



Bulletin

Quarterly E Newsletter of Campaign Against Child Labour

Issue Two

January - March 2021

Message from National Convenor

Dear Friends,

Greetings from CACL National Secretariat,

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought the harshest realities on our children. The finding of a recently published UNICEF report states that around 1.5 million schools were shut down and it has negatively impacted 247 million children enrolled in the elementary and secondary schools in the country. The closure of schools has reduced access to education. Although the Governments have offered online classes, this remains a luxury as only 1 in 4 children has access to digital services. Nobody can say how long it will take to bring all these children back to school.

Number of working children is going to increase tremendously in present context because many children may not return back to the schools when it reopens as large number of them must have already joined labour force. We at CACL believe that 'any child out of school is a potential child laborer' therefore it is going to be our biggest challenge in the immediate future to bring all of them back to the schools..

As we all know, United Nations has declared 2021 'The International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour' so, we must use the year 2021 to collectively step up our efforts to strengthen our campaigns and advocacy efforts to recapture the achievements in education that we have lost during Covid-19 pandemic, this would certainly help in the eradication of child labour in all its forms up to the age of 18 years.

With regards,

Mathews Philip,

National Convenor - CACL

Message from National Advocacy Convenor

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the National Advocacy Unit of CACL!

Here we come with the second issue of our E-News Letter – CACL Bulletin. It's exactly one year of torturous pandemic and we are still struggling to overcome it. The prolonged closure of schools and job loss due to the lockdown enforced to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease has pushed a lot of students from the economically weaker sections into child labour. With classes being shifted online, education has taken a back-seat for the majority of these children who do not have access to electronic devices and the internet. Majority of children from marginalised families are now working full-time to support their families. Urgent action is required to prevent & mitigate the tolls the pandemic takes on children & their families.

The pandemic has increased economic insecurity, profoundly disrupted supply chains, and halted manufacturing. Instead of providing protection from exploitation to adult and child workers during the lockdown, 11 States (i.e. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Assam) made relaxations to the Factories Act, 1948. Many of these States have a high burden of child and adolescent labour, when these factors result in losses in household income. Expectations that children contribute financially for family sustenance can intensify. More children could be forced into exploitative and hazardous jobs. Those already working may do so for long hours or under worsening conditions. Gender inequalities may grow more acute within families, with girls expected to perform additional household chores and agricultural work. Since potentially dramatic cuts in public spending can aggravate children's vulnerability to harmful and exploitative forms of labour, deliberate choices can be made to mitigate these risks, such as through extended social protection for poor families.

It's time to act. CACL has been conducting a number of activities at national & state levels from raising awareness to generating evidence, from interacting with stakeholders to empowering the marginalised. Since United Nations General Assembly has marked 2021 as The 'International year for the Elimination of Child labour', we as CACL has an opportunity to show our solidarity, strength, and commitment for making our dream of child labour-free India fulfilled to a great extent.

In solidarity,

Ashok Kumar,

Convener, National Advocacy Unit—CACL

Coming Together to Observe International Year for The Elimination of Child Labour -2021

The campaign against child labor has been fighting against child labor and advocating for all rights for all children since 1992. The lockdown due to COVID-19 has caused children a great deal of hardship, which is detrimental to children's health, education, and all-around development. There is widespread violation of children's rights as many children were forced to leave their schooling and work for survival, while many daughters have been pushed into child marriage. It is evident that COVID-19 has aggravated the situation and posed a greater challenge to achieving Goal 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals to end child labor practices by 2025.

It is almost five years since the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act 1986 was amended in the form of 'THE CHILD LABOUR (PROHIBITION AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT ACT, 2016'. CACL had analyzed and criticized this amendment as it was found to be more regressive and considered the provisions made under the amendment retrograde, encouraging and legalizing child labour instead of meeting the purported objective of prohibition of child labour from all occupations and processes.

In the 'International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour-2021', CACL feels that it is important to assess the current situation of child labour keeping in mind two aspects – a - implementation of CLPRA 2016 and b -impact of Covid-19 on child labour and migration.

With these objectives CACL proposes to launch a series of advocacy programs to observe 'International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour-2021' & 'World day Against Child labour-12th June. This will be a 44 days intensive campaign that will be launched on 30th April 2021 across the states (where CACL has its state units) and coming together at the national level on June 11th & 12th June 2021 to collectively step up its efforts for the total eradication of child labour in all its forms up to the age of 18 years.

CACL will conduct following advocacy actions from 30th April till 12th June 2021 to observe 'International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour -2021' :-

- During the 44 days intensive campaign, various activities will be organized both at the National & State level like- Webinars, street plays, rallies, wall paintings, meetings with school & college students, radio campaign, media campaign, poster making events, etc...
- Online and Offline meetings will be organized with CSOs, SMC members, teachers unions, other networks, and young people to engage them on this issue and create an alliance for this cause.



- An attractive Social Media Campaign will be launched and small -small videos with powerful messages (prepared by youth members) will be posted on social media platforms. Besides this, activities like- changing WhatsApp & FB profile photos, use one color as a sign of protest will also be used.
- Parliamentarians will also be consulted prior during this period and they would be invited for the 'National Consultation on child labour' to get their commitment towards this cause.
- On 11th June, Children's National Consultation will be organized in Delhi.
- On 12th June in the first half, National Consultation will be organized with adult Stakeholders and in the second half a press conference will be organized in which Child Representative from Various States will present their charter of demands to make the India child labour free by 2025.

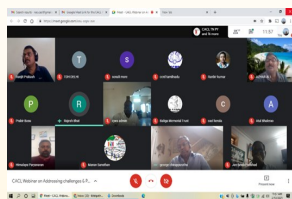
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Webinar on 'Addressing Challenges & Possible Initiatives to be Taken Towards the Complete Eradication of Child Labour'

CACL-National Advocacy unit had organized a Webinar on 'Addressing challenges and Possible Initiatives to be taken towards the complete eradication of child labour' 10th March 2021. The objective of the webinar was to: a: Understand the challenges in India for the total eradication of child labour in all its forms (up to the age of 18 years, and b: Discuss the possible Initiatives to be taken towards the complete eradication of child labour .

Dr. Ranjit Prakash from ILO (National Project – Coordinator, Promoting Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in the cotton supply chain-International Labour Organisation), was the resource person in this webinar. He shared his thoughts on -what are the challenges we are facing as a society to address child labour issues and what could be the possible initiatives to address these challenges and child labour issues appropriately. He said that any approach to address child labour issue should be holistic and must address the root causes of child labour. Our approach should be a life cycle approach, which takes care of the entire family. He further added that we also need to work on prevention strategy on a priority basis so that vulnerable families and children could be identified on time and their issues are addressed promptly to prevent them from entering child labour net. Skill development of the youth should also be our priority. He said that we at ILO advocate for Child Labour plus Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work approach to address child labour issue. If we will follow this approach and then as a civil society we can ensure better working conditions for adults and there would be no child labour in the society. 40 CACL members from 13 states participated in this webinar & suggested ways to address this issues based on their grassroots experiences.

It was suggested that without addressing structural challenges, socio-economic, political, and cultural issues (from bottom to top level) we cannot tackle child labour issue because these issues are aggravating child labour issue . Providing multi-sectorial quality education programme, rural poverty alleviation programs, strengthening district Task-force on child labour, strengthening village level/ward level child protection committees are some of the suggestions which came forward to address this issue. **



Remembering Thomas Jeyaraj

Thomas Jeyaraj, who was the founder and director of the Centre for Child Rights and Development (CCRD), left for his heavenly abode on 10th February 2021. Over the last four decades, Mr. Jeyaraj has worked in the forefront of several



child rights interventions in the Tamil Nadu State as well as at the National Level. He was a former State Convenor of the Campaign Against Child Labour-CACL, Tamil Nadu, and was also serving as the State Co-Convenor of the Tamil Nadu Child Rights Watch (TNCRW). He was extremely dedicated to the cause and was actively involved in both working for it at the ground level and in policymaking. He played a key role in taking forward the CACL at the state and national levels. It is an irreparable loss to the CACL and the child rights movement. Our deepest condolences to his family for the immeasurable loss they suffered. May his soul rest in peace.

CACL-Central Secretariats had organized a virtual meeting on 2nd March 2021 to pay tributes to Thomas Jeyaraj. During the meeting Jeyaraj's life & his contribution to the child rights and human rights movement of was shared in detail by members while paying tribute to the departed soul. People who spoke on this occasion included Mr. Mathews Philip, Mr. Josheph Victor Raj, Mr. George Chira, Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Mr. Raghu Tiwari, & Mr. Ashok Kumar. The daughter of Mr. Jeyaraj, Ms.Liby Rajam Thomas also spoke on this occasion and said that her father always used to celebrate life, he was a person with commitment and full faith in equality and unconditional love. Creating a World that would be fit for children was his dream. She requested everyone to keep supporting as they used to support CCRD at her father's time.

News From State Units of CACL

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Uttara Khand State Convention & Election of New CACL Team

On 21st Jan 2021 Uttarakhand CACL had organized its State Convention in Hadakoti-Chamoli. From 7 districts of the state, 32 representatives from 16 child rights organizations participated in this meeting.

At the end of this convention, a new team was elected for the Uttarakhand CACL. Names of the newly elected team members are as follows:- State Convenor - Ms. Nilima from Aman NGO.



Along with a state Convenor, two regional convenors were also elected, one for the



Garhwal region and another for the Kumaon region. Names of the regional convenors are - Ms. Neelam from Bimarsh NGO, and Ms. Kiran Negi from Hesco NGO.

District convenors of CACL Uttarakhand were also elected in the meeting for expanding the campaign at the district level. names of district convenors are Dr. Pundir- Himad organization- Chamoli, Mr. Dwarika Sonwal-Jadi organization- Uttarkashi, Ms. Rashmi- Bindu organization- Dehradun, Mr. Narendra-GWS organization- Rudraprayag, Ms. Parmjeet-DKD organization-, Paudi, Mr. V.S Pandey-Spardha organization- Almora, Mr. Nilam-Vimarsh organization- Nainital.

Maharashtra CACL meeting to elect New State Convener



On 25th January 2021, the CACL Maharashtra chapter had a meeting to elect a new Convener, Ms. Alicia Tauro from YUVA has been elected as the new convener of the Maharashtra State Chapter of CACL. *

Jharkhand State CACL Meeting

Jharkhand State Chapter of CACL has organized its meeting in Ranchi on 3rd Feb 2021 to discuss the child labour issues especially in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic. Discussions were



mainly focused on the advocacy actions the state chapter could take up to make the Jharkhand state child labour free. Point to establish district units at some places (where child labour is rampant) also came in the discussion to energize and strengthen the campaign in the state.

Bihar State Consultation of CACL on the impact of Pandemic on Child Labour

Bihar State CACL Consultation on the impact of Pandemic on Child Labour was organized on 19th March 2021 in the AN Sinha Institute of Social Studies – Patna. 40 representatives of child rights organizations from various districts of Bihar participated in this consultation.



The main sessions in the consultation were: Review of Govt. Initiative during Pandemic, Enrollment & Retention of Migrant family Children, Status of Child labour in Mica mines, Creation of Online Resource Centre on Child Labour, Consolidation of issues & Mechanism of resolution of Child Protection Committee, Status of Entitlement of Rescued Children. District level field experiences (challenges and opportunities) from Gaya, Vaishali, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Jamui were also shared in the consultation. The consultation ended with an action planning session in which participants prepared a doable action plan for taking forward the campaign in the state of Bihar.

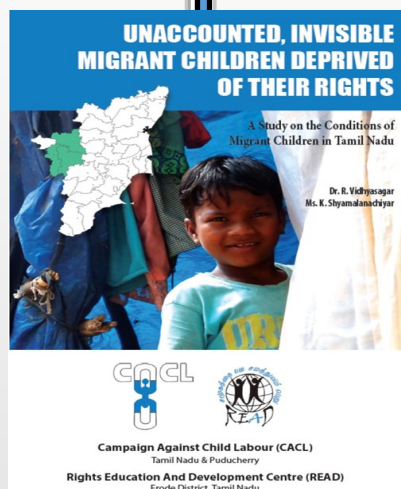
UNACCOUNTED, INVISIBLE MIGRANT CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHTS

-A Study on the Conditions of Migrant Children in Tamil Nadu

Study conducted by: Dr. R. Vidhyasagar Ms. K. Shyamalanachiyar, for and behalf of Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) Tamil Nadu & Puducherry, and Rights Education And Development- Centre (READ)- Erode District, Tamil Nadu

In India, the most “at risk” are the children, who are accompanying their migrant parents for employment, in terms of educational vulnerability and developing their capability. As many of them are deprived of their basic education they are trapped into the vicious cycle of low-skill–low-wage trap as the situation faced by their parents, which force them to migrate. It is also important to note that the situation of migrants in their working localities has direct impact on their children who accompany them. Number of studies has indicated that the movement of children along with their parents when they migrate for employment is very significant in India. Despite this, mainstream debates on child protection, child labour and migration lack necessary policy discussions on the needs and interests of migrant children as one of the most vulnerable category. There is complete lack of policy perspectives on the rights of children of internal migrants in India as it is lacking for the internal migrants as a whole. Most governments have failed to develop effective policy responses to assist and protect migrant children.

There is an unprecedented pandemic situation in the country caused by the Covid19 at present. There have been lockdowns and extended lock downs since March 2020. This is a period of increasing uncertainty. However, for the first time in the post independent India, the issue of migration is brought to the centre stage because of public health and disaster response. Exodus of migrants in the wake of sudden lockdowns across states and the immense hardships that the migrants were subjected to



when they attempted to go back home have been heart rending. The images and the reports on their travails have seared the conscience of the country. For the first time the significance of internal migration in India has entered the public discourse, as well the complete lack of policies and programmes for facilitating the integration of migrant workers at the destination that remain weak or at best non-existent. This study was undertaken prior to the Covid19 pandemic during the months of January to March 2020 on the conditions of children of migrant families in

three districts namely, Coimbatore, Erode and Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu. The scenario followed after March 2020 only has vindicated the findings of this study.

Summary of findings:::

In this study general conditions of migrant workers in the three districts and the conditions of children in terms of their access to basic rights have been

looked in. The following are the highlights of the findings of this study :

- Majority of the migrants working in the study area are from Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal and over 75% of them belong to OBC categories. However, most other studies on migrant labour, including the ones on the intra-state migrants, show that most of the migrants are drawn from SC/ST communities.
- There are many young children among the migrants who are migrating with their families (About 42% of their population consists of children below 14 years). Children below 5 years- **Continued on next page**

UNACCOUNTED, INVISIBLE MIGRANT CHILDREN study reportContinued from previous page.

—alone constitute about 18% of their population.

- Literacy rate of population above 5 years among the migrant population is just 52.6% and it is relatively better among males with 57.6% and it is only 46.4% among females. Another about 50% has only 5 to 8 years of schooling.

- Almost all the sample migrant households have said that they are forced to migrate because of lack of employment, low wages and poverty in their native places.

- Current study also revealed that over 98% of the migrants have come to the destination through their friends and relatives. Only 1.3% of them have said that they migrated through contractors.

- Five per cent of migrants have migrated into the sample districts in less than one year and a majority of them, 67.4 per cent, have moved here in last 1 to 5 years. Another 14.5 per cent of them have moved here between five and ten years before. The remaining 13.4 per cent have been here for more than 10 years.

- Among the migrant population in the sample, Male WPR is 52%, female 17% and total population 36%. Female WPR seems to be very low among migrant families compared to All India and Tamil Nadu.

- Migrant workers are mainly working in textile industry sectors of garments and spinning mills. To a small extent they are also into other industries like, iron & Steel, power looms, plastic manufacturing, tyre industry and so on.

- Housing is a major problem for the migrant workers.
- While many migrants stayed backed during Covid 19 lock down, many others have left for their natives with huge sufferings. In spite of such sufferings now migrants are returning to their work places, showing their distress conditions at their natives. Not that the lives here are much better, but the destination allows them to survive.

- Only 56% of the migrant households have access to full immunization for their children.

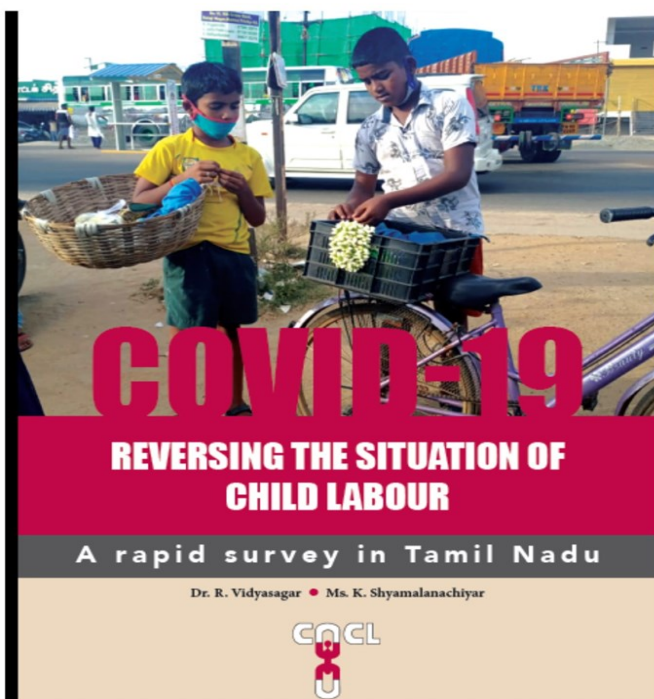


- Out of 176 children in the age group of below six years among the migrant families, only 11 children have access to AWCs.

- Only 53% of all children of migrants in the age group of 6-11 were enrolled in schools during the survey.

- Though no one has reported among the children below 14 years of the migrants, 61 per cent of all children in 15-18 age group are reported to working. Proportion of working children among 15-18 is highest in Coimbatore and Erode districts with 80 & 75 per cent respectively.

- There is a need for policy decisions and action plan for correcting the above anomalies for children to make them realize their rights. Next section is devoted to the suggestions for policy advocacy. **For detailed study report please click on the following link :** https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bKfkNR9R87NpQrwcOz6Yfr9cF_E2rMD/view?sharing **



Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL)
Tamil Nadu & Puducherry

Covid 19-REVERSING THE SITUATION OF CHILD LABOUR –A RAPID SURVEY IN TAMIL NADU BY CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD LABOUR(CACL)-TAMILNADU AND PUDUCHERRY

COVID-19 has severely impacted vulnerable children's access to education for the past one year and further increased their vulnerabilities to go for work.

In this context, CACL - TN & PY has conducted a Rapid Survey on the Status of Child Labour in 24 districts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry with the support of 30 CACL member organizations and volunteers. The findings of the rapid survey are shocking and indicate that more responsibility needs to be taken to ensure all the children, particularly children from marginalized communities such as Dalits, tribals and most backward communities, go to school.

Summary of findings on children interviewed independently

As part of the survey on children, 364 girls and 454 boys in the age group of 6-18 were interviewed independently, apart from the interviews of vulnerable families, in 24 districts (divided into five zones – north, east, central, west and south) across Tamil Nadu to understand the impact of COVID-19 on their education and working status.

Conclusion of the survey: The pandemic has created a great economic distress in the vulnerable families as most of them are left without any work and earnings during the four months of lock down. Even after the lock down is lifted, they are not getting employment as they used to get prior to the pandemic. Many families have got into abject poverty with heavy borrowings at high rate of interest. Many who has borrowed from their erstwhile employers (e.g. power looms) are likely to be trapped in bondage. Family peace is lost due to constant fights in the families due to economic situation. After the liquor shops are opened, men in many families needed more money and much of their poor earnings have gone into drinking creating more economic hardships to the families. Children are forced to supplement their family income.

Most of the children are not attending online classes due to various reasons. Most children feel that the classes are boring and they are not able to understand the lessons taught and there is no scope for raising any doubts. This is the same situation with the TV classes. Child labour increased nearly 280% among the vulnerable communities. Out of the school going children before the pandemic, 76% have started working. Children of the vulnerable families seems to be the worst affected. Last two decades there has been reduction in child labour and increased enrolment in schools. But the current crisis is reversing the gains achieved for children and there is an urgent need to protect these children and bring them back to schools. **To read the complete survey report please click on the following link:** https://drive.google.com/file/d/139fuKMKqnDp6MRazoY7BcPO6AUCH_Kvn/view?usp=sharing ***

First District Task Force meeting in Nellore - Andhra Pradesh

-First District Task Force (on child labour) meeting was organized in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. This meeting was chaired by Joint Collector Nellore and attended by all concerned departments, CWC members, and Child line representatives. CACL - AP took a key role in organizing this meeting. In the meeting, it was resolved to convene weekly review & planning meetings of DTF for proper Rescue & Rehabilitation of Child laborers in the Nellore district. Guntur and East Godavari district conveners of CACL will also sensitize District Administrations and conduct DTF meetings there also. The remaining District conveners have been requested to form DTFs in their respective districts with support from all the stakeholders and district administrations as per CLPRA Act. (17th Dec 2020). On 27th Feb 2021, this district Taskforce has identified 8 child laborers in the different limestone kilns of Piduguralla Industrial areas and rescued them. Out of 8 child laborers, four children were school dropouts, these 4 children were sent back to the schools after counseling their parents.



The child labor scenario in Uttarakhand

According to the 2011 census, there are 28098 child laborers in Uttarakhand, out of which 19799 are girls. In addition, the number of children who work for nearly three months as child labor is 27311 and the number of such children who work for six months is 27022. Out of these 54333 children, only 45,512 are children who go to school and also work. The remaining children do not go to school at all. All these 82431 children between the ages of 5 and 14 are child laborers according to the government's data.

There are 17752 government schools in Uttarakhand as per 2015-2016 data. According to NFHS-4, 93.2% children are studying in the schools of Uttarakhand. 6.8 % of the total children are out of school. Although there are many children whose names are registered in schools, but they are not going to the schools.

In reality number of working children are much more than government data. An increase in the number of working children can be seen during cultivation/fruit plucking/tourist season / social and matrimonial festivals. During the lockdown, the workload of farming, domestic work, animal husbandry, fetching water for the family has been suddenly put on the children in rural areas, and the children are seen helping in family enterprises too.



All the districts of Uttarakhand have a task force on child labour, but sadly it is not active at all. In Uttarakhand post of labor inspectors is also lying vacant in most of the districts. According to a newspaper report, there were only 32 cases of violations of CLPRA in 2015-2016 and 92 cases were there in 2016-2017, which were identified by the Department of Labor in Uttarakhand, whereas children are seen working in hotels, roadside restaurants, automobiles repairing units, small shops openly everywhere. But if we look at the figures of the labor department of Uttarakhand, the number of cases related to the identified child laborers is very less, which suggests that the role of the labor department in eradicating child labor is doubtful.

VOTE FOR CHILDREN - VOTE FOR PROGRESS

WEST BENGAL CHILDREN'S ELECTION MANIFESTO



OUR DEMANDS ON EDUCATION

- Our schools must have one or more play areas. Games, sports or COVID-19 pandemic which caused mental stress and frustration for the majority of the children. Children are leaving schools and joining work. Many children cannot join online classes because they do not have access to electricity or internet. Therefore, we want that classes should start in our school for all students as soon as possible.
- There are inadequate number of High Schools in the village and nearby high schools which are presently there are far away from our home. Therefore, we want that more High Schools be built in our neighborhood which are not far away from our home and we can easily reach there.
- Teachers in most of our schools usually remain so busy that we cannot see. We want separate tables for girls and boys in every school which will be clean and suitable.
- The table in the school should be clean and there should be lanterns that lighting machine and incense in school to maintain the health and hygiene of the girl student at the time of menstruation.
- Many of our schools do not have enough number of teachers. We want that there will be One Teacher for each of the 20 students in Primary and One Teacher for each of the 30 students in High Schools for each class.
- Our teachers in school do not believe in same manner with every student. Therefore, we want that government should make code of conduct to be followed in school by teachers and students both.
- There should be at least one counselor in every school who can help the student when they are in mental stress.
- There should be required arrangement for the learning for disabled children in every school.
- Student and their parents do not have any role in the management committee of school. We want that in the management Committee of our school our parents and our fellow student should have role.
- Many of our friends leave school education after Class VII because school education in the class VIII and they cannot afford the cost of education. Therefore, we want that school education should be free for all children up to Class X.

OUR DEMANDS ON HEALTH & SURVIVAL

- Our children from our area and in the neighboring areas, to the Tea Garden areas the families do not have their own houses and they always stay in the slums. We want that every child and their families should live in their own houses of their own.
- Many of our friends do not have Birth Certificate and facing problems for school admission and in many other ways. We want that Birth Certificate should be provided to all those children who do not have the same.
- We want that price of our daily essential and basic food should be such that our parents can easily buy these.
- Adult members of our families should have work and proper income that we children can stay safe, healthy and can continue our education.
- We want that price of the medicine stay low and we can get free treatment and services of doctors and nurses at the health centre nearby our home.
- We want that facilities of drinking water in our area and good sewerage and sanitation system.

OUR DEMANDS ON PROTECTION

- No children of less than 12 years old are engaged to work other than the family or outside of the family. Every child engaged to work needs to be helped to leave work and join education.
- Police and Childline should always help children in need. There should be one police officer responsible for children in every police station.
- A committee for the protection of the children need to be formed and made functional in every Gram Panchayat and Municipality.
- Many of our friends work in Dairying, North or Paganas do not have Child Welfare Committee to plan. We want immediate formation of Child Welfare Committee in all districts.
- We want that Training on self-defense should be provided to children in every school.
- Parental and Municipality should take responsibility on protection of Child Marriage, Trafficking and school drop-out. Panchayat and Municipality should take care on those houses of their women in a poor and public areas report.
- The victim girls and women of reported cases about and trafficking should receive their due compensation easily and without any harassment.

WE WANT TO BE HEARD

- We want that government should ask for children's opinion before Enforce any policy for children.
- We also want to participate in the Gram Sabha Meeting or Panchayat level and speak about our need and demand.
- We want there should be children committee in every school which will be monitored by the teacher before taking decisions regarding the issues directly related with students.



Bulletin

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Issue Two

January - March 2021

CACL National Coordination Committee Meetings

Between January to March 2021, CACL National Coordination Committee had three virtual meetings. Highlights of these meetings are given below:

Highlights of the CACL National Coordination Committee Meetings held on 9th Feb 2021

Agenda of the meeting: 1. Review of the campaign since lockdown, 2. Preparatory brainstorming for organizing strategic planning for CACL, 3. Any other issue suggested by members.

National Convener Mr. Mathews Philip said that 'National Action Plan' of the CACL and Report of 'Rapid Assessment Survey on Child Labour Situation' couldn't be finalized because many state units have not shared their 'action plan on child Labour' and 'rapid assessment survey report'. He said that in the future we need to timely submit whatever we commit or plan to do, then only we would be able to take the campaign forward.

Discussion on 1st agenda: Review of the campaign since lockdown:

State Chapter Reorganization and Strengthening meetings were organized in the following states: U.P- New Convener elected, Rajasthan- New Convener elected, Haryana-Unit strengthened, Uttara Khand- New Convener elected, Maharashtra - New Convener elected, Karnataka - New Convener elected, Tamil Nadu-New Convener elected, Jharkhand – unit strengthening meeting.

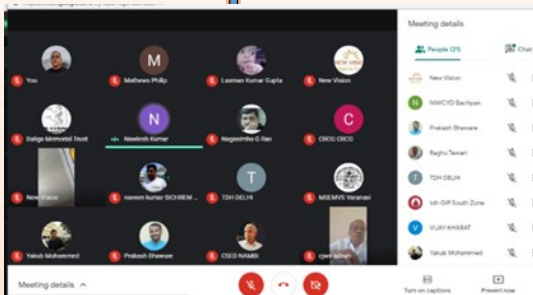
Webinar on - 'How to Establish Resource Centre On Child Labour and How To Capture Data, Success Stories & Best Practices: by Dr. Helen Sekar and Dr. Manoj Jatav-NLI. (Oct 2020) . 59 representative of CACL from 10 states of India (i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh) participated in this.

Exploratory meetings with Funding agencies were organized with Save the Children, CRY, Caritas India and World Vision (Aug- Dec) to explore the possibilities to work collectively on child labour issues.

An exploratory study is being done in collaboration with CRY & TISS in 10 states "to assess the situation of children helping in family enterprises". 10 states are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Mr. Ashok Kumar shared with everyone that 'CACL National Advocacy Unit' has taken responsibility for the advocacy part of a 'GIZ-TDH Supported Pilot Project to End the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Mica Mining areas of Bihar & Jharkhand'.

Updates were also shared from the following CACL state units: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttara Khand, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh



Discussion on 2nd agenda: Preparatory brainstorming for organizing a strategic planning

After the discussion, it was decided that a group of eminent child rights activists should be formed and that group can draft a 'strategy paper & roadmap' of CACL for the next five years which could be then discussed in the NCC and finalized. For being part of this group some internal and some external person's names were suggested. It was also decided that the national convener and national advocacy convener should be part of this group as ex officio members. One person from TDH should also be there in the group.

At the end of the meeting, everyone was requested to share brief information about their organization's recent activities for CACL Bulletin. Format for developing a database of the CACL members was also shared with a request to fill it in and send it back to the national advocacy unit of CACL for compilation. 21 people from 11 state participated in this meeting.



Bulletin

Quarterly E Newsletter of Campaign Against Child Labour

Issue Two

January - March 2021

Highlights of the CACL National Coordination Committee Meetings held on 2nd March 2021

Agenda of the meeting: 1. Discussion on developing a strategic plan of the CACL 2. Brainstorming for the programmes on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour-12th June 2021,3. Discussion on the preparation of alternate CRC report (Children's as well as NGOs report).

Highlights of the meeting: In the beginning of the meeting, NCC members of CACL paid tribute to the departed Senior Child Rights activist Mr. Thomas Jeyaraj who left for heavenly abode on 10th Feb 2021.

1. Discussion on developing a strategic plan of the CACL: After the discussion, some more names were suggested to be part of the core group to be formed to draft CACL strategic plan. It was suggested that the initial meeting of the group could be in virtual mode and the final one with the larger CACL group to adopt the 'strategy paper & roadmap' of CACL could be in actual mode. Mr. Mathews has been given the responsibility to approach all the external members for being part of this group and call the meeting of this group ASAP.

2. Brainstorming for the programmes on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour-12th June 2021: After the discussion, a small committee was formed who could look into all the suggestions came during the meeting for the 12th June programme and finalize the World Day Against Child Labour -12th June 2021 programme .

3. Discussion on the preparation of alternate CRC report (Children's as well as NGOs report): Planning of Adult's/NGOs Alternate CRC Report was shared. It was said that HAQ is leading the process of preparing this report. UNICEF, WVI, SC, TDH will share the cost of this process. For the adult report, the next meeting is on 9th March. For children's report preparation TDH-North region will approach various organizations that are facilitating children's forums and will partner with them for preparing children's report.

Information about the webinar on Child labour : everyone was informed that NAU-CACL is organizing a Webinar – on 10th March 21 from 11 am-1 pm on the theme: Challenges in India for total eradication of child labour & possible Initiatives to be taken towards the complete eradication of child labor . Dr. Ranjit Prakash -ILO will be the resource person .**

Highlights of the CACL National Coordination Committee Meetings held on 26th March 2021

Agenda of the meeting: 1- CACL Strategic Planning Process – Certain changes in methodology, **2-**Plan for observing International Day against Child Labour in the context of "International Year for the Elimination of Child labour" declared by UN. Discussion on agenda points:-----

1: CACL Strategic planning process which supposed to take place after 15th April, 2021 will be facilitated by George Chira (Executive Committee member of CACL) and involve all the CACL members. There will be three or four virtual Processes and finally a physical meeting. All the members agreed upon this and the first virtual meeting for Strategic planning is scheduled for 16th April 2021.

2: Plan for observing International Day against Child Labour 2021: CACL decided to take on a nationwide campaign on this issue both at the state level and national level. CACL already constituted a subcommittee to design the campaign plan. The subcommittee has drafted a plan which they will share soon.

The salient points of the draft plan are described below.

CACL will take on 44 days campaign at the state and national level.. The campaign will lunch on 30th April 2021 – Anti Child labour Day and end with observing 12th June – International Day against Child labour. The focuses on the campaign could be on the 5 years on amendment of CLPRA – Ground level realities of implementation of the amended act and situation of children after one year of pandemic and lockdown. The campaign will be taken on both at the state (15 active states) and national level. At the national level, there will be both children and adult processes. At the National Level there will be a Children's consultation on 11th June and there will be Adult consultation on 12th June (First Half) and Press meet on 12th June Second Half. CACL will take on a mainstream media campaign and social media campaign. A campaign video of 30 seconds will be prepared on the campaign for social media and other campaign measures will be taken. Re-recording of CACL campaign song in different regional languages.

At the state level subcommittee needs to be constituted to plan and coordinate the state-level campaign. All states are suggested to take on a uniform type of campaign and event on a uniform timeline. The suggested strategies may include both children & adult processes similar to the national level.

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'Child labour increased during pandemic'

A study was conducted in 24 districts of the State

P. A. KARASANI
MUMBAI

There has been a significant increase in the proportion of working children from 28.7% to 31.1% of the total children who were surveyed, mainly because of the COVID-19 pandemic and closure of schools, reveals a study conducted by Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), State Governor R. Karuppusamy released the rapid survey titled 'COVID-19: Revisiting the Situation of Child Labour'. The study conducted in 24 districts of the State showed that child labour had rapidly increased in North, South and Eastern districts of the State. The survey was conducted by interviewing children in the age category of 5 to 18 during September and November 2020.

The survey showed that child labour increased by around 20% among the vulnerable communities. Children from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes and those from lower economic background had to work to financially support their families during the pandemic," said Mr. Karuppusamy.

The survey found that children were working in battery shops, book binding shops, newspaper distribution, rattle shops, vegetable shops and as domestic help.

Child Labour in News

Half of children of guest workers not enrolled in schools: Study

NGOs Blame Language Barrier

WORRYING TREND

A survey of child labour during COVID-19 pandemic was released by members of Campaign Against Child Labour in Madurai on Friday.

Children were enrolled in at least 20 different types of occupations in the service sector. Most of the children were found to be working for more than eight hours a day.

Nearly 50% of the children who were surveyed said that they often face physical, mental and verbal abuse from their employers. Children, depending upon their age, earned between ₹ 300 and ₹ 400 as wages per day.

According to the survey, more than 50% of children from lower economic background had to work to financially support their families during the pandemic. A small percentage of children said that they started to work in order to buy merchandise.

Mr. Karuppusamy emphasised the steps that needed to be taken to ensure that the students attend the schools. The government must increase the rate of wages offered under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, especially in rural areas. This is essential to create more jobs for adults. Vulnerable families should be covered under comprehensive social protection schemes to ensure a decent living.

He suggested that labour laws and regulations must be strictly enforced. Child Protection Committees should work effectively to identify vulnerable children and support their families through social protection schemes.

He said that all students who were studying earlier are brought back to schools. He urged NGOs, social and district committees also participated in the event.

Child rights manifesto released

'Focus on dropping child sex ratio'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

From strengthening mechanisms to monitoring female infanticide to encouraging the participation of children in gram sabhas, a child rights manifesto with various demands for the Tamil Nadu Assembly election was released in the city on Wednesday. The manifesto was prepared by the Tamil Nadu Child Rights Watch (TNCRW), the Campaign Against Child Labour-Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, the Forum for Promotion of

Child Participation-Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and the Right to Education Forum-Tamil Nadu. It was released by Justice S. Vimala, full-time member, Tamil Nadu Law Commission.

One of the main demands was to strengthen the Pre-natal Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994. "This includes the formation of a task force, with the participation of civil society organisations, to handle the issue of dropping child sex ratio in the State, as revealed by Census 2011 and the National Family Health Survey IV (2015-16). The issue of female infanticide is serious and needs urgent attention," said Andrew Sesu-

raj M., professor, Loyola Knowledge Hub for Excellence in Child Protection.

He saidanganwadi centres should be upgraded on a par with private play schools and their timings should be extended. "Besides, the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, needs to be extended from newborns to 18 years of age, guaranteeing free, quality and equitable education to all children compulsorily," he added. Another demand is to stop closing down government schools in the name of merging of schools, and measures should be taken to strengthen the admission and attendance of the children.

THE HINDU

Meeting discusses measures to eradicate child labour in textile industry

COIMBATORE

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

COIMBATORE, MARCH 21, 2021 21:54 IST
UPDATES: MARCH 21, 2021 21:54 IST

A virtual seminar was organised by the Texprocil, Employers Federation of Southern India (EFSI), Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI) and the Southern India Bureau of International Labour Force of United States Department of Labour (US DOL) should remove cotton seeds, cotton, thread and yarn produced in India from its list of commodities that it restricts for imports, said Manojkumar Patodia, chairman of Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council (Texprocil).

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/meeting-discusses-measures-to-eradicate-child-labour-in-textile-industry/article34209606.ece>



INDIAN EXPRESS 24-03-2021

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Truppur

Centre for Social Education and Development (CSED), an NGO requested the political party candidates to speak up for the garment workers' concern in the assembly and continue to work for ensuring their rights.

CSED Executive Director C Nambi said, "Textile and garment industry is a multi-billion dollar industry with an annual growth of 8.36 per cent. This is not possible without the hard work of lakh of workers. Some of our requests include abolition of the contract labour system, enforcement of Dearness Allowances, minimum wages of ₹21,000 for garment workers (eight hours shift), welfare board for garment workers."

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 GoI to Article 32 of the UNCRC, on the CLPA 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. ***

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