



# Bulletin

Quarterly E Newsletter of Campaign Against Child Labour

Issue Four

July-Sep 2021

## Message from National Convenor

Dear Friends,

Greetings from CACL National Secretariat !

It is a matter of relief that the Covid - 19 positive rates are very much on a downward trend in the country. Let us hope that there will not be a third wave. This should encourage us to come out of whatever slumber we have experienced, if at all, and start offline engagements. A campaign is kept alive through events that are organized publicly. So let us use all opportunities to go public with added vigour to realise our dream of a child labor free India. Let us look forward to the National Coordination Committee (NCC) meeting in Delhi on 6th and 7th October to do a concrete planning for our future programs and activities. This time I hope the NCC meeting will be a very effective program since we would have achieved a lot of clarity because of an elaborate strategic planning process. Therefore I appeal to all members of the NCC to come to Delhi and participate in the meeting.

With regards,

Mathews Philip,

National Convenor - CACL

## Message from National Advocacy Convenor

Dear Friends,

Greetings from CACL National Advocacy Unit !

While interacting with a number of State chapters and stakeholders, I have observed that situation is more deplorable than it seemed. It's now an established fact that child labour is one of the greatest offenses against children as it denies them all their basic and fundamental rights and deprives them of their childhood. Additional economic shocks and school closures caused by COVID-19 mean that children already in child labour may be working longer hours or under worsening conditions, while many more may be forced into the worst forms of child labour due to job and income losses among vulnerable families.

It's a warning and wake up call for all to come forward and demand from the Government of India for ensuring adequate social protection for all, increased spending on quality education and getting all children back into school, promotion of decent work for adults, so that families don't have to resort to children helping to generate family income, ending gender norms and discrimination, investment in child protection systems, agricultural development and livelihoods.

We appeal to all who care for children to come together with Campaign Against Child Labour for the total eradication of child labour and make India child labour free .

In solidarity,

Ashok Kumar,

Convener, National Advocacy Unit-CACL



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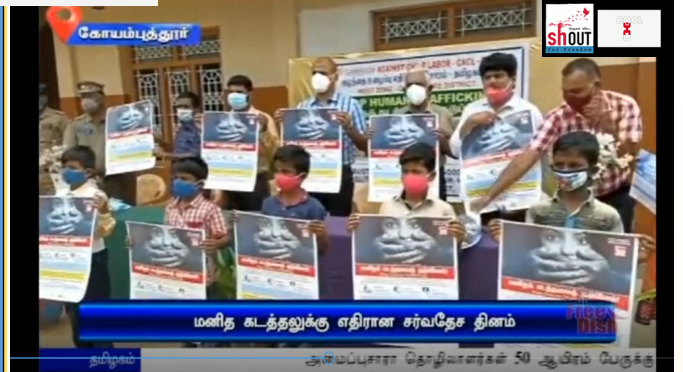
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News from the States

## Shout For Freedom

Tamil Nadu & Puducherry chapter of CACL had organized 'Stop Child Trafficking Campaign' on 30th July 2021 in the 35 districts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to observe 'The World Day Against Child Trafficking'. Awareness march and public meetings were organized on this occasion by CACL TN & PY state unit. Along with children, child rights activists, parents and CSO representatives participated in this campaign. Posters and a short video was released on this occasion. This programme was covered by print and electronic media. Objective of this campaign was to make people aware on this issue and pressurize the government for bringing a strong law by incorporating civil society's suggestions in 'The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill-2021' and pass it ASAP from the Parliament.





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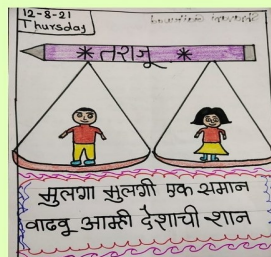
## Shoshan Se Azaadi Campaign

(Freedom From Exploitation Campaign)

August 10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> 2021

YUVA, Mumbai, Member- CACL Maharashtra

Children have long been a vulnerable group of individuals and often, least prioritized in policy-making and other decisions that affect their lives. The pandemic has further amplified their concerns and has affected children in ways that the world cannot even begin to comprehend let alone measure and resolve. Children have been deprived of their fundamental right to education and learning, play, nutrition and



#ShoshanSeAzaadi

Expressions | Consultation | Community Engagements



health care. They had to be kept at safe physical distance, stay at home and were not able to meet their friends and teachers.

Closure of schools and the in-access to online education to majority, locked down playgrounds and other public spaces like parks and beaches, in-access to public transport, places of worship, community centres, cancellation of festivals and social occasions and so much more, have resulted in absolutely no source of learning, recreation, leisure, and play for children. Furthermore, the closure of institutions like *anganwadis* and schools have resulted in the stoppage of daily meals and immunization resulting in an increased incidence of malnutrition and diseases that can be prevented through timely vaccination.

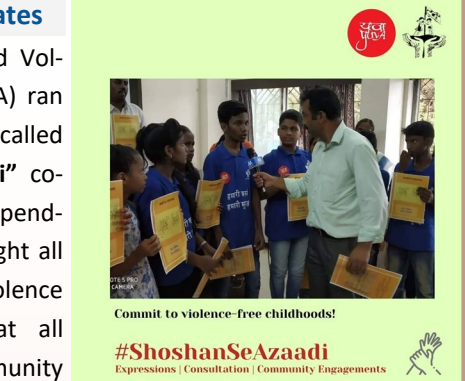
### News from the States

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) ran a campaign called “Shoshan se Azaadi” coinciding with Independence week to highlight all of the forms of violence against children- at all levels- family, community and at the policy level and to allow for children to share their concerns on a common platform. We as adults have a responsibility to help children fulfil their dreams by creating a society that enables them to access their fundamental rights and fully reach their potential as citizens.

This campaign was a great success on ground as well as virtually. More than 100 Children and community members of the Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Sanghatan (BASS) participated in the campaign and made short clips of 3 communities from the lens of children highlighting their issues of violence and unsafety. They shared their experiences through drawings, poems and wall inscriptions on the theme of “Azaadi mere liye” where they shared their ideas of Freedom- gender equality, quality education, freedom from the lockdown, opening of schools, clean communities and freedom from violence and sexual harassment, and so much more.

They also voiced their demands and shared their expressions with decision-makers, civil society members and community leaders at the virtual webinar on “Shoshan se Azaadi” and concluded to collaborate on ending violence against children.

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Commit to violence-free childhoods!

#ShoshanSeAzaadi  
Expressions | Consultation | Community Engagements



#ShoshanSeAzaadi

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## CACL Rajasthan: State Consultation

### News from the States

#### Highlights of the consultation

Rajasthan State Consultation of Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) was organised on 20th August 2021 at Hotel Vesta International, Gopal Bari- Jaipur. This consultation was organised by Rajasthan State Chapter of CACL, in Collaboration with National Advocacy Unit of CACL. 28 people participated in this consultation representing various child rights organisation of the state.

Mr. Mohd. Yakub – CACL (State Convener - Rajasthan) welcomed all the honourable panelists and participants and shared the agenda and its objective. To set the Context of the consultation Mr. Ashok Kumar- Convenor-National Advocacy Unit Of CACL highlighted the need and importance of strengthening the campaign in the Rajasthan state towards total eradication of Child Labour. He further added that inclusion of various age groups in the campaign is important such as children's group, youth group, adults group and other stakeholders group because it will expand and strengthen the campaign. He emphasised on the need to conduct a vulnerability mapping exercise. The maps will highlights vulnerabilities like Child labour, child sexual abuse, dropouts etc. Mapping will help to keep track of those areas/districts that are prone to particular vulnerabilities and then appropriate actions/programmes can be initiated there to address the situation.

During the consultation a panel discussion was held on the theme– 'Child labour scenario in Rajasthan and strategy to ensure the basic rights of children for making the State Child Labour Free (especially in context with COVID19 pandemic)'.

Panelists for this session were: Ms. Nusrat Naqvi-Member-RSCPCR, Mr Manna Biswa- Child Protection Officer, UNICEF Rajasthan, Ms. Sharda Singh- Program Advisor, Child Labour Free Jaipur, Mr. Om Ji Arya- Manager Advocacy, Save The Children- Rajasthan, Mr. Madan Viasnav- CLRA and Mr. Paras Banjara-Social Activist, Safar & SR Abhiyan – Rajasthan .



Panel discussion was chaired by Ms. Nusrat Naqvi-Member-Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights-RSCPCR. Following the panel discussion, an open house discussion was also facilitated.

Major issues emerged during panel discussion and open house discussion :

- Child Workers are becoming 'invisible' to the majority population – It is **Shifting towards** : - informal sectors, home-based manufacturing, small family farms, remote tribal areas (e.g. cottonseed production) , small enterprises and subsidiary units as a part of family-based manufacturing
- The pandemic is predicted to have left **120 million** without employment in India.
- India will account for a bulk of the **deaths of children** aged five and under
- CHILDLINE witnessed 50% increase in calls of children in distress during first week of lockdown
- 320 million students in India are affected due to school closure; less than 30% had access to online learning
- **COVID-19 and impact on Child Labour – Greater risk for those already in child labour** – children aged 15-18 years engaged in hazardous work account for 62.8% of India's child labour workforce (Census 2011). - **Labour law revisions** - Extension of working hours at factories from a maximum of 8 hours to 12 hours a day with a limited workforce. Such a provision, seen in the context of adolescent child workers, will mean more work at lower wages, as children are the cheapest labour force.
- The condition of working children and children in forced and bonded labour in the country has always been concerning in India, but the pandemic has likely pushed more children into child labour, including its worst forms.
- There is need for research on the situation of child migrants in India, including statistics by state, trends across time, reasons for migration, and the influence migration has on their lives in relation to education, health and well-being. Challenges are particularly serious when children migrate without proper documents and/or without their families. In these situations, child migrants are at a high risk of exploitation and vulnerable to child labour.



## News from the States



- Need to execute capacity building program for stakeholders to ensure effective handling of cases of child labour/trafficking and child-friendly procedures
- Need to Set up and documenting model approaches for dealing with rescued children in child

friendly environment

- Need to build child labour/trafficking cases strong through strengthening legal processes and documentation of evidence, in collaboration with NGOs. SCPCRs, Dept. of Labour, police and judiciary
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have become increasingly influential in the past years. Awareness of human rights and social and environmental causes has increased, and NGOs have helped empower people. But there is credit taking fights among the NGOs and various other organizations.
- NGOs have played a role in opinion-making in state and there should be smooth sharing of resources, facts finding, data and documentation.



A brief session was also held on: Establishing Online Resource Centre on Child labour which was facilitated by Mr. K K Tripathy- National Advocacy Coordinator –CACL.

**At the end of the consultation a discussion was held on How to Strengthen/Energize the Rajasthan State chapter of CACL.** After the discussion it was decided that Rajasthan State Convener of CACL Mr. Mohd. Yakub will form a state level organizing committee of CACL Rajasthan and chalk out the plan for next three months at the earliest for strengthening the state unit. After three months next meeting (of Rajasthan CACL) will be called for reorganizing the Rajasthan state unit. In the next meeting, discussions can be held to elect one person as co-convener too. Formation of district units can also be a point of discussion in the next meeting. \*\*

## CACL Uttar Pradesh: State Consultation

### Highlights of the Consultation

Uttar Pradesh State Consultation of CACL was organized by U.P State Chapter of CACL, In Collaboration with National Advocacy Unit of CACL on 4th September 2021 in Rahi Tourist Bungalow, Sarnath- Varanasi.

**Objective:** — To strengthen the campaign in the state towards total eradication of child labour. — To develop the strategy for ensuring the basic rights of children for making the state child labour free.

**Program Facilitator/Moderator:** 1. Ms. Ranjana Gaur, Varanasi Convener-CACL, 2. & Mr. Ashok Kumar, Convener, National Advocacy Unit-CACL.

**Program Host:** Mr. Bhanuja Sharan Lal, CACL State Convener-U.P

**Participants:** 38 participants from different organizations (CACL partners and non-partners both) of various districts participated in the consultation and around 7 participants joined the consultation virtually through Zoom.

**Mr. Bhanuja Sharan Lal, CACL State Convener-UP welcomed all guests, panelists and participants in the State Consultation.** He welcomed all guests, panelists and participants in the State Consultation, shared the consultation objectives and said that today we will discuss and will chalk out some concrete strategy to address child labour issue in the state of U.P.

**Mr. Mathews Philip, National Convener, CACL shared (through zoom) the history and Present Status of CACL.** He said that any child out of school is potential of child labour. He further added that there is a need to join hands together & have common perspectives to create a large impact towards supporting children who have been exploited economically, take them out of the labour net and put them in the schools.



**Mr. Ashok Kumar, Convener, National Advocacy Unit-CACL, while setting context,** shared that the dream of CACL is making "CHILD LABOUR FREE INDIA" and mission is "ERIDICATION OF CHILD LABOUR". He discussed the role of civil society in making India child labour free, which we as community mostly ignore/fail to ensure that no child works anywhere. He further added that there is a need to address the issue which causes it and to work from "local to global level" and we also need to conduct "vulnerability mapping" at every level.



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**Panel discussion theme: Child labour scenario in UP and strategy to ensure the basic rights of children for making the state child labour free**

## News from the States

**Panelists:** 1. Mr. Dinesh Kumar, Child Protection Officer-UNICEF, UP, 2. Mr. Sachin Kumar, Program Advisor-Freedom Fund, 3. Mr. Rajkumar Paliwal, Divisional Technical Resource Person-Child Protection-UNICEF Varanasi, 4. Mr. Mushtaque Ahmad, Secretary- ROSA Sansthan Varanasi, 5. Mr. Akhilesh Kumar, Member-CWC Varanasi, 6. Mr. Birendra Kumar, Survivor leader of Bonded labour, 7. Mr. Shishir Srivastava, Nodal Childline –Varanasi and 8. Ms. Tsering Diskit, India Country Program officer, FTS

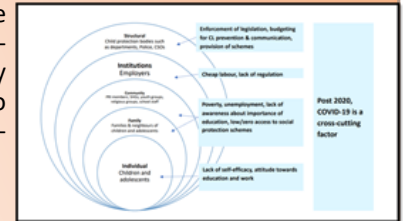
**Major issues emerged during panel discussion and open house discussion:**

- in Uttar Pradesh Allahabad, Bareilly, Jaunpur Ghaziabad and Gonda are the Top five districts of UP where highest number of child labourers are found, whereas Bhagpat, Hamirpur, Chitrakoot Auriya Mahoba are the Bottom five districts where lowest number of child labourers are there in the state.
- During COVID-19 most of children were out of School and those children has potential of child labour then as social activist *What Can we do that these children retain in school.*
- In the Gram Panchayat development plan approx. 40 to 60% of the budget is to be used for children and women, but no plan is being developed related to child labour issues. There should be a plan for Child labour Budget in Gram Panchayat.
- There is a big gap in addressing the child labour issue is a convergence within the department, there is a dire need for that, we should think that how we can make a strategy for converge with concerned departments.
- Need to involve community in addressing CL issue because community do not talk about these issues, just ignores it.
- There is a trend that as comparison of 06-14 years children, 15-18 years children is high risk group for child labour.
- There are many scheme of the government are there on the issue of child labour but not all the scheme are running successfully at ground level, because there is no responsibility fixed at village level for the implementation of those schemes. Village head should be made accountable for it.
- Need to organize training of newly elected village heads on child protection issues.



- There is no coordination between Labour department, SJPU, CWC and most of the times they do not presented the the data of child labour.

- Eradication of child labor should be an issue not only for the government and voluntary organizations, but also for the civil society, panchayats and politicians.
- All strategy will fail if rehabilitation mechanism will not be strong, lack of proper implementation CLPRA 2016 and lack of proper rehabilitation of rescued children with adequate follow up are the major challenges in the eradication of child labour in the state.



A brief session was also held on: **Establishing Online Resource Centre on Child labour** which was facilitated by Mr. K K Tripathy- National Advocacy Coordinator –CACL. Its objective and methodology was shared through a presentation.

**Developing Action Plan for child labour Free U.P:** Mr. Bhanuja and Mr. Daulatram facilitated the session and discussed how to strengthen the U.P state chapter of CACL and the points emerged during the discussion are as follows:

- The campaign units should be expanded at district and regional level as well.
- All partners should meet once in a month to review the actions taken and revise the strategy if required.
- We should involve youth in developing the CACL strategy. Online training of youth can also be organized.
- We should associate with some influencers in the CACL group for strengthening.
- Vulnerability mapping should be done district/area wise.
- We should have a convergence meeting with different departments.
- Use of social media, community awareness program, development of IEC materials to take the campaign to grassroots level



**Election of State Convener of CACL:** Through a proper election process house elected Mr. Bhanuja Sharan Lal as the State Convener of CACL UP once again. \*\*



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## CACL Bihar: State Consultation

News from the States

Major issues emerged during panel discussion:

### Highlights of the Consultation

On 11th September 2021, Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) Bihar, in collaboration with National Advocacy Unit (NAU), organized State Level Consultation on 'Issues, challenges and Possible ways for the Child Labour Eradication in the state'.

In the consultation 52 participants including academicians, grassroots practitioners and member organizations of CACL and CCHT (Collective Coalition Against Human Trafficking) actively participated. All participants shared their rich experiences and give recommendations to eradicate bonded & child labour from the state of Bihar. Due to well thoughtful schedule, workshop took a wonderful action-oriented shape in the presence of very vibrant participants as well as the knowledgeable speakers, academicians and motivating guests.

The workshop began with the welcome of all participants and sharing of objectives and agenda of the state level consultation. Following this Mr. Nawlesh Kumar Singh, State Convener, CACL Bihar introduced the consultation and requested Mr. Pramod Kumar Sharma to Chair the consultation and to share his views on the objectives of the consultation with participants.

Mr. Nawlesh Kumar Singh also requested Mr. Suresh Kumar, child Right Activist to facilitate the sessions in the absence of Dr. Anil Kumar Roy, State Convener, RTE Forum Bihar Chapter. Subsequently, during the Context Setting session Mr Ashok Kumar, Convener, National Advocacy Unit, CACL discussed about the ways and strategies for strengthening the campaign in the state towards complete eradication of child labour.

Following this, the Panel discussion was began where distinguished speakers like Mrs Gargi Saha, Child protection officer, Unicef, Mr. Sachin Kumar, Programme Advisor, Freedom Fund, Mr. Suresh Kumar, Child Rights Expert and Piyush Kumar, Save the Children shared their rich experiences and considerate views on 'Issues, challenges and Possible ways for the Child Labour Eradication in the State and discussed about the strategies to ensure the basic rights of children in the context of COVID 19 Pandemic.



- Around 30 lakhs people's reverse migration took place in Bihar therefore we need to make proper action plan and ensure its implementation with the support from grass root organization working in the field to address child labour issues appropriately.
- Child friendly police station should be formed in every district and CSOs and other stakeholders should be involved in running those child friendly police stations.
  - We have enough data and evidences related to the incidences of child labour available to us but it should be properly collected and reviewed.
  - Academicians, NGOs and CBOs may play a significant role in developing strategies to ensure basic rights of people and to give evidences to government for making changes in present policies based on their studies.
  - We need to send letters on mass scale to all the concerned government departments so that issues related to child labour and child-trafficking could be addressed.
- Coordination and collaboration between government & non-government organization is very important for addressing child labour issues effectively.
- Allocation of budget on child protection is considerably low, so it should be increased.
- NGOs need to be updated for effective working against child labour and bounded labour as sometimes the government does not want to see the data that comes from NGOs.
- If children are seen in isolation of their families, the problem goes unabated.
- We should think that how we can make our systems more responsive and effective by strengthening the implementation of ASTITVA guidelines, RTE and school enrolment.





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## CACL Bihar: State Consultation highlights continued.....

- During Aam Sabha & Gram Sabha election process, there is a need to empower communities, especially children, youths and women so that they can have better understanding over child protection issues and right based approach so that they can raise their demand in front of elected representatives.
- People, especially the youths of our country need to be aware the pros and cons of child labour and develop common strategies to fight against this crime then only we can make our dream (child labour free country) true.
- At Panchayat/block level there is need to strengthen 3 legal committees that is CPC, VHSNC (Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee) SMC (School Management Committee) so that we can work efficiently in order to identify the gaps and challenges related to child labour and protection issues.



The Open house discussion was moderated by Mr. Suresh Kumar, Advocate, Child Right Expert. The key discussion points were; role of academicians to give evidences to policy makers for making changes in existing government policies, use of technology to spread information about child Labour issue as well laws like CLPRAA,2016 as government schemes to combat it at mass level, civil society can play significant role like CACL is playing in their projects. It was shared that engagement of youth, need of more field researches and study on Child Labour issues are necessary for the better implementation of government schemes, push and pull factors of laws related to child Labour, difference between child labour and working child, rehabilitation of rescued victims, engagement of community and local leaders and capacity building of stakeholders in order to achieve total eradication of child labour in the state.

## News from the States

### Developing Action plan/ Road map and possible areas of collaboration for child labour free Bihar: This session

was facilitated by Mr. Pramod Kumar Sharma, Member Core Group, CACL Bihar and State Convener HLN. Ms. Suman Singh, Member, core Group also shared her views and grass root experiences on strengthening/Energising state chapter of CACL.

Some of agreed action points are:

- State CACL will formulate state, division and local level action group at district level and will discuss and prepare questionnaire on this basis and prepare/collect case studies that in which areas/ districts cases of child labour have increased.
- State CACL will form a 15-members State Level Action Group consisting of members of networks, civil society organization, team of social activists, including a member of Department of Labour to work on child labour issue effectively.
- State CACL will do regular community meetings to make public aware about social security schemes and facilities of government.
- State CACL will establish online resource centre with the support of networks and partners for the purpose of sharing reports, research paper and studies based on the child labour issues.

**Child Labour ! A Pandemic Within Pandemic !**  
बाल श्रम ! महामारी के भीतर एक महामारी !

**Child Labor Is A Social Crime**  
Every Child Has A Right To Shine

National Campaign "#ShramNahiShiksha' #श्रमनहीशिक्षा"  
Campaign Against Child Labour – CACL  
International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour – 2021





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## Understanding the Issue of Child Labour

### An Article about the Session conducted on Child Labour- ARC Pune, Member-CACL Maharashtra

Action for the Rights of the Child (ARC) is a network of NGOs working in and around Pune city. This network was formed to ensure the necessary ratification to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in India.

A webinar was organised by the network on child labour and was attended by 100 plus members. Key resource persons were invited to share knowledge about the child labour act and the changes over time, as well as its implications. It also opened up the platform for grassroots activists and members of NGOs to share their work and the challenges they face.

Mr. Anand Mahajan who is an advocate shared few points which were mainly on the law. These points were very crisp and were explained in a very simple manner. He spoke about The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 later on which was amended to The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016. He also mentioned that this act came into enforcement in September 2016. He highlighted the difference between adolescents (14-18) and children (below 14) and the types of work which are prohibited till the age of 18 for anyone. He also stated the punishments which would have to be served by the person who hires any child below 14. It is mentioned in Sec 14 that all hazardous occupations are prohibited for children and also the punishments are laid down in it. He also said that the child artists which are seen on the screen are an exception. He also mentioned some facts about the labour office and the task force. He also explained why filing an FIR or a formal registration of a complaint is necessary. It is necessary because the court works on evidence and to prove your point you will need proof. He also mentioned some acts and laws which work in hand with The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 and those are NALSA and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

Some of the members of the NGO who shared their work spoke and their words were -

That the no. of kids working in activities like picking up garbage has increased and it was also mentioned that picking up garbage comes under hazardous activities. Mr. Aditya Vyas from Kagad Kach Patra Kashtkari Panchayat mentioned that he also spoke to the people and they responded that their kid's school is closed so they just take the kids with them so that in that way they will at least get more wage. The other point mentioned was also that there is no one to take care of the kid at home so they bring them to work with them.



Mr. Harish Phadke from Society for Door Step Schools that works for the upliftment of kids of parents who work in factories that make bricks. He raised points about the education of the kids and how these factory people exploit these tribal people and if they try to raise a point, they won't allow them to work the next day.

Mr. Dnyaneshwar Jadhwar, a writer and social activist, raised a point about the kids working in the sugarcane factories and in the process of cutting sugarcane. He said that the people from many different places migrate mainly from the area of Latur, Nagpur, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, etc. with their family and then, later on, all the people working in the factory-raised a point about their kids' education. Then the government came up with a solution that they will be given a card which would assist them to get education for their kids in the nearest government schools. This wasn't that effective as the teachers mainly used to neglect these kids.

Mr. Rohit Yaligar's NGO NYAAS works for the upliftment of the kids from the slums. He mentioned that these kids mainly try to

work from an early age so that they can earn more money for their families and themselves. He also mentioned that this is to be seen less in settled slums. He and his team are providing education and providing basic needs to them.

Mr. Param Anand, District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) set some general points that there is no general awareness among the people about child labour and how sensitive this topic is. He also mentioned that there is no proper data on child labour.

Mr. Sushant Asha, ARC Coordinator, presented a demo of using the PENCIL portal for reporting child labour cases. Using this simple platform, any citizen can report a working child found anywhere in the city. The concerned government department has to take an action on the cases reported by citizens through the PENCIL portal.

Through all the discussion what I could gather is that there is a lack of communication between NGOs and the government. I feel that the NGOs are trying their best from their side and so is the government. The government is bringing in new policies but they aren't that effective or the case is that it isn't being used. The NGOs are doing their best in all ways possible but if there isn't mass awareness it is of no use. I feel that being a citizen of a country doesn't just mean that we should only follow the rules for ourselves. Yes, the citizens must abide by the rules, but the citizens also have to help others in need so that the country progresses and reaches new heights. \*\*\*\*\*

**Written by :- Arya Ajit Mare on behalf of ARC Pune, 2nd-year Law Student, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, 1st September 2021**

News from the States

## Initiative of Teachers, Parents & Lok Panchayat Workers For The Education of Children In Dhamnavan

-Asif Shaikh, Lokpanchayat

Akole is a tribal taluka in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra . Geographically, it is the largest taluka of the district and is primarily known as a tribal taluka. Out of the total villages, 94 villages are known as Adivasi Pesa villages. These are very remote and scattered villages. It still lacks basic necessities like health, education, water, electricity. There is a school in the village in which many basic issues like drinking water, electricity, separate toilets, safety of children are seen.

Lok Panchayat started working with different issues in some of these villages. The issue of children's rights and education was also at the forefront . While working we tried to provide quality education and rights of children to the children by awakening all the three elements like children, parents, teachers and school management committee and somewhere many facilities were provided. The problems of the children were solved by organizing special children's meetings. The activists associated with the organization were recruited to join the SMC.

For the last 2 years schools in all these areas are closed due to Covid-19 and hence the issue of children's education came to the forefront . Due to lack of mobile network in this area it was not possible for children to get online education and even parents could not get separate android mobile for their children. So it was necessary to start the school by some means or the other. The teachers also went to the village to get information about the children and distributed some educational material for home study. The question is how much the children used that material and how they learned it. But on August 1, 2021, the parents of the institution affiliated to the Lok Panchayat, members of the school management committee, teachers and village level Trimbak Dharade workers came together and held a meeting to start the school. In which everyone showed positivity and decided to start Zilla Parishad Primary School. A total of 147 students from 3 neighboring villages attend the school. However, it was decided to send the children to school only with the consent of the parents.

In view of the time of Corona, school started from 1 to 4 on one day and from 4 to 7 on the second day. Teachers were also positive and a total of 40 to 45 children started coming to school every day.

One day a team from the health department came to the school and told the teacher that all the children were to be tested for Covid-19. 6 children were found to be Covid positive from this test .

So presently there is no Covid 19 patient in the village, but because few children were found positive so the villagers and some parents started blaming us that because of you the some children became positive. Parents and some villagers who did not send their children to school were ahead in blaming so . After this the school was closed again and those positive children were kept separately for treatment. Organization workers, teachers and their parents were with the children till the treatment was completed, in which no child was harmed much. The special thing is that children who were positive haven't said anything to the parents and teachers. After recovering from the treatment of the children , a meeting of the school was held again on 4 September 2021, in which all the members, villagers, organization workers and teachers were present. In the meeting it was discussed with the parents that why school should be started again. It reminded me that how much loss and damage children have suffered in the last 2 years . I think corona is not a deadly disease but it can be prevented with proper precautions and can be cured too with proper treatment.

Now the school teachers and headmaster tells us how and what precautions should be taken to save ourselves from Covid 19 pandemic. , what rules should be followed. Many misconceptions were cleared and only after the permission of the parents it was decided to send the children to school. Classes 1 to 4 on one day and 5 to 7 on another day were resumed with the written consent of the parents. Every day 40 to 45 children come to school. School Management Committee members and teachers took the initiative and helped the parents to start the school. Lok Panchayat played a role in mediation and positive decision making. \*\*





# Bulletin

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## Children's Stories-

### Lockdown, Corona and Childhood

#### It Pricks Me

Amit, 17 years, Ankur Society for Alternatives in Education, Delhi

*['Corona, Lockdown and Childhood' – Children and young people of Ankur collectives have been chronicling the impact of the pandemic on their lives, including increased engagement in labor activities. This story is one such in this series.]*

There was news from everywhere of people dying from Corona. We were scared what if someone in our family gets corona. Taking precautions, family members stopped us from going even to our friends' places. Then one day came the news of the lockdown that created an upheaval in everyone's life. My mother got ration for the entire week the same night, such as pulses, rice, flour, oil, soap etc. For a few days, everything went off smoothly in our home but as the ration started running out, we began worrying as to what would happen next! What will we eat now, from where will the money come?

We are three brothers and I am the eldest. My father plies rickshaw that he rents on a daily basis. Even before Corona happened, we would often have arguments with papa for he would say that we need money to run the house, and we should start earning while we brothers insisted that we wanted to study. But during the lockdown, we started understanding why he had been speaking like that. We barely had money to run the house, and whatever was left, we knew that it would also end one day. Then what would we do! COVID and the lockdown are just not coming to an end. While, their days are increasing, the ration in the house is decreasing. This is bringing tension to everyone, and it is visible on everyone's faces.

We knew that if we use the little money left in the house for ration, it would not come back. We have to use it to earn, only then we would be able to arrange for meals in the future. The three of us thought over this and decided to set up a vegetable cart.

On the first day, when I left home to buy vegetables, it was two o'clock in the night and I had twenty-five hundred rupees in my pocket. The roads were deserted, and dogs were wandering here and there. There was also a fear in my mind that these dogs might bite me. Even distant sounds were reaching my ears. The lights were on in some people's houses. From one of the houses, sounds of people playing ludo were coming. Just as I reached the turn of the lane, the policemen patrolling the lane started blowing sticks on my head, without asking me anything. They said, "Where are you going? Go back home... go back...!"



After somehow explaining to them, I moved towards the mandi (wholesale market). When I reached mandi after walking for about 45 minutes, there was a watchman standing at the gate of mandi. He just wouldn't let me in. Even after pleading with him when he did not agree, I gave him some money. As soon as the money reached his hand, his expression changed. He opened the way and let me inside the market. I was happy to reach inside, but now I was only left with two thousand rupees. Which vegetable would I be able to buy in this amount? Vegetables are of different rates. I could not understand which vegetables to take and from whom. I checked the rates with two-three vendors and started buying vegetables. I bought as much as I could understand.

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## It Pricks Me .. continued .....

After buying the vegetables, the burden of bringing them home was giving most trouble. There were no tempos, autos or bus running on the road. Sometimes keeping the vegetables sack on head and sometimes on the shoulder, stopping in the middle and then walking, I brought the vegetables to the house.

Sometimes while getting the cart ready, I would find half a kilo or a kilo of vegetables in the sack that were rotten. On top of it, the customers would start fighting if the rates were increased a bit.



Within a few days, thoughts would come to my mind that it was better to sit at home than have so much stress. Then the thought would come that whatever happens, we would not die from hunger. I would worry what would happen if I was unable to make some money. I would pray in my mind, "Oh God, help me sell all my vegetables so that I can recover my costs."

Slowly, people started coming to the market. I would go to the mandi, every other day. Autos also began plying but the fares were sky-high. Sometimes I took my younger brother with me. I very well knew that if there was any trouble, I would have to protect him but having him with me was reassuring.

One day when I reached the mandi, I saw people stealing vegetables from a truck. The police was roaming around but no one was saying or doing anything. It was completely new for me to see all this. Now I am used to seeing this.

As days passed by, I could see more people around my stall. This made me happy.

At home also, the tension for ration reduced a little. My parents were relieved to some extent. Seeing the canisters filled with ration and the relief on my parents' face brought some peace to me. But in the corner of my mind, it pricks me that in this entire daily routine my books and studies have moved away from me.

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**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 communities 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.

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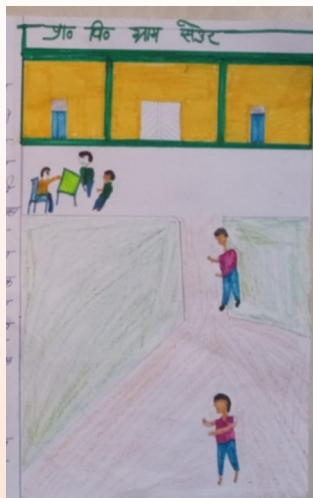
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## LISTEN ! CHILDREN SPEAK

### Enrollment in The Primary School

-Rohit Kumar, Young Journalist ,Seur-Bhadohi-U.P.

My name is Rohit Kumar. My father's name is Mr. Mannalal Gautam. I am a resident of village Seur. There are total 7 children in my village who have not yet enrolled in the school. The names of the children are as follows: Lucky, Nikhil, Komal, Devbabu, Jyoti, Deepa, Kajal, out of which 4 children have to be enrolled in class 1 and 3 have to be enrolled in class 2. When their parents had gone to get their children enrolled in the school, school teacher refused to enroll them and no seat is available , due to which there will be no new enrollment. When I came to know about this, I went to the primary school Seur along with the parents and social worker of the Sarathi Development Foundation and contacted the headmaster and talked about enrollment of all these children. The teacher said that I can to enroll them but the problem is that there is no space available , but on our repeated request anyhow those children got admitted and now they are going to school regularly and are very happy.



### Improvement in the Girls' Education

- Preeti, Young Journalist- Naktapur- Bhadohi-U.P.

My name is Preeti, I am in class 11th, I am a resident of Naktapur village. I have taken training in child journalism, I am a young journalist. My experience is that, earlier the people of our village used to stop sending their daughters to school after completing their 5th or 8th class education , but girls were not happy with this attitude of their parents.

But when the Sarathi Development Foundation Jagriti project was started in our village, the members of the organizations made the villagers aware through stories and drama, emphasizing on the education of boys and girls and tried to connect the girls with education.

Now many families started enrolling their girls in school and allowing them to continue their education after 8th class also. Earlier parents were afraid to send their girl away to school due to safety and protection issue also, but now all the girls have decided to go to school and come back together to ensure each other's safety and security. Now all the girls are studying hard to achieve their career objective. Now a drastic change can be observed in the village and among villagers towards girls education. Girls are moving forward unitedly with active support from villagers .



### Happiness in the Family on the Birth of a Daughter

-Nitika Saroj, Young Journalist, Goridih-Bhadohi-U.P.

I am Nitika Saroj ,resident of village Goridih. There is a person in our village whose name is Premu and his wife's name is Vasanti. After the birth of 3 boys in their family a girl was born, which has brought great happiness in their house.

Premu has welcomed her daughter with great pomp and distributed sweets to everyone in the village. After 12 days of the birth of the girl child, the Barhi party will be celebrated with great pomp in the house.

Premu happily tells everyone that Lakshmi(goddess of wealth) has come to their house, happiness can be seen on Premu's face.

If all the people were happy on the birth of a daughter like Premu, then there would be no difference between son and daughter. Even in 21st Century, in many houses in our society, after the birth of a daughter, there is an atmosphere of sadness in the family, which is very sad situation . But slowly things are changing and people like premu are examples of that.



Facilitator : Bhashkar Kumar,  
Sarathi Development Jagrati  
Project- Bhadohi (Aurai)-U.P.



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**TIMESNOWNEWS.COM**

Children in News

## What's the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021? Its aspects explained

- Kirti Pandey- Jul 22, 2021 | 21:51 IST

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/whats-the-trafficking-in-persons-prevention-care-and-rehabilitation-bill-2021-its-aspects-explained/788948>

The lockdowns and pandemic-related crisis saw a spike in human trafficking. The top six states reporting child trafficking were Rajasthan, Delhi, Bihar, Odisha, Kerala, and Madhya Pradesh.

**Human trafficking is a heinous crime and deserves a strict punishment**

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS :-**

As per the Crime in India 2019 Report published by the NCRB, the total number of child victims of trafficking is going up year on year. It increased from 2,837 in 2018 to 2,914 in 2019, registering a growth of 2.8%.

The top six states reporting child trafficking were Rajasthan, Delhi, Bihar, Odisha, Kerala, and Madhya Pradesh.

The draft anti-trafficking Bill, 2021 is slated to be tabled in the monsoon session of Parliament. Activists working in the field of child and women welfare are hopeful that the Bill will be passed in both the Houses of Parliament, thus adding muscle to the efforts of various organisations working to combat the threat.

There are a few recommendations and additional measures that activists have made after the ministry of women and child development sought public feedback.

**What does human trafficking mean?**

Human tracking is not a new crime, rather it is an old age practice prevalent in the form of 'slavery' and was an accepted economic practice. While that traditional form of slavery is extinct now, it continues to survive in the changed form of human trafficking, often termed as 'modern slavery'.

In the light of the alarming rise in cases of trafficking and forced labour in the country due to further impoverishment of poor families, Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi has demanded urgent passage of Anti- Trafficking Bill - viz. Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 - in the upcoming monsoon session of the parliament without further delay.

**Pandemic worsened crimes rate, number of human trafficking cases:**

Bachpan Bachao Andolan, a sister organisation of the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) has rescued more than 9000 trafficked children and 260 traffickers from trains, buses and factories along with law-enforcement agencies since the beginning of the pandemic from across the entire country. As per the Crime in India 2019 Report published by the NCRB, the total number of child victims of trafficking is going up year on year.

It increased from 2,837 in 2018 to 2,914 in 2019, registering a growth of 2.8%. The top six states reporting child trafficking were Rajasthan, Delhi, Bihar, Odisha, Kerala, and Madhya Pradesh.

**What is the existing anti-trafficking law?**

Currently, the crime of tracking is covered under Section 370 and 370A of IPC, which came into effect in 2013 through the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013. Tracking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation is covered under the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention Act of 1956. Despite these provisions, the statistics collected by NCRB every year shows an increasing trend of cases of tracking such as these increased by 14.3% in 2019 as compared to the previous year

**What are humans likely trafficked for?**

These are the main reasons that the exploitation and trafficking of mostly children and women and also men:

- Forced labour
- Prostitution
- Other forms of sexual exploitation
- Domestic servitude
- Forced marriage
- Petty crimes
- Child pornography
- Begging
- Drug peddling
- Removal of organs
- Other reasons (circus, illegal immigration, etc)

**Why the need for Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021?**

Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 is being introduced by the Government in the ongoing Monsoon session of Parliament and it addresses certain loopholes and hitherto missed aspects very of the previous Bill's provisions effectively and comprehensively.

**If passed by Parliament, it will become a landmark in dealing with this complex crime of tracking. Some of the significant provisions of the Bill are listed below:**

1. Cases will be probed by the fully functional and prestigious Agency – NIA. The faster arrest of offenders (most often operating in syndicates and organised criminal groups).
2. Stricter punishment to the perpetrator if the victim of trafficking is a child. Aggravated crime to get deservedly stricter punishment.
3. Online trafficking: Bill includes a provision that says that physical movement or transportation of the victim is not necessary to define the crime of tracking.
4. The provision of protection homes for immediate protection of victims and rehabilitation homes for long term rehabilitation will help the victims to come out of the trauma and seamlessly assimilate in society later.



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## What's the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021? Contd.....

5.This Bill proposes a proposal for the provision of separate protection and rehabilitation homes for transgender. This is a great step to erase discriminatory behavior that this hitherto neglected section of the society is subject to and will cater to their different needs.

6.This anti-trafficking bill states that the rehabilitation of victims is not dependent on criminal proceedings and not even on its outcome. The rehabilitation is to begin immediately once the FIR is registered.

7.The Bill also provides for immediate relief to the victim within 30 days of the filing of FIR. This immediate relief is that ,it is over and above the compensation that will be awarded to the victim under the State Victim Compensation Scheme.

8.This Bill makes re-tracking an aggravated form of tracking with higher punishment of not less than 10 years which can go up to life imprisonment and a fine which can be up to Rs 10 lakh.

9..Women, children and physically and mentally disabled persons are given extra protection in the law by including them under the provision of "presumption of offences". This means that when the victims are women, children and physically and mentally disabled persons then the trackers will be presumed to have committed the crime and during the trial, they have to prove they are innocent.

10.To crush crime syndicates in trafficking, the Bill provides for the attachment and forfeiture of property and bank accounts of the accused.

11.Proceeds of crime collected and accumulated by traffickers, will be used for the relief and rehabilitation of the victim .

## Explained: What changes in JJ Act for juvenile offenders and District Magistrates?

The Bill was tabled in Lok Sabha during the budget session in March this year where it had received overwhelming support from both the ruling party as well as the Opposition.

*Written by Esha Roy , Edited by Explained Desk | New Delhi | Updated: August 5, 2021 8:25:00 am- The Indian Express*

Union Minister Smriti Irani outside Parliament during the monsoon session, in New Delhi. (PTI)

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021, which seeks to amend the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, was passed in Rajya Sabha on July 28. The Bill was tabled in Lok Sabha during the budget session in March this year where it had received overwhelming support from both the ruling party as well as the Opposition.

**What is the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which is being amended through this new Bill?**

The Act was introduced and passed in Parliament in 2015 to replace the Juvenile Delinquency Law and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act) 2000.

## Children in News



One of the main provisions of the new Act is allowing the trial of juveniles in conflict with law in the age group of 16-18 years as adults, in cases where the crimes were to be determined. The nature of the crime, and whether the juvenile should be tried as a minor or a child, was to be determined by a Juvenile Justice Board. This provision received impetus after the 2012 Delhi gangrape in which one of the accused was just short of 18 years, and was therefore tried as a juvenile.

The second major provision is with regards to adoption, bringing a more universally acceptable adoption law instead of the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (1956) and Guardians of the Ward Act (1890) which was for Muslims, although the Act did not replace these laws. The Act streamlined adoption procedures for orphans, abandoned and surrendered children and the existing Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) has been given the status of a statutory body to enable it to perform its function more effectively.

**Why has the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection Amendment) Bill, 2021 been brought by the government?**

Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani, who tabled the Bill in Rajya Sabha, said the changes, which give increased powers and responsibilities to District Magistrates, were being made to not only ensure speedy trials and increased protection of children at the district level, with checks and balances in place, but to also speed up the adoption processes in the country.

According to the amendment, District Magistrates, including Additional District Magistrates, can now issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act, in order to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability. Adoption processes were currently under the purview of courts, and with an overwhelming backlog, each adoption case could take years to be passed. This change will ensure that more orphans in need of homes, will be adopted faster .

**What powers will District Magistrates now have under the new Act?**

The District Magistrates have been further empowered under the Act to ensure its smooth implementation, as well as garner synergized efforts in favour of children in distress conditions. This means that DMs and ADMs will monitor the functioning of various agencies under the JJ Act in every district – this includes the Child Welfare Committees, the Juvenile Justice Boards, the District Child Protection Units and the Special Juvenile Protection Units.

The amendment has been brought in based on a report filed by the NCPDR in 2018-19 in which the over 7,000 Child Care Institutions (or children's homes) were surveyed and found that 1.5 per cent do not conform to rules and regulations of the JJ Act and 29 per cent of them had major shortcomings in their management. The NCPDR report also found that not a single Child Care Institution in the country was found to be 100 per cent compliant to the provisions of the JJ Act. CCIs can be government-run, government-aided, privately-run or run through government, private or foreign funding. These institutions, while falling under the CWC and the state child protection units, had very little oversight and monitoring. Even to receive a licence, after an application was made, if the children's home were to not receive a reply from the government within three months time, it would be "deemed registered" for a period of six months, even without government permission. The new amendment ensures that this can no longer happen and that no new children's home can be opened without the sanction of the DM.

Now, DMs are also responsible for ensuring that CCIs falling in their district are following all norms and procedures. During the NCPDR survey, for instance, CCIs with large funds, including foreign funding, had been found keeping children in unsanitary conditions in portacabins.

Since the survey, the WCD Ministry shut down 500 illegal child welfare institutions that had not been registered under the JJ Act.

**How will the Child Welfare Committees be monitored?**

The DM will also carry out background checks of CWC members, who are usually social welfare activists, including educational qualifications, as there is no such provision currently. The DMs are also to check possible criminal backgrounds to ensure that no cases of child abuse or child sexual abuse is found against any member before they are appointed. The CWCs are also to report regularly to the DMs on their activities in the districts.



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## What are the changes made in offences by juveniles?

Under the 2015 Act, offences committed by juveniles are categorised as heinous offences, serious offences, and petty offences. Serious offences include offences with three to seven years of imprisonment.

Most heinous crimes have a minimum or maximum sentence of seven years. According to the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, juveniles charged with heinous crimes and who would be between the ages of 16-18 years would be tried as adults and processed through the adult justice system.

The Bill adds that serious offences will also include offences for which maximum punishment is imprisonment of more than seven years, and minimum punishment is not prescribed or is less than seven years.

Both heinous and serious crimes have also been clarified for the first time, removing ambiguity. This provision has been made to ensure that children, as much as possible, are protected and kept out of the adult justice system.

Heinous crimes with a minimum imprisonment of seven years pertain mostly to sexual offences and violent sexual crimes.

Presently, with no mention of a minimum sentence, and only the maximum seven year sentence, juveniles between the ages of 16-18 years could also be tried as adults for a crime like the possession and sale of an illegal substance, such as drugs or alcohol, which will now fall under the ambit of a "serious crime".

The Act provides that offences against children that are punishable with imprisonment of more than seven years, will be tried in the Children's Court while offenses with punishments of less than seven years imprisonment will be tried by a Judicial Magistrate.

## Have there been any concerns regarding the changes?

While the amendments have been welcomed by most, in its attempt to provide better protection to children in care of need, the challenge perceived is that of having given too many responsibilities to the DM.

The DM is in charge of all processes in a district including all task forces and review meetings, and the fear is that the JJ Act amendment may fall through the cracks or not be given a priority. To ensure proper implementation of the JJ Act, the DM will have to hold regular fortnightly meetings with all five arms – CWC, JJ Board, CCI, district child protection units and special juvenile police units.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/juvenile-justice-amendment-bill-2021-explained-7429971/>



## 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 31<sup>st</sup> year of the UN CRC, and 28<sup>th</sup> year of its ratification by India and 28<sup>th</sup> year of CACL, it has a network in 17 states with 6123 members.

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