happens to be a very negative development. The concept of 'Home based' can be conveniently interpreted by vested interests to escape from the law. It has been already noticed that a number of factory based occupations and processes are shifted to homes and children are also employed with their relatives. CACL has raised its apprehensions during the Amendment itself. We call upon the Government to remove this provision urgently.

5. It has been noted that the Covid 19 pandemic has brought in a huge set back on the child labour situation. There have been reports of an increase in the demand for child labour, including trafficking of children for labour. This demand is further facilitated by the closure of schools and inability of children from economically distressed households to continue with online education. Loss of livelihood and opportunities has contributed to further impoverishment and economic breakdown of the families, thus inducing children to take up labour. Certain State Governments diluting the labour laws has also contributed towards this and added to the insecurities of families. The second wave of the pandemic has left many children without parental care, making them more vulnerable to all forms of exploitation, including child labour. CACL regrets that no Labour Department in the country has done a concrete study or survey of the situation and published any reports so that measures can be explored to prevent more children being forced into child labour.

On this World Day against Child Labour, CACL demands no compromise in the right of children against exploitation even in the worst of emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.

CACL calls upon the central and state governments to take urgent measures to prevent child labour and curb trafficking of children for labour in particular.

A strategic plan based on a thorough assessment of the situation on ground must evolve in consultation with affected children and their communities and implemented in partnership with civil society organisations.

The goal of access to education for all children up to the age of 18 should guide all future policy and planning.

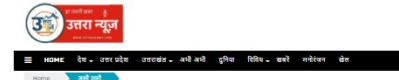
Mathews Philip
National Convener

Ashok Kumar
Convener- National Advocacy Unit

बाल मजदूरी पर रोक लगाने के लिये जागरूकता आवश्यक

बाल मजदूरी पर रोक लगाने के लिये जागरूकता आवश्यक है। बाल श्रम उन्मूलन दिवस के अवसर पर जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिये 'श्रम नहि शिक्षा' अभियान का आयोजन किया गया।

बाल श्रम उन्मूलन दिवस के अवसर पर जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिये 'श्रम नहि शिक्षा' अभियान का आयोजन किया गया। बाल श्रम उन्मूलन दिवस के अवसर पर जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिये 'श्रम नहि शिक्षा' अभियान का आयोजन किया गया।

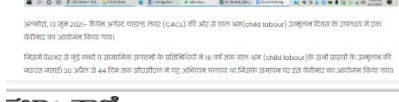


बाल श्रम (Child Labour) उन्मूलन दिवस - 18 साल तक के बच्चों को मिले बाल श्रम से मुक्ति, बच्चों के लिए शिक्षा की पेटोकारी

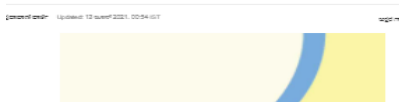
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बालश्रम उन्मूलन के लिए प्रयास करने पर जोर

संवाद न्यून एजेंसी

अल्पसंख्यक बाल श्रम उन्मूलन दिवस के अवसर पर जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिये 'श्रम नहि शिक्षा' अभियान का आयोजन किया गया।

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Child labourers more than doubled during lockdown: Survey

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बाल श्रमियों की संख्या लॉकडाउन के दौरान दोगुने से अधिक बढ़ गई है।

काम नको, शिक्षण हवे!

बालमजदुरीतून बाहेर पडलेल्या मुलांनी व्यक्त केली भावना

- परिस्थिती बदलते देखते...
- घरची दुकान बंद करावयाची, जेव्हाकून मुलांनी घरची सुविधा घ्याव्याची मिळू शकते.
 - कुटुंबातील पैसे कमवण्याची वेळ मुलांवर येऊ नये.
 - बालमजदुरीच्या उपाययोजना तसेच धोक्यादाक आणि अ-धोक्यादाक व्यवसायातल अतिक्रमण थांबवा, याद्वारे आमलागू करावे, शिक्षण हवे आहे, अशा आम बालमजदुरीतून बाहेर पडलेल्या मुलांनी व्यक्त केले.
 - शासकीय वास्तुगुरू विरोधी विनाया निमित्ताने बालमजदुरी विरोधी अभियानाच्या महाराष्ट्र शाखेतर्फे रायचूर येथील आंध्यांचे आंदोलन आयोजन करण्यात आले. रायचूरतील विविध जिल्हाधाम विविध सामाजिक आणि आर्थिक पाठ्यभूमी असणाऱ्या मुलांनी या परिस्थितीबाबत सहाय्य मांडल्या.

मांडल्या तसेच बालमजदुरीचे मुद्दे उघाटून करणाऱ्या शासकीय यंत्रणेकडून आपल्या अपेक्षा व्यक्त केल्या. सहाय्या मुला-मुलींमधील बहुतेकजण पाहिले किना सेतो, वीटहोटी, भाजी विक्री, घडकाम, तसेच

INDIE JOURNAL

Pandemic, lockdowns hurdles in tracking child labour data, world data sees steep increase

The UN has declared 2021 the 'International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour'

Prajakta Joshi, June 12, 2021 6:06 PM

Invisibilisation of child labour

However, while the places that have been known to employ children traditionally have remained closed for a large part of the year, child rights activists have also noted a shift in the workplaces that could lead to invisibilisation of child labour. "Recently, we discovered a small home-based factory that subjected children to labour to make masks in Ulhasnagar, Thane. The owner was later arrested. The hotels, shops or factories might be shut, but that does not mean children are not being made to work. The places of exploitation have just shifted to homes, slums or small home-based factories," Alicia Tauro, Maharashtra Convener for Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) shared.

<https://www.indiejournal.in/article/pandemic-lockdowns-hurdles-in-tracking-child-labour-data-world-data-sees-steep-increase>

Karnataka CACL at the forefront to protect the rights of marginalized children in the state

Covid lockdown paralyzed our regular development activities. But it did not deter us to advocate on behalf of children to uphold the rights of the children. While several NGOs and members of CACL were involved in various kinds of relief and rehabilitation works to reach out to the needy, many were involved in advocacy, monitoring, and lobbying for the welfare of the children and the needy.

From April 2020 till June 2021 Karnataka CACL chapter along with KCRO - Karnataka Child Rights Observatory organized consultations, titled E-Manthana on zoom platform on various Child Rights centric issues like health, survival, protection, education, and development as well as participation. Several experts, practitioners, and lobbyists shared their experiences, thoughts, and ideas for the future. All the meetings have facilitated question hour too that facilitated the exchange of ideas and getting responses to questions. This conversation has helped the field practitioners and activists to be abreast and updated about the recent developments.

During the E Manthana's more than five sessions were conducted to concentrate on child labour prevention, protection and rehabilitation; education, and creating opportunities for children to keep in touch with educational activities. For these discussions, we involved NGOs, Govt officials, media, academicians and children too. On 22nd June 2021, we collectively organized the 50th E Manthana and continuing the discussions.

News from the States

In these discussions, more than 50 resource persons have been involved and have given inputs in these sessions. CACL partners and other NGO team members, teachers, children from all over the state have taken part in these online consultations. These consultations are live on Facebook and Youtube and are available for further reference.

Through E Manthana CACL Karnataka has reached more than 3000 people. These consultations have helped us to strengthen the network and many participants have given positive feedback to the consultation.

ADVOCACY

At the end of 2020 Govt of Karnataka announced 'Service Rules (Draft) for the Govt employees. CACL-K noticed that the draft had mentioned that Govt employees are warned against employing any person below 14 years as domestic help. While this is a welcome move, we advocated with the Govt to raise this age limit to 18 years while quoting the amended CALPRA, Govt of India's acceptance to ILO Convention 138 and 182 as well as UNCRC commitments. We are happy to share that the Govt has considered this proposal and has incorporated the same in the final Service Rules for the Govt employees.

We have continued media advocacy to keep the public memory and commitment against child labour.

CACL-K is looking forward to an end of the Covid 19 related lockdown so that we can get back to our working field as soon as possible. The reason is due to the long lockdown a lot of families are pushed into below the poverty line and there is every danger of families pushing children into labour, bonded labour, and trafficking and we all have to gear up to get into action to protect children.

Report by: Mr. Nagasimha G Rao- Child Rights Trust -Bangalore, & Acting State Convener of Karnataka CACL.



Actions in Jharkhand for protection of child rights

Status of children during the lockdown

- Schools are shut since March 2020.
- Livelihood opportunities have been lost forcing parents to take their children to work in mica mines.
- This has also resulted in malnutrition among the children as parents have lost their livelihoods.
- Increased instances of child labour in mica mining and their accidents in mines.
- Exploitation by traders and contractors—reduced prices of mica scraps from Rs12-18 to Rs6-7.
- Because of closure, children are losing their interest in pre-school education and anganwadi services are unavailable to children and mothers.
- Children are losing interest in education with schools being closed for more than 1 year. Their future has been bleak for them.
- Online classes have caught the limited attention of the children because of lack of mobile, technical know-how, and poor internet connectivity.

Children's Group Formation: Children's groups were formed in 30 villages of Kodarma and Giridih districts of Jharkhand

- In each group, there are 30 children (15 girls and 15 boys)
- Meeting of children's group was organised on monthly basis to discuss their issues and concerns.
- Identification of children's needs and action plans to address those issues.

Youth Group Formation: Youth groups were formed in 30 villages of Kodarma and Giridih districts of Jharkhand

- In each youth group, there are 15 youth (8 Girls and 7 Boys)
- 240 girls and 210 boys of 30 youth groups are involved in a discussion on child rights issues, the importance of education, health, and hygiene in their monthly meeting.

News from the States

- In the meetings, youth groups discuss their issues, needs, suggestions and also prepare an action plan and raise

their demands to PRI members (relevant stakeholders).

- Youth groups actively participating at state and national conferences and getting ready to engage in the political process.
- Youth are able to raise their voice in gram sabha meetings and participate at state and national conferences.
- At these groups, along with regular education and health and hygiene activities; discussion on child rights, negative impacts of mica mining on health, etc. are discussed as well.

Response to COVID-19 second wave

- Training & preparation of Team by Dr. Yogesh Jain
- Identification of Covid patients as it also has started infecting community and deaths are occurring in the community also.

- Helping 18 to 45 and 45 + age group for registration for vaccination which is key to herd immunity.

- Identifying migrant laborers and helping them in home isolation or taking them to Block /Panchayat level quarantine centers.

- Providing Medicine Kits for needy persons/families.

- Providing masks, soaps, sanitizer to poorest community members, differently-abled people, Old aged persons etc .

- Providing equipment like an oximeter and Infrared thermometer for checking the level of oxygen and temp for reconfirmation in the initial stage and starting the medicine through frontline state workers and LEADS staff

- Providing food kits to families which are unable to get state support.
Report by - Mr. Santosh Kumar- LEADS-



कोडरमा 23-06-2021

100 जरूरतमंद परिवारों के बीच सूखा राशन सामग्री का वितरण

खुसहाना, एकतरवा व करहरिया गांव में दी गई लोगों को सहायता

भास्कर न्यूज़ | कोडरमा

लीड्स संस्था की ओर से टीडीएच संस्था के सहयोग से कोडरमा प्रखंड अंतर्गत खुसहाना, बिसुनिटीकर, एकतरवा व करहरिया गांव में कोरोना नियमों को पालन करते हुए 100 जरूरतमंद परिवारों के बीच सूखा राशन सामग्री वितरण किया। समाग्री में चावल, चीनी, नमक, दाल, सरसों तेल, सोयाबीन, मसाला, चायपत्ती, साबुन शामिल थे। मौके पर संस्था के परियोजना समन्वयक संतोष कुमार ने बताया कि लीड्स संस्था झारखंड के कोडरमा सहित लातेहार, लोहरदगा, सिमडेगा, पूर्वी सिंहभूम,

सरायकेला खरसावां, गिरिडीह जिले अन्तर्गत अपने कार्यक्षेत्र में अत्यंत गरीब, जरूरतमंद, लाचार के अलावा बिना राशनकार्डधारी वाले परिवारों को चिन्हित कर उनके घर तक सूखा राशन किट पहुंचा रही है। उन्होंने ग्रामीणों से कहा कि इस कोरोना काल में टीका ही महामारी से बचने का उपाय है। उन्होंने लोगों को टीका जरूर लेने की अपील की। वहीं संस्था के समन्वयक व कार्यकर्ताओं ने भी लोगों को कोरोना महामारी से बचने के लिए टीका लगाने की अपील की। इस दौरान ग्रामीणों के बीच मास्क और सेनेटाइजर का भी वितरण किया गया। राशन किट मिलने के बाद ग्रामीणों ने संस्था के प्रति आभार जताया। मौके पर संस्था के कार्यकर्ता उमेश कुमार, दीपक कुमार, आरती देवी, नेहा देवी सहित अन्य लोग मौजूद थे।

Ranchi - Jharkhand



Actions in Bihar ..

Awareness about Covid 19 pandemic by youth volunteers ...

A bridge course center is being operated by Disha Vihar in the 15 villages of chakai block (Jamui district-Bihar). This course is being run for all those young people who are out of school, the Bridge Course Center is being operated in 7 villages. A total of 210 children are studying in 7 bridge course centers.

Young people associated with the bridge course center formed a group that started an awareness program for the community on protection from Covid 19 pandemic. young leaders Prem Murmu, Asha Marandi, Shobha, Surjamuni Murmu, and Sabina Hasda took lead in this awareness campaign. They have also distributed masks, sanitizers to needy people and children. They also told people to take the vaccine positively without any hesitation, because that is the only way to protect themselves and their families from this deadly pandemic. Sikander Chaudhary and Krishna Yadav took the lead and made people aware of vaccination.

Report by: Mr. Chandra Sekhar Singh – Disha Vihar- Jamui-Bihar



News from the States

Actions in Bihar ..

Observing World Environment Day with children ...

On the occasion of World Environment Day 5th June 2021, a painting competition was organized in the 8 villages of Nawada district of Bihar by Canter Direct. Such children who had never gone to school participated in this painting competition.

At the beginning of the program, children were given information about the importance of the day. They were also informed about the ways through which they can protect the environment. The negative impact of plastic and the Importance of protecting the tress was

explained to them in detail. Brief information about air pollution was shared with them too. Through stories also this issue was discussed.

In this way, all the children understood how the environment holds an important place for us. Children planted saplings in their homes and villages and took the responsibility of taking care of them. Children who stood first, second and third were awarded at the end of the function.

Report by: Mr. Rajesh Ranjan –Cnentre Direct- Patna - Bihar

Poem from a reader on the 'World Day Against Child Labour' 12 June 2021"

'Child in a lockdown'

- Ram Kumar Vidyarthi, Bhopal -MP

Who used to walk for miles with the labourers in lockdown

"child"

Who used to work in the fields and barns in lockdown

Who was sitting missing inside the houses in lockdown

"child"

Who used to wipe the broom in the bungalows during the lockdown

"child"

Who was away from friends and studies in lockdown

"child"



"child"

Who was on the vegetable cart on the empty road in lockdown

"child"

Who was begging at the street crossroads in lockdown

"child"

Who was in the queues of relief material in lockdown

"child"

Who was looking for livelihood in the garbage in lockdown

"child"

Who used to distribute newspapers in the houses and squares during the lockdown

"child"

Who was away from sports and fun in lockdown

"child"

Who lost the support of parents in lockdown

"child"

Who was away from the nutrition of school/anganwadi in lockdown

"child"

The child was everywhere struggling in the lock down !!

Ram Kumar Vidyarthi, Bhopal -MP, Age-40 years. (Shri Vidyarthi is currently working in Bhopal-based NGO-Vikas Samvad Samiti, before that he was working in NIWCYD-Bachpan -Bhopal, where MP CACL's State Secretariat is located)

PS: This poem was originally written in Hindi and was translated in to English by editor for publishing it here.

Children's Stories-

Lockdown, Corona and Childhood

A year of work, without school!

- Sony Kaur, 14 years, Ankur Society for Alternatives in Education-Delhi

Ayesha and her grandmother live in Subhash Camp, Dakshin-puri. There is no one in the family except the two of them. Ayesha is about thirteen years old and she studies in class 7. Her grandmother runs the household by working in houses of Krishi Vihar. When she lost her work in the lockdown, they started facing food scarcity in their house. Their home became lifeless. Her grandmother went here and there in search of work every day. She was very unhappy without work. Ayesha could not bear to see her grandmother like that and decided that she would also take up some work. She could not sleep the whole night.

The next morning Ayesha started asking for work in a colony nearby but no one was ready to give her work.

Someone even tried to convince her, "Child, you should study, working like this is not good for you. Now don't move around in this scorching sun, go home!" Ayesha kept on walking in search of work and reached GK2, which is not so close to her place. She was engrossed in thinking - 'will I get work or not', 'how will I get it, 'how much will I earn', 'what if grandmother comes to know and gets angry'.

She went to several houses. But everywhere she was refused. Lockdown and Corona were not the only reasons for not getting work, it was also her age. At some places, she

also heard people commenting, "how can people send children to work in this scorching sun".

Well, that day she didn't get any work. After coming home, she started doing household chores. She went to fill water in block number five. While filling water, she saw a woman making masks on a sewing machine, using small pieces of cloth. Seeing her, it came to Ayesha's mind, why not ask her for some work. Maybe she was making those masks to sell.

She walked up to the woman and asked, "Hello Aunty, are you making these masks for sale?"

The woman replied, "Yes, I am. Why do you ask?"

Ayesha said, "Can I get some work too?"

"What work can you do?", asked the woman.

"I could do the job of selling the masks."

She looked at Ayesha and said, "Okay. I'll hire you. You sell the masks in the locality, for Rs.30 each. You keep half the money and give the other half to me."

Ayesha agreed and said,

"But I shall come in the afternoons after giving lunch to my grandmother."

The woman said, "Okay, come to work tomorrow."

The woman and her husband used to work as tailors, and also sold unstitched fabric and readymade garments at their shop. But these days, there were hardly any customers. So, they started making masks from pieces of cloth lying in their house, and sold them outside their shop, that was closed these days.



A year of work, without school! contd

The next day when Ayesha woke up, she saw that grandmother was still sleeping. Grandma never slept till late. When she grabbed Grandma's right hand, she could make out that she had fever. Her forehead felt hot. She tried to give her some relief by giving her cold compress.

In the afternoon, when Ayesha went to the woman she asked, "Aunty, my grandmother has fever, can you give

me some money for selling masks now before I sell the masks? I will buy medicines for my grandmother and give them to her. After I sell the masks, I shall give you the money. The woman replied, "First you sell the masks, then take half the money. I shall not give the money before hand."

Ayesha took the masks and started selling them by roaming the streets and roads in Dakshinpuri. Only two masks were sold in three hours. She hoped that some more masks would definitely be sold. She turned around. After walking for about four hours, she was able to sell only eight masks. Out of the Rs. 240 earned, she gave Rs.120 to the woman and took Rs.120 herself and bought medicines worth Rs. 50 for her grandmother and gave her the rest of the money.



She had told grandmother that she would sell these masks till she got well and got some work.

Now it's been almost a year, since Ayesha has been selling masks. Though her grandmother has found work, Ayesha continued as the schools remain closed. The woman and her husband have opened their shop again, but they continue to sell cheaper, readymade masks at a road-side corner. Ayesha manages that corner and is able to sell about 20 masks a day.

ANKUR SOCIETY FOR ALTERNATIVES IN EDUCATION : For more than three decades, Ankur has been working in the field of experimental pedagogy, with children, young people, and com-

munities in marginalised neighborhoods of Delhi. Ankur seeks to empower the marginalised, through education, to reflect on their life experiences and contexts, and strive for a life of dignity.

For more such stories contact:

ankur.societyforeducation@gmail.com

Ph: +91 11 46552197, +91 11 26211411,

<https://ankureducation.wordpress.com>

LISTEN ! CHILDREN SPEAK

Children's Campaign to Stop Child Labour in 5 districts of U.P.

On the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour- June 12th 2021 , A 7-day campaign was run by the children associated with Bal Panchayat with support from Manav Sansadhan Evam Mahila Vikas Sansthan (MSEMVS)-Varanasi and CACL U.P . Around 6000 children from more than 200 villages of 5 districts of U.P.

(Varanasi, Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Chandauli and Jaunpur) participated in this campaign.

Children's meeting-

A group of 5 to 6 children was formed in each village to conduct this cam-

campaign in that area. Village level meetings were held by the children's group and one-to-one contact was also made with children and villagers. In these meetings, it was decided to give a memorandum to the government authorities for making the villages child labour free.

The 5 main demands of children are as follows:

- All forms of child labor should be banned.
- All the children of the village should be enrolled in the school and their regularity should be maintained.
- Child protection committees should be activated in each village.
- Children's health and nutritional needs should be fulfilled through proper implementation of the

विश्व बाल श्रम निषेध दिवस: बाल श्रम रोकने को बच्चों की अनूठी पहल

वाराणसी (जनवार्ता)। बाल श्रम को रोकने के लिए अब बच्चों ने भी पहल शुरू कर दी है। विश्व बाल श्रम निषेध दिवस पर आयोजित वचुअल संगोष्ठी में यह तय हुआ कि बड़ों के

अपने-अपने गाँव को कराएँ बालश्रम से मुक्त

साथ मिलकर बच्चे भी इस दिशा में पहल करेंगे और अपने-अपने गाँव को बालश्रम से मुक्त कराएँगे। विश्व बाल श्रम निषेध दिवस पर बाल पंचायत (बच्चों के हित में बच्चों द्वारा बनाया गया समूह) व मून लिक्ट्री नेटवर्क की पार्टनर संस्था मानव संसाधन एवं महिला विकास संस्थान की ओर से आयोजित वचुअल संगोष्ठी



में बालश्रम, बाल संरक्षण के मुद्दे पर गंभीर चर्चा हुई। संगोष्ठी में पूर्वी उत्तर

प्रदेश के पाँच जिलों मिर्जापुर, वाराणसी, चन्दौली, भदोही और जौनपुर के 25 बच्चों ने जिला स्तर पर कार्यरत अधिकारियों से बाल श्रम के रोकथाम पर चर्चा की।

वचुअल संगोष्ठी में मिर्जापुर जिले के बाल कल्याण समिति के अध्यक्ष बप्पा रावल, जिले के श्रम प्रवर्तन अधिकारी सुनील कुमार मिन्हा, बाल संरक्षण अधिकारी निरूपमा

बाल संरक्षण अधिकारी मीना गुप्ता, जौनपुर के बाल संरक्षण अधिकारी चन्दन राव, चाइल्ड राइट्स के अमन ने बच्चों के विचारों को सुना और उनसे बाल श्रम के रोकथाम पर चर्चा की।

विश्व बाल श्रम विरोध दिवस पर बच्चों ने पोस्टर प्रदर्शनी के माध्यम से समाज को बाल श्रम से मुक्त बनाने की अपील की और नवनिर्वाचित ग्राम प्रधानों को गाँव को बाल श्रम मुक्त बनाने के लिए कहा। पाँच जिलों के 6000 बच्चों ने अपना पाँच सुत्रों का मंत्र पत्र प्रधानों को दिया व गाँव को बालश्रम से मुक्त बनाने की माँग की। वचुअल मीटिंग में नीलम, पंकज सुरज, रवी, अजीत ने सक्रिय भूमिका निभाई।

- In the annual budget of the Gram Panchayat (village council) provisions should be made to the activities related to the prohibition of child labour.

Signing the demand letter - After the planning is done, all the people in the village were contacted by the members of the children's group. Signatures from all the children were taken to make a child labour free village.

Memorandum submitted to the newly elected village heads - After the memorandum was signed, it was sub-

mitted to the newly elected village heads by the small groups of children and village heads were requested to take an oath that they will make every effort to stop child labour in their village.

Workshop with children on June 12 – A

workshop was organized with 23 children who were involved in child labour. In that workshop chairman of the child welfare committee, district child protection officer, labour enforcement officer from labour department along with other government officials were also present. In the workshop, children shared their views and situations and also shared their demand in front of government officials to stop child labour in the region.

Sharing children's views through social media and press : Through posters and appeal through Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, etc. efforts were made to make the common people aware of the issue of child labour. The press release was also given to the mainstream media for larger coverage. ***

Report by: Mr. Raj Kumar -Manav Sansadhan Evam Mahila Vikas Sansthan -Varanasi .

LISTEN ! CHILDREN SPEAK contd.

Children's Education Must Continue - Youth initiative in lockdown

In the last one year, the Kovid-19 pandemic has had the biggest impact on the education of children. If we look seriously in the rural area, then it will become clear that the system of online education is not possible in the rural environment. Most of the weavers' families live in the rural area



of Aurai. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the income has become very low due to less carpet work. At present, all educational institutions are closed, in such a situation, children of the village are indulging in many activities to provide financial support to the family, such as - working in the shops, working as a construction worker, working in the fields, working as a painter, working to lift the stone chips. By doing these works, they earn from 100 to 150 rupees daily.

In order to keep the better education of children running smoothly in the lockdown, Jagriti Youth Network (youth group/



child youth journalist and member of Jagriti Mitra) has taken the initiative to start a coaching center to teach and guide the children in 5 villages. In the coaching centers along with regular subject studies, children are also being taught about the physical, intellectual, and moral development and skills for the protection from exploitation and abuse. Children's parents have come forward and praised this initiative and started sending their children to study in coaching. Presently a total of 140+ children study daily in these 5 coaching centers.

We thank these young people (members of the Jagriti Network) who came forward in such a difficult time to



provide such support to their community and they are Vijay Kumar, Village – Lalanagar, Sujit Kumar & Pradeep Kumar- Village – Chakmasud, Kapil Kumar Village – Nakatapur, Ambuj Kumar- Village – Sahasepur, Rohit Kumar and Madhuri Kumari -Village – Siur. ** * * *****
Report by– Mr.Bhashkar Kumar,-Jagrati Project Bhadohi (Aurai)-SARATHI DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, LUCKNOW

Corona creates many child labourers

ERODE JUNE 26

Corona pandemic has likely pushed more children into child labour, warn child rights organization Educo in India and its partner, Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) during its national webinar on Friday. Mr. Guruprasad, Country Director of Educo in India, says,

"The pandemic has triggered a massive increase in the cases of abuse and violation faced by children in India. The condition of working children and children in forced or bonded labour in the country has only worsened in the light of COVID-19 pandemic." A report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF warns that 9 million additional children are at the risk of being pushed into child labour by the end of 2022 globally, as a result of the pandemic. In India, the closure of schools and the economic crisis faced by the vulnerable families, triggered by the pandemic, are likely pushing children into poverty and thus, child labour and unsafe migration He adds, "There has been some progress in



reducing the child labour cases but this progress can be reversed by the pandemic. In 2016, the government estimated that there are over 100 million migrant workers of which roughly 20-25 percent are children. According to UNICEF more than 10 million Indian children are still in some form of servitude. With over 1.5 million schools closed during the pandemic, the opportunities for marginalised children to engage in meaningful developmental activities have also gone away or reduced significantly."

Ms. Macarena Cespedes, Global Advocacy Director,

Educo, expressed "Since 2016, a slowdown in the decrease of child labour rates is remarkable. In this regard, in the last year, the health and economic crisis caused by COVID-19 has completely put the brakes on this decrease in child labour rates around the world. COVID-19 has worsened the living conditions of hundreds of millions of people around the world, specifically, children."

Mr. R. Vidhya Sagar, former Child Protection Specialist with UNICEF, shared the findings of a rapid survey conducted by CACL in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on how the

pandemic has affected the lives of children from already marginalised communities. He shared, "The children in the age group of 15-18 years who dropped out when the schools closed due to the pandemic, would not go back to schools. These children comprised two-third of the total children surveyed." Mr. Mathew Philip, National Convenor, CACL highlighted how the employers are able to misuse the law.

"Many factory-based occupations and process have been converted into 'home based' businesses to take advantage of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016", he rued. For Educo India office, contact: Guruprasad Rao (Country Director, Educo India)

Guruprasad.rao@educo.org M: +91-8800367410 For Asia spokespersons, call:

Apurva Singh (Communications Lead) apurva.singh@educo.org Mobile: +8860683086 Say NO to Child Labour www.saynottochildlabour.org



<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/child-labour-day-sees-increase-in-cases/article34792168.ece>

Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL)

The process of formation of a campaign to address child labour began in 1992, when like-minded groups including Mumbai-based YUVA, Pune-based terre des hommes Germany – India Programme (tdh) and Action for the Rights of the Child (ARC such as TDH (Germany), came together to launch a campaign for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Government of India. They mobilised a group of about 40 NGOs from 12 states who were working to promote children's rights and specifically to address child labour to come together in October 1992 with a view to collectivise and broaden the perspectives for combating child labour. They agreed to work together as a "campaign", developing common understanding and perspective and implementing the campaigns in their respective areas of operation. Under the initiative of), initial meetings were organised for brainstorming and debating on different aspects of child labour, its causes, its effects on children and society at large, the different approaches adopted so far against child labour, the legislative framework and the international conventions.

CACL emerged as a self-association of different NGOs, and as this dossier on the journey of CACL will elucidate, the Campaign has been and remains dynamic and live in the way in which it has discussed and debated different perspectives, positions and contexts as they arose—from the initial debates and discussions on the reservation of Gol to Article 32 of the UNCRC, on the CLPRA and its various amendments until the most recent one in 2016, the bill and subsequent legislation on the right to free and compulsory education in India in 2009.

With an initial membership of 40 NGOs from 12 states, the Campaign expanded to include individuals, academicians, other institutions, trade unions, women's organisations and even students' and teachers' organisations to be part of it and also to cooperate and collaborate at different levels. In the 31st year of the UN CRC, and 28th year of its ratification by India and 28th year of CACL, it has a network in 19 states with 6123 members. ***

CACL Central Secretariat : South India Cell for Human Rights Education and Monitoring, I/F, Anjanappa Complex, 35- Hennur Main Road, Lingarajapuram, St. Thomas Town Post, Bangalore-560084, Ph:+91-80-25473922/25804072-73, E mail: mathews.ashok@gmail.com

CACL National Advocacy Unit Secretariat : Dr. A. V. Baliga Memorial Trust, Link House, 3-Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002, Ph:+91-11-23311119/ 43536702, Website: caclindia.org , E mail: cacladvocacy@gmail.com , nac.cacl@gmail.com

CACL Bulletin Editorial Board: Mr. Mathews Philip , Mr. Ashok Kumar, Mr. P Joseph Victor Raj, Mr. Prabir Basu, Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Mr. C Nambi , Mr. I Srinivas Rao and Mr. K K Tripathy .

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