



World Day Against Child Labour

THEME OF THE TALKSHOW

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[VOICES OF CHILDREN]

A REPORT

JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY

PRAYAS

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
(ILO)

[JUNE 11, 2004]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The event, World Day against Child Labour was observed with active participation and sincere efforts of several agencies and individuals. Many of them contributed to this event and made invaluable efforts while being unnoticed. All of them deserve acknowledgement. We thank the International Labour Organization for giving us an opportunity to organize the event. The event was a happening forum for children who had been otherwise neglected of their basic rights and needs and also for the distinguished panelist. We thank Mr. Maurizio Bussi, Deputy Director, Mrs. Neelam Agnihotri, Mr. R. K. Khurana and Ms. Neetu Lumba from ILO , Mr. Abhinav Chaturvedi, Mrs. Nandini Chaturvedi from Allauddin and the Prayas team, namely Ms. Priyanka Pant, Manager (Training), Col. O. N. Mathur, Sr. Manager (Administration), Ms. Sangita Bhatia, Ms. Vasundhara, Mr. Jitender Kumar, Mr. Raman Singh, Ms. Geeta Bhatt, Mr. Shouvik Narain and the entire team of Prayas for their excellent disposition of innovativeness and team work in bringing the voices of voiceless children in this forum on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour. We also thanks Ms. Anuradha Das and Mr. Rizwan from CFAR for assisting us in coordinating the media coverage of the event. Ms. Priyanka Pant deserves a special mention for her painstaking efforts in coordinating the event and compilation of the report.

We thank our own Founder Secretary, Mr. Amod K. Kanth for his unstinted spirit of cooperation and guidance to the event.

We feel that the plethora of legislations including the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation Act), ILO Conventions and the UNCRC need to see the concerns and rights of children in the context of the 'justiceability' of fulfillment of children's rights, not by children themselves but by the adults. We do hope that the outcomes of this discussion in the talk show will lead us to act beyond this event and lead us to realize needs and rights of millions of Indian child workers. Let us join hands and pledge on this occasion to help them march 'From Darkness to Light'.

We hope, the event will take us a long way in our future efforts of establishing partnerships and collaborations in the interests of millions of children who are still far from realizing their rights of childhood.

Rajib K. Haldar
Executive Director
Prayas Institute of Juvenile

CONCEPT

As a nation, if young children are allowed to work, society is creating a class of uneducated people that will not be able to reach their full productive potential. Ultimately, the nation will be unable to compete with other international societies, especially in a world that relies on people's capacity to use modern technology. The nation's future doctors, engineers, artists, teachers, etc. cannot develop properly, and may even be condemned to a life of low – earning, self – deprecating labour.

The international standards set out by the United Nations and the International Labour Organization (ILO) help clarify what work is acceptable and what constitutes child labour. The UN and the ILO define child labour as “a term covering children who are directly or indirectly employed in an activity which deprives them of their childhood, affects their physical, moral, psychological and emotional well being and denies them their education,” In general, the central criteria for determining child labour are age and the characteristics of the work. According to the ILO, there are over 250 million children worldwide working in the jobs that could be identified as forms of child labour. This number is estimated to increase to over 1 billion if the current socio – economic problems persist. Children all over the world are being hired within a variety of economic sectors to do jobs in a range of potentially dangerous activities. As an international community, the initial steps towards the elimination of child labour must target those that are most vulnerable to potential health risk and socially damaging conditions.

CHILD Labour: Concepts and connotations

A broad definition of child labour would generally include all working children, paid or unpaid, below the age of 15. In developing countries *child labour* is defined as work that impairs the development and well – being of children. Economists generally viewing child labour as those participating in some kind of economic activities have now come to realize that ignoring the time spent by the children in collecting wood and water, tending the animals, preparing food and meals, caring for family members would imply that a child spending only two hours a day in agriculture work could be placed alongside twelve hours a day in the absence of their parents.

The Campaign against Child Labour (CACL) defines child labour to include children prematurely leading adult lives, working with or without wages, under conditions damaging to their physical, social, emotional and spiritual development, denying them their basic rights to education, health and development. This includes children working in any sector, occupation or process, including the formal and non- formal, organized and unorganized, within or outside the family. The general perception remains that any child out-of-school is a potential labour. The Government's ambivalent stand in this regard is considered to be the prime reason for the persistence of the problem, which reflected in the lack of political will. The most unrealistic, and the reducing figures of child labour in India speak volumes about the misunderstood perception and lack of political and administrative determination to tackle the problem.

The sector wise percentage distribution of child labour in the census 1991 reveals that more and more children are being pushed into the informal sector. Though over 80 % per cent of child labour in India are reported employed in agriculture (**Census 1991**), another 5.67 % in livestock management, while others employed in the domestic, hotel and some other industries, yet the National Policies and the *CLPRA, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986* only recognizes and prohibits certain selected 'hazardous' occupations and processes which are estimated to be only six per cent of the total child labour force. As a

Child labour issues discussed

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, June 11, 2004

Over 400 children participating in a panel discussion organised by Prayas and International Labour Organisation on the eve of World Day against Child Labour on Friday.

Apart from panellists like Mangatram Singhal, Delhi Labour Minister, Amod Kanth, secretary Prayas, Mohini Giri, former chairperson, National Commission for Women, the discussion also saw active participation from underprivileged children.

result, a very large number of working children in the non-hazardous occupations' are without legal protection (or any schemes) or social programming that ensures the realization of their rights (HAQ). A study conducted by UNICEF in 1999 and 2000 in 30 developing countries revealed that factory work was rare. Only 3% of children worked outside of their households for remuneration and the unpaid domestic work remained the most common child labour practice.

Prevalence of Child Labour

The numerical estimation of child labour has been subjected to differences in definitions, reference periods and the limited perceptions of the agencies concerned. The NSS 50th round (1993-94), puts the number of child workers across the country at 10.1million. The estimated number of working children in the country as per the 55th Round of the NSSO Survey 1999-2000 puts the child labour figure at 10.4 million (**Economic survey, 2002-2003**) which stands much in contradiction to the non-governmental estimates varying between 60 to 115 million. It accounts for the highest number in the world ranging from 75 to 90 million-child labours under the age of 14 (**Human Rights Watch, 1996**). International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 15 are working around the world, the largest numbers being in India. Whatever be the exact numbers, criteria or definitions, it is widely believed that one in every four-child labour in the world is to be found in India.

Why do children work?

At the micro level poverty within the family as the major factor behind the prevalence of child labour remains the most accepted theory. It is viewed that every where parents prefer to send their children to school but it is lack of resources that induces the impoverished households to push their children into child labour to meet their basic needs for their survival. It is the world's poorest nations that mostly account for the child labour population when compared to the richer and affluent countries with relatively higher per capita income and GDP. On the domestic front in India, child labour is more concentrated in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, M.P, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Although, these more backward and the poverty stricken states account for a large percentage of child labour, this may not always hold true since there are instances of growing child labour in better off states like Punjab and Haryana.

But, at the same time, poverty as the sole reason does not always have a direct bearing and it fails to convince the prevalence of the child labour situation in several parts of the country. The phenomenon spells out new dimensions in the wake of the new economic order, market forces and the globalization. It also holds true that the parents want their children to work. This view implies that parents take advantage of any earning opportunities open to their children. It is therefore appropriately believed that so long as the parents benefit more when the child goes to work than when the child goes to school, the problem of child labour will persist.



AMAR UJALA 12, JUNE, 2004, NEW DELHI

It also most commonly observed that incidence of child labour is higher wherever the access to primary education is low. Child labour has a lot to do with the primary education system and the provisions thereof.

In India, in spite of the Constitutional guarantee under the Directive Principles recognizing free and compulsory education of children in the age group of 6-14 years and now the same as a fundamental right, nearly 80-100 million children are reportedly out of school. Some of the prime reasons, probably not unknown that account for out of school children are: distance of school from home, poor school infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms, schools without proper drinking water facilities and sanitation (15.5% of primary schools had urinals, NCERT, NAYAR 1993), absenteeism of teachers, unappealing curriculum etc.

BACKDROP OF THE EVENT

With an aim to work towards the progressive elimination of child labour, ILO believes in strengthening national capacities to address child labour problems, and by creating a worldwide movement to combat it. It was in the year 2002, that the ILO launched the World Day Against Child Labour as means of raising the visibility of the problem and highlighting the global movement to eliminate child labour, particularly in its worst forms. Since then, the idea of the observance of World Day Against Child Labour acting as a catalyst for increasing support to this movement. The movement's growing support is reflected in the increasing number of ratifications of the ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour (149 ratifications) and ILO Convention No. 138 on minimum age for admission into employment (133 ratifications).



VIR ARJUN 12, JUNE, 2004, NEW DELHI

This year the 12th of June 2004 will mark the third year of the observance of World Day Against Child labour. The theme for 2004 is decided as Child Domestic Labour, particularly in its worst forms.

Child Domestic Labour – Focus in 2004

Child domestic labour refers to situations where children are engaged to perform domestic tasks in the home of a third party or employer. Working in a private home, the overwhelming majority are often grossly exploited and abused.

Many children in domestic service are subjected to the worst forms of child labour as defined under C.182, and they need urgent help. Children engaged as domestic workers often work long hours and in hazardous conditions, many of them suffering mental and physical abuse. Such

Delhi looks at home truths on anti-Child Labour Day

BY TANU JAIN

New Delhi, June 12:

"Sheila, a 10-year-old orphan, had never been inside a classroom, but she has been outside several times. Not to secure admission, but was busy collecting and picking up *raddi* from the area. In her words, "I used to sell *raddi* in the Sangam Vihar area earlier, but since I could not make money, I moved to this area close to the school."

"I have been living with my *didi*, who would beat me if I return empty-handed. My *jjaji* was an alcoholic and once tried to sexually abuse

me. Till late night, I was forced to do work. I was not only selling *raddi* doing household work also." This is not just Sheila's story, but of thousands of "invisible children," both boys and girls, who are working as domestic helps in private

SPOTLIGHT

homes and are subjected to physical, mental and even sexual abuses.

The World Day Against Child Labour, observed on Saturday, was dedicated to the plight of these invisible children — child domestic

workers. "More than 20 per cent of child labour in India are engaged in domestic employment," states an estimate of the International Labour Organisation, a crusader in its efforts to include "domestic work" as a hazardous occupation under the Child Labour Prevention and Regulation Act, 1986.

"With more girls (under 16) working in domestic service than in any other work, the problem assumes manifold proportions," leading non-governmental organisations, including Prayas, pointed out on the occasion. To effective

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conditions are harmful to a child's development – mental, social and emotional. They are deprived of an education, and the exploitation they experience during childhood denies opportunities in later life. Many of them work between 12 and 14 hours a day and majority work 7 days a week. Some may be victims of child trafficking, or in forced labour or practices similar to slavery.

Poor children taken into relatively wealthier families are often “adopted” and given a better life than if they had stayed with their parents. However, such “adoptions” can mask mistreatment and abuse, and often slave-like conditions for the child. “It is vital that child domestic labour, so often neglected because exploitation and abuse takes place behind the closed doors, receives attention”, says Dr. June Kane. Of 246 million children working in the world, it is difficult to estimate how many are in domestic labour. ILO research, however, indicates that more girls under 16 work in domestic service than in any other category of work.

Considering the need of special focus on the issue of domestic labour, this year the observance of World Day Against Child Labour will concentrate on Domestic Child Labour as its theme. In order to organize a high profile event involving people from media, politics, academics, social activists, UN, other concerned and children, Prayas was identified and selected to anchor the event on 11th June 2004.

Objectives of the Event

This event aimed towards the progressive elimination of child labour. The specific objectives of organizing the said event were as follows:

- n Strengthening national capacities to address child labour problems, and by creating a worldwide movement to combat it
- n Raising the visibility of the problem and highlighting the global movement to eliminate child labour, particularly in its worst forms
- n Providing a platform to the participants, most importantly children, to voice their experiences, opinions and anxieties to the policy makers and the concerned authorities

Highlights of the Event

Prayas commemorated the World Day Against Child Labour Day at Sri Sathya Sai International Centre, Lodhi Road, on 11th June 2004 at 1500 hours in collaboration with the International Labour Organization in New Delhi.

Structure of the Event

A Talk Show was organized to provide an interactive platform to the people gathered for the cause. The event witnessed a two way exchange of dialogue between the elected representatives from the government, policy makers, experts, academicians, social activists which were placed on the panel viz-a-viz; children, who were found in the majority for voicing their concerns and experiences from the past.

Theme

The event was titled as “Bachho Ki Awaaz” for giving children the highest priority for raising their voices and concerns.

Distinguished Panelists GROUP

Mr. Mangat Ram Singhal, Minister of Labour, Govt. of NCT Delhi graced the occasion by chairing the panel along with Dr. Mohini Giri, Former Chairperson, National Commission for Women, Ms. Preet



Mr. Amod K. Kanth from Prayas & Ms. Preet Verma from ILO sharing their views

Verma, ILO Mr. Amod K. Kanth, Founder Secretary, Prayas, Mr. R.A. Mittal, Secretary, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, Mr. C. M. Krishna, Chairperson, All India Organization for Employers, Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, Chairperson, South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude, Ms. Mohua Chaudhary, NDTV, Mr. Harsh Vardhan, Former Health Minister, Mrs. Chandra Ganguly, Founder Principal, Mamta Modern School, Gurgaon.



Ms. Mohua Chaudhary from NDTV explaining the role of media

ABOUT THE Participants

Prayas was successful in mobilizing a huge gathering of around 700 participants with the aim of sensitizing and motivating the civil society towards progressive elimination of Child Labour.



Discussion in progress

Apart from the politicians, experts, academicians, social activists UN professionals, professionals from the international agencies, almost 500 children from 15 NGOs of Delhi participated in the event.

Cultural Presentation

The event started with a professionally staged skit named **“Aah Re Jeevan”** presented by the former child workers from the slums, which provoked the emotions of the participants and instigated an array of questions posed to the panel. Children from the shelter home of Prayas Institute of Juvenile Justice, Tughlakabad Institutional Area gathered courage to share their past traumatic experiences with the huge gathering at the venue. All the children participating in the event were given T-shirts displaying the theme of Child Labour as a tool to promote the visibility of the social cause.



Anchoring and Facilitation

Mr. Abhinav Chaturvedi, a well-known TV artist, anchored the program.

Media Coverage

The print and electronic media substantially covered the event (See Annexure).

Refreshments

Refreshments were also served at the conclusion of the program for the distinguished guests, participants and the children.

Outline of the Event

The program started with the staging of a Skit titled “Aah Re Jeevan” by the children of the slum

community. The skit performed was beautifully framed to touch upon almost all basic forms of child labour. Mr. Abhinav Chaturvedi, a well-known TV artist, who anchored the program, then took the opportunity to master the event facilitating it to flow smoothly. He then gave the brief introduction of the event and introduced the Chairperson, Panelists and the distinguished guests. A slide show on child labour gave an overview of the figures highlighting the concentration of children in work. The opportunity was also utilized to hear the past experiences of the former child workers presently living in the shelter home of Prayas. Following this, the anchor initiated the questions and the discussions with the panelists who were made to answer the queries raised by the children and other participants.

Proceedings of the Talk Show

Experiences sharing by two Former Child Workers

Pooja: “I am presently staying in Prayas. I used to reside with my step Mother. I wanted to study but the constant thrashing from my mother and the household responsibilities restricted me to achieve what I had always dreamt of. It was with the help of a Prayas volunteer that I could get an opportunity to study and fulfill my dreams.



Sartaj: “Before coming to Prayas I was a rag picker and used to stay on the streets. Many a times my peers forced me into having ‘biri’ but each time I was able to save myself. I ask every one sitting here why is it that ‘majdooori aage bhad gaye aur vikas peeche choot gaya, kyun?’

Question and Answers session

The anchor: “For every employment there is an employer. So, if employers don’t employ children, we will have no child labour. What do the employers feel?”

Mr. C.M. Krishnan, Chairperson, All India Organization for Employers: “The problem of child labour is prevalent in the informal sector and not in the organized sector. These children are mostly from poor families. Thus, in order to completely eradicate this problem we need to target the families and their problems. For example the head of the family should be given adult education, attempts should be made to provide him with permanent jobs so that the income of the family increases and the need for the child to work does not arise.”

The anchor: “Please throw light on the issue of children in hazardous jobs.”



Mr. Harsh Vardhan, Former Health Minister: “A revolution is needed to change the present day deplorable condition of the children. The whole society needs to come together and join hands to handle the problem. Sensitizing the society is a must. Families who have children, as domestic workers should ensure that the child is given some form of education, has got vaccinated and is given time to play. The Resident Welfare Society should be tapped to ensure the above implementation and to see whether the families are keeping the rights of the child in mind.”

The anchor: “What is the role of House Wives in eliminating child labour?”

Dr. Mohini Giri, Chairperson Guild of Services: “The person who is encouraging child labour should be ridiculed and brought to such forums. The infrastructure of the schools after it is over should be used to impart education through evening classes.” She stressed on better health for women before implementing ‘Parivar Niyojan’. Women are giving birth to 8–10 kids because of the insecurity they face in relation to the survival of their kids. According to her these women should be given a nutritious diet followed by information on correct methods of ‘Parivar Niyojan’.

The Anchor: “As a founder principal of a school, how would you like to comment on the proposal of Dr. Mohini Giri?”

Ms. Chandra Ganguly, Former Principal, Mamta Modern School, Gurgaon: “I welcome the suggestion and said that there should be no compromise on the standard of education in the evening classes.”

Mr. Amod K. Kanth, Secretary Prayas: “Schools should have 25% seats reserved for children coming from underprivileged circumstances. All those children who do not go to school are around 10 crore. And it is mostly these children who come in the category of child labour. The problem of child labour can thus be solved by making attempts of sending these children to schools. Mid day meals should be provided in all the organisations working for children.”

Prof R. M.VArma (Participant): Before every election lots of promise are made by the parties and are forgotten as soon as the election get over. Do they realize that, with in 4 sec 8 children are born in India?

Do you think that MP/MLA/Ministers practice and participate in ‘Parivar Niyojan’?”

n As every one says that education is essential for each one of us but do we ever realize that it takes 17 years to complete 12th and 21 to be a graduate. Even graduates in our country don’t get jobs, then with what expectations would the parents of these underprivileged children wait for so many years? In this matter Vocational training is much more required in the lower classes as well.

n From his personnel experience he added that schools are not ready to accommodate these children.

Ashraf, Former Child Worker: “How long will it take to deal with the issue of child labour? When we’ll be able to come out of it?”



DAINIK BHASKAR 12, JUNE, 2004, NEW DELHI



THE HINDU 12, JUNE, 2004, NEW DELHI

Mr. Kailash Styarathi, Chairperson, South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude: "This child is Ashraf,, was working at an IPS officer's home. He was tied with a rope and beaten up just because he drank some left over milk from their kitchen. Bachpan Bacho Andolan launched a FIR against them and brought to notice of Justice Malimad and Justice Rangnad Mishra. They recommended the Govt to make a law against Govt employees engaging child labourers. The law was brought into action after the issue was raised thrice."

Mr. Mangat Ram Singhal, Minister of Labour, Govt of NCT Delhi: He stated that Role of NGO'S is more important than Govt. Govt has taken up various vocational training programmes under different NGO'S. He suggested NGOs to apply for more land to serve children in better way.

Mr. Amod K. Kanth, Secretary Prayas: He described the scenario of Child Rehabilitation conditions in Delhi. He stated that main problem faced by NGO's is lack of space in comparison to the huge no of children. The procedure of applying for land and receiving the approval is too long for NGOs to wait.

The anchor : What has been the role of media in bringing out the evils of Child labour in our society. Can any special programmes be dedicated to this issue?

Ms. Mahua Chowdhary, NDTV : "The media is playing a major role in raising the issue of child labour. It is the media who highlighted the issue of child labour two years back through world cup."

The anchor : What role does media play in bringing out the issue of Domestic Child Labour.? How can a child be mainstreamed back into school?

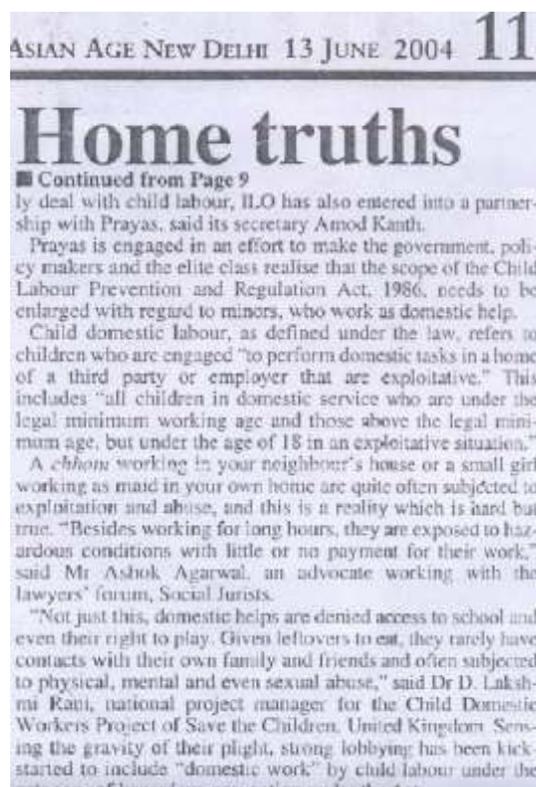
Ms. Mahua Chowdhary, NDTV: Media bring in notice about the new trends of using child as a labourer. Issues like trafficking are noticed more through media. She then raised a question to the panel regarding the methodology of tracking child labourers in spite of the presence of middle man/ brokers in this area?

Mr. R.A Mittal, Secretary, Hind Mazdoor Sabha: He also shared the story of his maid who was determined not to let her children work as labourer. She worked very hard to educate all ten of her kids . Out of them four are graduates and two girls are working professionals.

Ms Preet Verma, ILO: Summarized and conclude that we should not go by figures, rather we should stress more to relieve children from this evil. She stressed on spreading awareness, and sensitizing the society against child labour. She reemphasized on giving quality education to children in our society.

One of child from Samarth (NGO) asked if the media could bring on air the movie ' Khatra Aur Khoya Bachpan' made by the children.

Mauya Chowdhary, NDTV: "If not the whole movie, may be little clippings could be shown."



ABOUT Prayas

Prayas is a national level development organization working ardously for the development of the street and working children, marginalized women and youth in Delhi, Bihar and Gujarat.

While working at the grass-roots, intermediary to national levels, we have specialized on various subjects such as, Juvenile Justice and Child Protection, Child Labour, Trafficking in Women and Children and Crisis Interventions, Education for marginalized Children in an Alternative Mode and the like.

Originating as a joint initiative of the Delhi Police, Delhi School of Social work (Delhi University) and erstwhile Shramik Vidya Peeth (Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India), Prayas is a national level voluntary organization that is deeply committed to promoting the development of neglected and disadvantaged children in need of care and protection. Founded on 'Children's Day', the first Prime Minister of India, Pt. Nehru's Birthday - 14 November 1988 with 25 children, comprising the victims of a devastating fire in Jahangirpuri re-settlement colony, north-west Delhi, Prayas today serves over 50,000 disadvantaged children and youth every year. In doing this, Prayas is inspired by the mission that "fulfillment of the basic needs of a child is synonymous with his/her basic rights".

Prayas has been striving hard to provide these deprived children, marginalized youth and women with basic education, vocational and life skills, health care and support, nutrition, counselling, recreation, shelter for the homeless, re-integration and mainstreaming. Prayas is sharing major responsibilities with the Government, including three model shelter homes and 3 other shelters in Delhi besides multiple projects on education, juvenile care, health and HIV/AIDS, vocational training and youth empowerment, etc. By networking with other NGOs, both small and big, Prayas has developed a number of welfare and developmental projects across the country, particularly in five districts of Bihar, 36 earthquake-affected villages in Gujarat and over 100 centers in the slums of Delhi.

Prayas' EXPERIMENTS IN Elimination of Child Labour

Prayas has been working with the urban-based child labour in Delhi since its inception in the year, 1988. In this context, Prayas has endeavored to alleviate the harsh conditions in which some of the most vulnerable, the most exploited street and working children are living in the urban slums of Delhi. Later, the organization has expanded its intervention in the earthquake-ravaged 36 villages in Bhuj district of Gujarat and in five districts of the poorest state of Bihar. The organization directly serves more than 50,000 children in three states and takes holistic care in terms of alternative education, vocational training, health, nutrition, recreation and shelter for nearly 10,000 children at any point of time. Prayas believes that child labour has to be eliminated in a phased manner, not just through

बाल मजदूरों ने लोगों को
आपबीती सुनाई
नई दिल्ली (वस) : विश्व बाल
मजदूरी विरोधी दिवस की पूर्व संध्या के
अवसर पर सत्य साई इंटरनेशनल के
परिसर में लगभग 400 बाल मजदूर इकट्ठे
हुए। कूड़ा बिनने, अखबार तथा अन्य
सामान बेचने, धरों एवं होटलों में बर्तन
धोने आदि के काम में लगे इन बच्चों ने
अपने शोषण के बारे में यहां उपस्थित
लोगों को अवगत कराया।

NAV BHARAT TIMES
12, JUNE, 2004, NEW DELHI



RASHTRIYA SAHARA 12, JUNE, 2004, NEW DELHI

Prayas believes that child labour has to be eliminated in a phased manner, not just through

legislation but also by providing proper occupational alternatives to the working children. The strategy adopted is aimed to provide an integrated approach covering various components to address the child labour care, protection and development needs. It is believed that this enables the most disadvantaged children overcome the limitations of their difficult situation and have the opportunity to develop to their full potential. It is believed that in fulfilling these basic needs and rights would mean the fulfillment of their basic rights as well.

The Prayas concept of Alternative Education is based on planned and structured educational activities and programmes for the out of school children in the age group of 6-14 years, leading to learning outcomes comparable to that of elementary school. The Alternative Education model adopted focuses to bring under its purview children remaining out of the education system for a considerable period of time generally constituting children in need of care and protection, street and working children and the numerous other categories of working children constituting child labourers. Any action undertaken in the area of elimination of child labour must necessarily be preceded by a first hand survey of the situation. Hence, Prayas conducts an extensive survey every year in the areas of its operation primarily to assess the out of school children. The children engaged in the household cores or working outside their homes not always engaged in work, meant that these child labourers were left with a fair amount of free time on their hands could be definitely brought under the purview of education.

Even as Prayas has enabled a holistic development of a child through a well-defined programme, the main focus has always been on **mainstreaming**. In this regard the Alternative Education followed as a major Rehabilitative Strategy demonstrates the following components:

- .. Alternative Education
- .. Formal Education
- .. Distance Education (NIOS)
- .. Inclusive Education
- .. Vocational Education

FORMAL EDUCATION

Every year Prayas prepares nearly 5,000 children through the AE program who are then mainstreamed into the formal schooling system or into different vocations. Similarly, children are sponsored to enable them to continue with their formal education.



DISTANCE EDUCATION

Prayas has been accredited by the Ministry of HRD, Government of India to run the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for street and working children. The NIOS programme also covers all children belonging to the marginalized sections of the society. It provides teaching & learning material to all children enrolled in NIOS programme and also organizes tutorials for such children. The entire admission procedure related to the filling of examination forms and other formalities is carried out by Prayas and certificate to successful candidates is issued by the Ministry of HRD. The success of the Prayas NIOS programme can be assessed from the fact that 250 were enrolled in the NIOS in the last financial year.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Prayas believes that for the universalization of primary education and for checking the rate of drop-outs from schools, it is extremely essential to make a child-friendly and need-based curriculum. There should be provisions for giving special attention to slow learners and children with disabilities. Hence the

concept of inclusive education is of great significance. This is because a high percentage of children are mentally challenged, visually impaired, hard of hearing and in the category of slow learners. The Ministry of HRD, Government of India is formulating strategies for alternative models of education with the assistance of NGOs and International agencies. Prayas has been actively associated with the Union & State Governments in this partnership.

Prayas' Strategy for Child Protection

In the three states, namely, NCT Delhi, Gujarat and Bihar, the organization has created a highly evolved and comprehensive, multi-sectoral strategy to protect the children under most difficult circumstances, most of them being the child labour. These children are being provided the protection of law by systematic implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, Child Labour (Regulation) Act, 1986, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1986, besides other legislations, governments policies and programmes. By creating the mechanism and institutions like, Child Helpline (1098), Crisis Intervention Centre (CIC), Shelter Homes for Boys & Girls and constant interaction with the police and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, multiple networks, advocacy groups etc., Prayas is able to create a powerful protective umbrella and rehabilitative package for the child labour under most difficult and hazardous situation.

VOCATIONALIZATION OF EDUCATION: JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN PRAYAS

The child labour victims suffer because they are mostly engaged in unskilled labour in the unorganized sector. The mainstreaming efforts have not yielded fruitful results, as the existing education system is inadequate to meet the challenges of the victims of child labour and other underprivileged children in Delhi and in the other parts of the country. Alternative schooling through Non-Formal Education needs to be coupled with vocational training and life skills education and furthering it through the placement and rehabilitation of the skilled, trained manpower mainstreamed into the society. Prayas has been able to realize the need for an alternative education system of these marginalized groups of working children and youth. As a result, Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), an outfit of the Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India, was set up in Prayas thus, epitomizing this model of education. Prayas has been providing significant inputs on developing this alternative education model at the national level and has been on various Committees of the Department of Education, government of NCT Delhi and Ministry of HRD, Government of India. Under the JSS, Prayas children in the age group of 12-18 years are trained in vocations catering to their interest and needs and which also have market potential. Such children, through their vocations, can enter into self or profitable wage-employment. JSS Prayas caters to the needs of additional 5,000 underprivileged school drop-out youths, adolescents, children and women by imparting skill training for socio-economic rehabilitation. There are 26 non-formal vocational training courses of varied duration ranging from 3 months to 1 year, such as computers, house wiring, auto repairing, beauty culture, cutting & tailoring, screen printing, detergent making, and other allied trades in a professional manner. The vocational trades are identified on the basis of market surveys undertaken in different slum localities. Adolescent girls and women are encouraged to join vocational education and form self-help groups for micro-credit, micro-finance and income generation programme.

Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, a flagship programme of the Ministry of Education, for achieving the



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goal of universal elementary education through a time bound approach in partnership with the states, Prayas is running 50 learning centers in Delhi and several others in the state of Bihar and Gujarat religiously following the objectives of the Abhiyan of providing quality elementary education, community ownership and monitoring, development of relevant and useful curriculum, teachers training programmes, focus on the educational participation of girls, religious and linguistic group and the socially and economically disadvantaged groups. The out of school children along with those with working backgrounds are attending these learning centers and the deserving children are proposed to be put in the formal school system in the academic year beginning in the year 2004.

In the most recent development Prayas has been included as one of the collaborative partners of Delhi Child Labour Rehabilitation- cum- Welfare Society working under the aegis of INDUS Child Labour Project. *The INDUS Child Labour Project, executed by the ILO is a collaborative effort between the Governments of India and of the United States of America. **The Project recognizes the crucial link between Education and Child Labour.*** It, therefore, seeks to formally work with the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Labour, in an effort aimed at elimination of Child Labour by linking them with Public Education through direct and transitional measures.

Recognizing the efforts in eliminating child labour, ILO entrusted Prayas with the responsibility of organizing World Day Against Child Labour, this year. Prayas took it as its responsibility to organize this event on the eve of the World Day Against Child Labour.

Vote of Thanks

Mr. Amod K Kanth, extended vote of thanks to the Chief Guest, all the panelists, distinguished guest, the ILO and of course the children without whose participation the show had no meaning.

Summing up and Poem Recitation

Kranti, a girl from Prayas expressed her views through poem during the lighting of the lamp at the end.

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Common Cause

Domestic Child Labour Cries For Help

On the World Day Against Child Labour, ILO draws world attention to domestic child labour

VIMMY SINHA

This year on the World Day Against Child Labour on June 11, International Labour Organization (ILO) declared the year's theme to be Domestic Child Labour. It was in 2002 that ILO launched World Day Against Child Labour as a means of raising visibility about the problem and bringing about a global movement to eliminate child labour.

"Almost without exception, children who are domestic labour are victims of exploitation, often of different kinds. They are exploited economically when they work long hours with no time off, low wages or no remuneration at all. They are exploited because they have no social or legal protection, and suffer harsh working conditions including, for example, handling toxic substances," says Frans Roselaers, director, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) in his foreword in a report published by the ILO last week.

Statistics provided by this report on domestic child labour are alarming. There are more than 200 million children working in the world. More girl-children under 16 are in domestic service than in any other category of work. In India, 30 per cent of all children under 14 working outside the family are in domestic service. It is the same story in many countries in the world.

The government runs a National Child Labour Project to tackle the problem. The government is also a co-funder with the US Department of Labour of a project called INDUS that is being implemented by the ILO. At the ground level many NGOs too are working to help children caught in this situation. Prayas, a Delhi-based NGO, which works specifically against child exploitation, has come up with programmes to help distressed children. Says Rajib Halder, executive director, Prayas, "We have a crisis intervention programme wherein we help children to get out of such situations. Action is taken to rehabilitate the child and to fight the child's case in the court. We also have 24-hour child helpline called childline (number 1098). We take immediate action once we get a call for help."

To confront this problem of domestic child labour exploitation, the ILO report suggests, "Of vital importance is continued advocacy at national and international levels to recognise child domestic labour as a form of child labour and potentially a worst form." The report says specific actions like recognition of the problem through methodologies for research and analysis, specific programming to support children in domestic work, setting up prevention and early warning systems, mobilising communities to report where children and families are at risk, providing education to children waiting to exit child domestic labour and putting in place support systems for those who do.

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