

# Newsletter



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## Greetings

As we gear up to face the challenges of 2023, it is time for stocktaking. There have been successes in the year that passed by even as it revealed new areas requiring our attention. For us it is work in progress as we reach halfway through the project implementation phase of our Work No Child's Business Programme.

The Mid Term Review (MTR) helped us in evaluating our progress. We focussed on our key performance areas to gauge our impact on the communities we are working with to eliminate child labour. We also examined our effort to ensure that every child is in the classroom, learning and growing up into an empowered citizen.

Research based on the SenseMaker methodology helped us gain a deeper understanding of the role we were playing and the complex areas of change that needed to be addressed – changes in norms and attitudes to child labour, education and the community. The scope of the MTRs was to zoom in on implemented plans and reported outcomes, and more specifically facilitate a discussion on these among our stakeholders. Among the issues addressed, included crucial questions like the link between field practices and international strategies, and how we can collaborate and strengthen our approaches.

Addressing different child labour risks and protective factors for boys and girls is one of the main cross-cutting thematic areas for the WNCB programme. In order to strengthen WNCB's Gender Transformative approach within the programme, a gender assessment was commissioned by Gender Equality Working Group for each of the six countries, including India.

As part of our Linking and Learning Working Group's initiative, a tri-country exchange visit was organised from 29 August to 3 September for a delegation from Jordan, Netherlands and Vietnam. The team visited our partners in Bihar, Delhi and Rajasthan.

The team was exposed to our area-based approach (ABA) and how it contributed to eliminating child labour in the informal sector. One of the key learnings from Delhi was of creating 'Child Champions' who could be enabled to support their peers in advocating for their rights.

WNCB also announced its second round of awards for journalists to amplify the issue of child labour in order to build awareness.



# Nimble fingers, forfeited childhoods

The menace of child labour in agriculture continues

Divya Trivedi



**A**bout 160 million children continue to be engaged in child labour worldwide, according to the United Nations, with a majority or 70 per cent of them in agriculture. Unlike other sectors, in agriculture, both boys and girls are equally engaged. Many are younger children—over three quarters of all children aged 5 to 11 in child labour work in agriculture—underscoring agriculture as an entry point to child labour. There is also an urban-rural divide with child labour much more common

in rural areas. The prevalence of child labour in rural economies is about three times higher than in urban areas and primarily takes place in agriculture.

According to Child Rights & You, nearly 60 per cent of children working in India are in agriculture and related activities. Due to economic distress, when families are forced to migrate for subsistence, they take their children along, which leads to school dropouts, child marriages and eventually children joining the labour

force. While the focus on child labour in India has been on bidi making, fireworks production and the services industry, the farm labour performed by children has mostly gone unnoticed. That is because, a majority of agricultural labour performed by children is traditionally not seen as labour by society.

Some participation of children in non-hazardous activities is seen as positive as it can contribute to the inter-generational transfer of skills and children's food security especially in the context of family farming, small-scale fisheries, and livestock husbandry. But it is important to distinguish between light duties that do no harm to the child and child labour, which is work that interferes with compulsory schooling, damages health and personal development, based on hours and conditions of work, child's age, activities performed, and hazards involved, according to the International Labour Organization.

In India, the two major regions where child labour in agriculture is increasing are the chilli farms of Andhra Pradesh/Telangana and the BT cotton fields of Gujarat. In both instances, the children are brought from across neighbouring state borders.

In the BT cotton fields of north Gujarat, the farmers realised early on that the nimble fingers of children and their short height are ideal for the cross pollination of plants in the production of seed. They also realised that they need not pay the full wage to children and can save on production costs. The tribal areas of Rajasthan were just a bus ride away from the border and even if the farmers hired contractors or *mats* to traffic children for agricultural labour, they could still end up saving a lot of money. Since these children came from impoverished backgrounds, their parents did not mind sending them for work in the fields of Gujarat as long as it added to their household income. Thus began the saga of children from areas such as Udaipur, Banswara and Dungarpur in Rajasthan to be migrated seasonally to places such as Banaskantha, Sabarkantha and Patan in Gujarat.



Border areas of Kotra, Kherwara and Jharol are particularly vulnerable for child trafficking for labour in agricultural fields of Gujarat, said Niranjan Ameta of National Resource Management. Outlining the modus operandi, he explained that the farmers belonging to the Patel community in Gujarat give advance payments to the *thekedars* or contractors who more often than not live in the villages from where the children are trafficked. "Since cross pollination has to be done manually, the soft hands of children are ideal for the process. Besides, BT cotton, children are also used as field hands in the production of potato," he said.

It is not that the government and police do not try to stop child labour, but the menace continues unabated, said Vimala Chauhan, Centre Coordinator, Childline. "Whenever we get a call on the police control room that a vehicle carrying children is headed towards the border, the authorities order a *nakabandi* (roadblock) in a bid to nab the vehicle.

But the contractors are very smart. As soon as they get wind of our presence, they drop the kids off at a little distance before the *nakabandi* or take alternate routes through interior villages. Our team keeps chasing them but sometimes they manage to get away. Besides, the children go with the consent of their families so there is little one can do."

The Covid-19 lockdown and subsequent economic slump has precipitated the dropping out of children from schools as their parents could not afford school fees. It has led to an increase in child labour in agriculture, at least in the short term, due to reverse migration and families return to subsistence farming to survive. Their situation is more precarious than ever before, said Vimala.

To make things worse, the cultivation of fertilizer and water intensive BT cotton itself is shifting to Rajasthan as the soil in Gujarat is no longer supporting the production of BT cotton, said Niranjan. So instead of children and families

moving to Gujarat as farm labour, the contractors have started providing BT cotton seeds and pesticides in advance to the families in Rajasthan who are under pressure to fulfil the cultivation process and show results. This pushes them to an all-hands-on-deck situation where they involve children during their free time to work in the fields as well. "These children go to school. But even the teachers know that during season time, for 10 days or more, the children will not come to

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attend class.” NGOs have tried to create community awareness to not employ children in the BT cotton fields but poverty and the pandemic have made it harder for families to comply.

Poverty is the main cause of child labour in agriculture, together with limited access to quality education, inadequate

agricultural technology and access to adult labour, high hazards and risks.

Providing context to the issue, Sudarshan Suchi, Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children, India said, “Child labour is a global issue and a human rights violation that harms children, and is an unfortunate result of a perpetuating cycle of rural poverty. For impoverished households, income from a child’s work becomes important for his or her own survival or for that of the household. For the want of a full day’s pay, many of these children drop out of schools. Being illiterate or school dropouts, these children are vulnerable and most exploited for the informal, unskilled, and casual workforce. Illiteracy and lack of awareness among parents further worsens the crisis, thereby putting their children under the risk of inhuman exploitation. Also, when it comes to educating, boys are given preference over girls, thus pushing girls back into the poverty trap. Child labour snatches away childhood from children,

so also their potential and their dignity harming their physical as well as mental development.”

Broader progress in ending child labour thus largely centres on improving rural livelihoods and building more diversified economies, including in rural areas. According to the ILO and UNICEF, an additional four million children were drawn into child labour in agriculture over the period 2016-2020, with an estimated 112 million boys and girls now working in agricultural sectors.

It is time we take banishing child labour on a mission mode—and feel that such an offense against a child is against all of us, said Sudarshan, adding that “child labour cannot be tackled in isolation because child rights is indivisible, inter-related and interdependent. Unless policy and implementation gaps in education, alternate livelihood generation, food security, and gender equality are not tackled, if all stakeholders do not provide high priority and adequate resources for elimination programmes/schemes, then eliminating child labour may remain a dream. Every minute a child is engaged in labour they are away from what they must be doing—their own development—by way of their nutrition, their health, education and protection.”



**Divya Trivedi**

Divya Trivedi is an independent journalist based in New Delhi. For 15+ years, she travelled extensively and reported on development, child rights, caste, gender and politics for The Hindu, Frontline and Business Line. She is an alumna of St Xaviers’ Calcutta, Asian College of Journalism Chennai and Ambedkar University Delhi.

# Children of a Lesser God

Education is the last priority for the marginalised, poverty-stricken Musahar community of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Darshan Desai

**F**rail, weak, hungry, thirsty, malnourished. Men, women, children all look the same here. In their late 30s, they look in the 60s and in their 50s they look like they are pushing 80. And their children look underaged with squeezed or bloating bellies, thin limbs and eyes popping out.

No, this is no report from the hinterland in Somalia but from remote villages in eastern UP and Bihar that share their borders with Nepal. These villagers live in ramshackle thatched huts covered with blue and black tarpaulin sheets on the outskirts of several villages across the region.

This is the Musahar (literal translation: rat-eaters) community whose population in this belt has been estimated at 40 lakh (four million) and are considered as the most-backward among the Scheduled Castes or Maha-Dalits (an extremely suppressed caste). Many of them still catch rats and eat them. A local Varanasi reporter had even reported children eating grass in some villages during the peak of the Covid-19 crisis.

The passage of time and numerous state and central welfare schemes seem to have bypassed the community. Various water-borne diseases or ailments that afflict those with poor immunity are prevalent in the community. It is a vicious cycle that is perennial—undernourished parents giving birth to malnourished children, who are under-weight, frail or



Children hanging out in a dug up pit beside a waste water canal in a Musahar locality in Kushinagar district in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Picture by Amit, Development News Network (DNN).

stunted. They in turn grow up to parent more emaciated progeny.

Education obviously remains the last priority for a community which ekes out a hand-to-mouth existence by either serving as bonded labour at the farms of the landed higher caste or work as migrant casual workers where they are paid anywhere between Rs 45 to Rs 100 a day—far below the state defined minimum wages of Rs 374 for unskilled labour.

With their families struggling to generate one square meal a day, most Musahar children contribute by working as casual



*Their families struggling to generate one square meal a day, most Musahar children contribute by working as casual labourers at construction sites, beedi rolling units and serving as domestic help.*



labourers at construction sites, beedi rolling units and serving as domestic help. Schooling is a luxury that most parents cannot afford.

As WNCB's partner organisations Fakirana Sisters Society (FSS) and MV Foundation found in their 2020 surveys of Musahars in west and east Champaran in Bihar that between 60 to 80 per cent children officially enrolled in schools—in many cases fraudulently enrolled—were not attending school. The reasons for this were varied—some had migrated with their parents to another district or to other states. Others were working at brick kilns or in some other casual work their parents were engaged in. In most cases back-breaking physical labour is squeezed out of the parents as well as the children, with work hours stretching beyond the statutory norm of eight hours a day. Needless to add the unrelenting struggle for survival excludes the kids from any form of education.

Economic depravity impacts schooling and education. A sizeable number of Musahars don't have job cards under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Most government welfare schemes for the poor and the downtrodden fail to reach the larger community. In fact, many Musahars are not even aware of the welfare measures.

Sajjad Hassan, senior researcher at the Delhi-based Centre for Equity Studies, in his 2014 paper "India Exclusion Report" aptly sums the condition of the Musahars that remains even today. To quote: "Musahars, as a rule, have no choice of opportunities—being stuck with hard labour mostly on field, but now also other manual work—for life. Social protection schemes, designed for people exactly like Dinesh (a Musahar in Dumri village in Muzaffarpur district taken as a case study by Hassan), have all bypassed them, because the programmes fail to reach them, and Musahars themselves are too busy chasing survival to bother much about demanding entitlements.

"In effect, Dinesh and his Musahar kinsmen have little freedom or choice and little hope of gaining either, soon. The abiding impression is of utter hopelessness, of the permanence of poverty and destitution, and an inability to come out of this situation. What Dinesh's condition is today was his father's and, in all likelihood, will be his children's tomorrow. It is no wonder



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A young girl cleaning vessels at a Musahar locality in the outskirts of Gorakhpur city in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Picture by Amit, Development News Network (DNN).

then that Musahars themselves blame it all on destiny, content to labour on and make the best of a desperate life.”

What enables extreme poverty, of the kind suffered by Musahars, to endure in India? Why cannot the poorest escape the poverty trap, even across generations? Hassan notes, “In addressing these questions, the prism of chronic poverty is used to understand the drivers and maintainers of poverty, such as poor asset base and weak capabilities, and structural factors like unequal land distribution and caste hierarchies, which hold back marginalized communities from making use of newer opportunities.”

Being confronted by a crisis is not new for the Musahars. When this journalist travelled through villages in Gorakhpur, Kushinagar and Maharajganj districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh in August of 2005, the government had already reported that close to 1,000 children

had died from Japanese Encephalitis (JE) or *dimag ka bukhar* (brain fever). A significant majority of those hit by the virus were the Musahars, along with other malnourished and vulnerable marginalized communities. JE spreads by mosquitoes carrying the virus from pigs.



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But the people of Uttar Pradesh as well as the state administration seemed oblivious, or too accustomed to the fatal effects of JE for over two decades to do anything. The overall inertia in the media towards the issue—except in local papers—was obvious. So much so that news of dozens of children dying every day were pushed on the inside pages in a few small columns.

The reason why the state government was unmoved was perhaps because the region had been a witness to the JE scourge since 1978. Much water has flown down the Ganges in and around Varanasi and the other Terai regions of eastern UP and Bihar since then. It was only after intensive vaccination drives by the UP government against JE that the number of cases came down.

Hassan tracks caste dynamics as one the key reasons for the Musahars perennially remaining among the ranks of the most





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underdeveloped. They are denied employment opportunities at several places because they are Maha-Dalits and are treated as untouchables. The only jobs they manage to land are those that involve intense physical labour.

Small wonder then that voluntary organisations like FSS and MV Foundation have to put in a huge effort to get Musahar children back to school. It is indeed difficult to convince a starving family with no work through half or less than three-fourths of a year to prioritise schooling for their children. What's worse, the children who attempt to go to school mostly dropout as they face routine humiliation in the classroom for no fault of theirs, but just because of their caste—for being born Musahars.



**Darshan Desai**

The writer is Founder-Editor, Development News Network [DNN], India. A Work No Child's Business (WNCB) awardee, he will be doing research-based, people-oriented articles on child labour prevalent in the Musahar community.



A Musahar locality in East Champaran in Bihar. Picture by Amit, Development News Network (DNN).

# Plugging the gaps

Let research show the way in addressing child labour issues.

Preeti Mehra

**R**esearch and evidence-based findings provide vital inputs for framing and planning development projects. They point to the changes to be initiated and the plan of action required to achieve desired goals and, in more ways than one, helps to put in place approaches that would provide momentum in the right direction. Also, it is only when you identify loopholes and shortcoming in the system that gaps can be plugged, and outcomes improved.

Research ventures by two different organisations in the child protection/child labour space did just that in the past few months. They identified particular problem areas, with the hope that this would lead to changes being affected in the right direction. Save the Children, India (SCI) surveyed children working in Delhi's garment industry, and Child Rights and You (CRY) looked at the predicament of child brides and what under-age marriage brings with it.

Let's take the garment clusters in Delhi first. As they expand, child labour expands too. The research done by SCI seems to be a continuing effort to flag the issue. In 2015 too SCI had released its report, "The Hidden Workforce: A study on child labour in the garment industry in Delhi" which documented at length the situation on the ground. The study had concluded that child labour was mostly found in the non-factory and unorganised sector of the industry dominated by micro-enterprises and owner operating units. These were usually unregistered and



focussed on outsourcing activities such as printing, dyeing, embellishment, tailoring, machine embroidery, button stitching and buttonhole making. A lot of the children, in fact, were involved in intricate embroidery, embellishment like pasting stones on readymade garments, and completing tasks in finished garments like cutting loose threads etc.

So, what were the recent findings presented during a consultation meeting in Delhi November last? The consultation had 60 participants including local and national voluntary organisations, university/academia, UN affiliated bodies, child labour campaigners, research institutions, consultants, and SCI staff. Two working children shared their experiences as well.



The findings revealed that no child under the age of nine years is currently working in the garment industry; that the percentage of girls working in garments is much higher than boys in all age groups; and that the highest percentage of working children is between 15 and 17 years. It was found that girls do more home-based work as their families prefer not to send them to units and factories. It is mostly boys who work at such units, especially those whose parents have sent them to Delhi to work and most stay with their relatives. However, many of the units folded up during the pandemic lockdown, making more children work from a family unit or home.



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So, one can draw the conclusion that campaigns must be directed to free supply chains of child labour even though children are being employed from the anonymity of their homes. Parents need to understand the travails of out-of-school children, and that in the long run there is no substitute to education.

The aim of the child labour study was to look at the link with the international and domestic garment supply chain, especially in home-based work. The idea being to facilitate programme interventions as well as advocacy to reduce child labour and have children in classrooms instead.

Currently, according to the International Labour Organization, almost 11 per cent of children are working worldwide. It is estimated that in India 5.8 million children between 5 to 17 years of age work under poor conditions. They represent the highest rate of child labour in South Asia. While it is seen that the highest number of forced child labourers work in agriculture, other industries like the garment sector is increasingly expanding and attracting more child workers.

### **Travails of child marriage**

CRY researched a totally different subject, but one that causes incredible anguish among young girls who are forced into child marriage. The study made some

pertinent observations that need to be flagged and worked on for change.

The study found that 59 per cent of parents and parents-in-law in the country find child marriage an important custom, and only 16 per cent of parents/parents-in-law and 34 per cent of child brides or grooms are aware of its negative consequences.

The societal predicament that contributes to its practice besides social norms is extreme poverty, forced migration and gender inequity. Girls are often pushed into it as parents fear a young girl eloping or having a love affair, putting the family into a 'moral' crisis within the community. Hence, the moment the girl attains puberty, there is a rush to have her married irrespective of her wishes. The research also implied that it was a "lack of educational opportunities due to issues of accessibility, availability and affordability" that pushed girls to drop out of school and left them more vulnerable to child marriage, in comparison to boys. The other reasons for it included "lower dowry, the patriarchal construct of 'women's honour', finding grooms and adaptation by girls being easier in new households."

The study, released November last, was conducted in 40 villages of eight blocks from four districts namely Chittoor, Chandouli, Parbhani, and Kandhamal in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra

and Odisha respectively. Puja Marwaha, the CEO of CRY, said that the aim was to “understand the prevailing knowledge, attitudes, practices and social behaviour regarding child marriage, as well as to document nuanced initiatives taken at the community levels to challenge child marriage practices. The study also tried to map the convergence of community and government systems under the available provisions and practices to determine the scope for synergies at both ends.”

Based on its findings, the study concluded that child marriage has a detrimental impact on girls’ sexual and reproductive health, as majority of them become mothers before attaining adulthood, thus being exposed to high-risk pregnancy. More than half of the women respondents—51 per cent of child brides with at least two children—said that the gap between their first and second child was less than two years, while 59 per cent of child brides had experienced teenage pregnancy.

Even worse, a substantial proportion of adolescent mothers had given birth to babies with low birthweight. The study revealed that 17 per cent and 16 per cent of child brides had babies with low birthweight for their first and second child, respectively.

The study found that child marriage was still prevalent in areas of the study including Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha, even though there was some decline in numbers in the past few years. However, in Maharashtra, researchers found “a discrepancy in the responses of duty bearers and community members, with duty bearers asserting that cases had decreased while the community members, particularly adolescent girls, responded that in some clusters, people managed to arrange child marriages in greater numbers than before”.

CRY also did a comparative analysis of NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21) data. This showed that child marriage cases had declined in the

last five years both at the national level and in the four states it was studying. Andhra Pradesh had recorded highest percentage of child marriage cases. This was followed by Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh.

The Sample Registration System (SRS) 2020 data (published in 2022), showed that Odisha has the highest percentage (3.7 per cent) of females who married below the age of 18 years, followed by Uttar Pradesh among the four above mentioned states. The least were in Maharashtra.

The CRY study points towards NFHS-4 and NFHS-5 data which shows that the percentage of women within the age group of 15-19 years who were already mothers or pregnant is highest in Andhra Pradesh (12.5 per cent). “It is pertinent to note that the other three states have been showing declining trend of child marriage and teenage pregnancy in the past five years, but Andhra Pradesh has shown a reverse trend over the same period of time”, the study points out.



Marwaha feels the way forward to address child marriage is by “strengthening village-level child protection mechanisms by the government and the civil society organisations, along with sustained efforts to alleviate poverty and social inequality by creating livelihood options.”

She feels girls’ access to education can play a key role as the study findings revealed that 86 per cent of child brides who had ever attended school dropped out after marriage. “Ensuring that girls are retained in schools till they complete 18 years will be a strategic step in preventing child marriage”, she concluded.



**Preeti Mehra**

is a senior journalist based in New Delhi who writes on development, gender and environmental issues.

# ICCSPL: Looking Back While Moving Forward



## A Mid Term Review, and glimpses of our activities

WNCB is halfway through the project implementation phase of its Work No Child's Business Programme. As part of its Mid Term Review (MTR), three sets of exercises were undertaken this year, which included collecting and collating quantitative and qualitative data.

The first exercise focussed on 'key performance'. The idea was to understand the impact of the WNCB programme interventions on the communities. One of the methods was to collect representative survey data against the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) of the programme. The report provided relevant quantitative data for the KPIs and other relevant indicators to help partners to better understand the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and impact halfway into programme implementation.

The second exercise—a study based on the SenseMaker methodology—was undertaken with the objective to understand social norms, attitudes and

behaviour towards child labour in the partner's intervention areas. The main purpose of the SenseMaker project, which involves innovative narrative-based research, monitoring and decision-making, was to complement and provide an explanation to the findings of the quantitative surveys that were conducted to gather data, track progress and achievements against the WNCB programme KPIs.

The exercise sought information on the effectiveness of the programme with regards to complex areas of change, such as changes in norms and attitudes to child labour, education and the community in which child labour takes place.

As part of the process, a participatory review exercise was undertaken which sought to complement the two MTRs mentioned above. The purpose of these participative MTRs was to facilitate a discussion among local and international partners and collaboratively review how

one could: a) remain accountable towards communities (beneficiaries) aimed to be served; b) reinforce collaboration between partners to achieve planned outcomes effectively and efficiently (at local level and internationally); c) identify opportunities for replication and up-scaling during and after the programme has ended; and d) consider the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on child labour and mitigate its effects.

The scope of the MTRs was to zoom in on implemented plans and reported outcomes as well as look at the working groups in the Netherlands. More specifically, it facilitated a discussion among partners about: a) reported outcomes to date; b) observed emerging/heightened child labour risks due to the pandemic (such as reduced access to education); c) the scale of implementation in relation to identified problems in the communities; d) the link



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between field practices and international strategies; and e) the level to which we can succeed in (collaboratively) strengthening our approaches.

A set of reports were published with recommendations and suggestions for the WNCB alliance in India. Partners and in-country lead are working towards implementing those in the next one and half years that is left before the project ends.

## Linking and learning



As part of WNCB Linking and Learning Working Group's initiative, a tri-country exchange visit was organised for a delegation from Jordan, Netherlands and Vietnam with support from the India Team from 29 August to 3 September 2022. A total of nine delegates (four each from Vietnam and Jordan and one from Netherlands) visited the interventions areas of our partners in Bihar, Delhi and Rajasthan.

The primary objectives of the exposure visit were: a) to understand the area-based approach (ABA) by sharing examples, experiences and knowledge between the countries to see how this approach contributes to the joint goal to eliminate child



labour; b) the informal sector in the supply chains—how does one include/approach the informal sector in their struggle against child labour; c) how does one ensure quality education, for example through the involvement of teachers' unions, bridge schooling, the creation of child friendly spaces, etc.; d) economic empowerment—including vocational training for youth and adolescents, as well as focus on women in particular; e) social protection system and strengthening; f) case management approach—system wide approach including government engagement with a cross-cutting focus and gender inclusiveness within the above mentioned themes. There were key takeaways and learnings from each of the states where the delegates went.

One of the key learnings from Delhi was of creating "Child Champions" who could be enabled to support their peers in advocating for their rights. From Bihar the delegates recognised the importance of community engagement; decentralisation of system strengthening; community ownership; child labour free zones; women empowerment; protecting the rights of all children and ensuring all children attend full-time formal

schools. In Rajasthan the delegates experienced how the local team was working with suppliers or employers to address child labour concerns to improve their working conditions by providing several facilities for the worker and their children.

Additionally, the delegates were impressed with the fact that the team was working with women leaders to combat child labour by improving their income generation ability. They also saw how the Rajasthan team was creating role models to raise aspirations among children and the youth. The women's union through which loans were provided to families with small businesses was of great interest to the visitors.

The delegates also made recommendations to the India Team. These included: a) increasing prevention activities that focus on different child protection concerns; b) working on community-based level services mapping; c) positive parenting; and d) collaboration with the government.



## WNCB's second national meeting

The second national roundtable of Work No Child's Business (WNCB) partners was organized from 28 to 30 November 2022 in Goa. The three-day workshop was attended by all the nine partners composing the WNCB alliance. The major objective of the workshop was to discuss content on various thematic issues that WNCB is working on as well on programmatic issues that needed to be discussed.

With this in mind, the meeting focused on the recommendations and findings



that emerged from the Mid Term Review exercises. It deliberated on in-country as well as global linking and learning ideas; discussed the different methods/tools adopted by the partners on eradicating child labour and, most importantly, discussed the status of advocacy efforts at the state and national level.

Partners as well as ICCo/ICCSPL shared their updates on advocacy around the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 and adapting the National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct to the readymade garments sector which was agreed by the partners in the first



national meeting of WNCB partners in end March 2022. Based on what was discussed on the issue of advocacy and education, a WhatsApp group on learning deficit was created. The group will give inputs, ideas and suggestions and decide on how to advocate on this. In addition, there was a detailed discussion of how to advocate with business on the issue of child labour and also the way forward on the issue of gender. A total of 23 participants attended the meeting.

## Livelihoods - Delhi and Bihar

In order to address the complex interplay of factors—poverty, lack of viable livelihood system and the resultant large-scale migration leading to rampant child labour—ICCSPL in partnership with WNCB partners in Bihar and Lakme Academy in Delhi strengthened the livelihoods front with an entrepreneurship approach as a strategy.

Many studies, including ICCSPL's study, have pointed out the lack of forward and backward linkages, including lack of

access to good quality inputs, technical knowledge, finance and marketing because of which traditional livelihoods remain in a precarious situation. It forces people from Bihar to migrate to urban cities for better opportunities and live without any social support. However, income inadequacy even in the migrated places compels them to involve their children in enhancing family income. To help break this vicious cycle, if parents will remain in the villages and earn well, they will take better care of the children. There will also be a continuity of education for the children.

### Beautypreneurship/ Delhi

ICCSPL organised a one-month 'Advanced Beautician Course' for 12 adolescent girls and young women in collaboration with the Lakme Academy, Noida. The selected candidates for the course were identified through extensive field visits by our team along with the Save the Children team in Barola, Jamia Nagar, Geeta Colony, and Kailash Nagar in the Delhi-NCR region. The training began on 20 July and offered training on Make-Up, Hair, and Skin Care.

As an outcome, the Lakme Academy provided placement assistance through beauty outfit Yes Madam to all the 12 girls. Photo shoots were conducted for the girls to create their individual digital portfolios with Lakme Academy's watermark and, last but not the least, all of them

also received a certificate in 'Skin Essentials' from the academy.

This training provided the beneficiaries with a platform to establish themselves as entrepreneurs in the long run. By now 50 per cent of the girls have started their own parlours, 30 per cent have got placement in different parlours, (a few got into Yes Madam and other skin clinics), and finally, the remaining 20 per cent are freelancing while completing their studies.

All 12 girls have started generating their own income. During the follow-up session, the girls said that they feel comparatively more confident, and the skills that they have acquired have helped them a lot in their journey. They have started receiving positive feedback from their clients, which has led to an expansion of their network. The success also made their families proud and happy. The girls also pointed out that even their families have extended support in every possible way, making them feel happy and more secure.



## Livelihood development through rural entrepreneurship in Bihar with FSS, Nav Jagriti and MV Foundation

**Training on goat rearing through the Pashusakhi (friend of animals) programme:** With the support of Nav Jagriti, the Fakirana Sisters Society and ICCSPL's resource person, Twenty Pashusakhis (two men and 18 women) were trained for 10 days on goat-rearing skills such as breeding, handling diseases, vaccination, castration, feeding etc. The training was conducted in two phases of five days each in respective districts. Of over 40 applications received, the candidates with a potential for entrepreneurship and passion to help the community were chosen along with Nav Jagriti and FSS.



seeds, creating saplings and nursery beds, using organic fertilizers and pesticides, use of cocopeat and vermicompost, intercrop farming etc.

ICCSPL facilitated three-day training sessions for 40 participants (farmers) from the intervention areas of Nav Jagriti. ICCSPL will also focus on building more institutional linkages between the WNCB alliance and government and non-government institutions to strengthen the scope for alternative livelihood generation.



**Training in modern methods of vegetable cultivation:** Several WNCB intervention areas in Bihar such as Khagaria are severely affected by floods. This affected agriculture and resulted in heavy losses. ICCSPL expanded livelihood activities through better farming to improve the income of the farmers. This included scientific training of farmers on vegetable cultivation and integrated farming. The training included explaining types of soil, sterilization of

**Entrepreneurship development programme:** ICCSPL provided three days of training to more than 250 youth in seven panchayats of Khaira block, Jamui district with its partner MV Foundation. It provided them with guidance on self-employment, entrepreneurship, government schemes and market linkages. It focussed on capacity building, documentation support, financial literacy and inclusion.

Keen interest was shown in the subject, especially aspects such as customer relations, the bookkeeping process, and the importance of saving money. Participants requested for more such sessions as well as support in accessing finance. Participants who were into making bamboo baskets and other items requested for advance training on new techniques and product designs. They also asked for marketing support to scale up their businesses.



A sensitively shot exhibition of photographs on child labour as it exists in the country at IIC, "Life in the Shadows" by Chitvan Gill brought home the reality and strengthened the resolve to expedite our goal of eliminating child labour and promoting happy childhoods. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mr Nizam Insaf, Specialist, International Labour Organisation South Asia on July 1. The exhibition ended with a candid conversation between Chitvan Gill and a team from Save the Children on July 14 bringing forth the need to take this exhibition to places, among decision-makers, particularly the state and raise their accountability towards the elimination of child labour.





# Plugging the gaps

## Snapshots from Ground Zero

MV FOUNDATION/ Bihar

### The power of collective action

For MV Foundation the second half of the year saw intense activity with a host of interventions in the five blocks of Rajapakar, Tariyani, Khaira, Rohtas and Patahi on the crucial issues of child rights, child labour, child marriage, the POCSO Act and the RTE Act. The project team convened 1,447 community meetings with different social actors with a combined turnout of 23,698 people.



### A celebration of the rights of the child

The UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) Week was observed with fervour in all the five blocks from November 14 to 20. The activities included public awareness campaigns on the importance of the occasion, group discussions, TLM (teaching learning materials) melas, torch rallies and candle rallies. The participants took part in group discussions in Rohtas and Patahi blocks on themes such as child rights, child labour, child marriage,

the POCSO Act and RTE Act. In all, 32 events were attended by 1,786 members. The mobilisers also held a total of 51 rallies as part of the celebrations.

Rallies were also held in two blocks to mark International Day of the Girl Child on October 11. A total of 440 girls participated in block level meetings to discuss the importance of the occasion, gender issues, abuse of and violence against the girl child, girl child education, child rights, the POCSO Act and the RTE Act. They also participated in cultural activities.

### Nudging children back to school

The project team managed to enrol 665 children in Classes from 1 to 8 during the half-year.

MVF organised day-long motivation camps at the block, cluster and gram panchayat levels for 186, 270 and 70 out-of-school children respectively. Meanwhile, orientation sessions were held for gram panchayat functionaries three times in two blocks with 93 participants. Similar sessions were held at the block level for the SMC in three blocks with 114 members and twice at the gram panchayat level with 44 members. MVF also conducted six block level training sessions in four blocks for 197 CRPF members and one at the cluster level for 30 members. Block level training sessions were held twice in Patahi block for anganwadi workers and ASHAs with 106 participants and once each at the gram panchayat level in two blocks with 36 participants.

Block level orientation sessions were organised three times in two blocks for 129 adolescent girls and five times at





the cluster level in two blocks for 233 girls. One gram panchayat session was attended by 38 girls in addition. Block level youth orientation sessions held once each in three blocks were attended by 114 youth with 111 youth participating in three sessions at the cluster level in two blocks. One of the training sessions held in Rohtas was attended by 40 Jeevika group members. Forty-seven members of the Children's Committee received training. MVF organised two block level training sessions for 101 participants.

## Making youth job ready

Joint training workshops were organised for 44 gram panchayat functionaries, 55 SMC members and 47 CRPF members from Rajapakar, Tariyani and Patahi blocks in November.

Training programmes with certificates were organised in seven clusters of Khaira block for 250 youth on various aspects of livestock management, agriculture, running small businesses, and financial management.

A block level interface meeting was organised in Rajapakar with the participation of the BDO, the CO, the BRP, gram panchayat functionaries and other social actors to discuss child rights, the status of child labour, child marriage, school infrastructure and other school issues.

The block coordinator of Rohtas attended a Child Labour Vigilance Committee meeting held by the district administration to plan the eradication of child labour with focus on immigrant bonded child labourers in the brick kiln sector.

## Training the trainers

Resource persons from NGO ASPIRE held a ToT (training of trainers) session on FLN (Foundational Literacy and Numeracy) competencies for 44 mobilisers and tola animators from MVF. The trainees later conducted similar orientation sessions for 94 field personnel.

A ToT session was held for 23 staff members of the project on strengthening of CPCs (child protection committees) with resource support from Save the Children. They were given inputs on child legislations and on a community-based approach to the creation of a CLFZ (child labour free zone).

The block coordinator of Khaira was invited to attend an NGOs' meeting organised jointly by the district child protection committee (DCPU) and Miracle Foundation in November.

The project team held six block level meetings in five blocks with 134 employers from the private sector to educate them on the legal implications of employing children.

CPCs were formed in 18 panchayats and 30 wards of Khaira block and two panchayats of Rohtas block. One CRPF was formed at the panchayat level with 11 members in addition to two youth associations with 18 and 11 members respectively.

Six meetings were held at the block level with 346 single women. Block level meetings were also convened in four blocks with 238 participants to discuss issues faced by CWSN (children with special needs).

A total of 41 petitions were submitted by school head teachers, the SMC and the CRPF to the District Magistrate on school functioning, infrastructure, and children's issues.

A team of four members from WNCB partners based in Vietnam and Jordan visited one village and school each in Rajapakar and Tariyani blocks in August-September to study MVF's community mobilisation strategy.

Advisory committees were formed in 83 tolas of the project area to strengthen the Remedial Centres. Each of the committees had seven to 10 members who were made responsible for strengthening the functioning and follow up on children's regularity.



# Towards child friendly pedagogy

SAVE THE CHILDREN/ Delhi and Rajasthan



It was a busy six months at Save the Children with a host of activities that brought some very positive outcomes. Over 120 government schoolteachers received orientation in 30 schools across six WNCB intervention districts of Bihar on child friendly pedagogy and communication skills to encourage quality education. It also helped to improve subject skills of teachers and made them familiar with the provisions of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986.

Teachers held dialogues with the community to spread awareness about the risks of child labour and the importance of education. Additionally, the teachers were proactive in facilitating a child friendly environment, teaching methodologies and a robust monitoring system to measure learning outcomes of children.

Ranjeet Kumar, a middle school teacher in Rajgir said, "I supported parents to

send their children to school and engage in peer-to-peer learning," adding that teachers in his school regularly track out-of-school children and provide remedial classes for children rescued from child labour.

Kanchan Kumari, a primary school teacher explained how teachers in their school "identify children who are at risk of getting into child labour and bring them back to school as part of educational rehabilitation."

## Imparting life skills

Adolescents and young people between the ages of 16 and 24 are a vulnerable lot and training them in life skills goes a long way in ensuring a successful future for them. Over the past one year, Save the Children conducted life skill sessions for around 203 youth with the aim of empowering them, enhancing their capacity, and getting them ready for future challenges in their personal

and professional lives. Meet some of the successful ones:

- In August this year, twenty-one-year-old Madhu Kumari from Kaushikpuri, East Delhi, joined Bajaj Capital at a monthly remuneration of Rs 1200, plus incentives.



She had given up on education after Class 12 due to a financial crisis in the family. Her father is a salesman with a family of six. Save the Children supported her and trained her through its livelihood initiative, after which she enrolled in a BPO vocational training course. Her hard work and a push helped her turn professional.

- Twenty-year-old Kunal Lohra from Ajeet Nagar, East Delhi was also identified for the life skills course. After the training, when he completed Class 12, he decided to enrol for Retail Management vocational training and later bagged a job as a sales tele caller at Sifa Ayurveda.
- Nineteen-year-old Salman, again from Ajeet Nagar, East Delhi, completed life skill training and went for an interview at Addrupree, a distributor of secured and unsecured loans. He was selected. Today he earns Rs 12, 500 per month at the financial services company.

## Counselling for a successful career

Youth is always vulnerable and needs a helping hand. Save the Children has been nudging 16 to 24-year-olds towards joining the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) to complete their education and move towards micro-entrepreneurship. Vocational training



was imparted to 232 youngsters to help them realise their potential.

WNCB-led community level awareness programmes in slum areas of Delhi have facilitated the spread of awareness to restore livelihoods, education rights and employment. Youngsters here were provided career counselling along with support in acquiring quality education through NIOS. The initiative saw 23 youngsters (boys-7, girls-16) enrolled in NIOS Class 10 and 12. Two girls and one boy got admitted into college through SOL (School Open Learning - Open University in Delhi). Apart from this, 167 youth (boys-57, girls-110) were identified, of which 44 boys and 67 girls took various vocational training courses and 17 boys and 51 girls got employment. Meet a few of them:

- Twenty-year-old Roshan from Tehkhand village, Okhla Phase 1, Delhi, broke the stereotype and became a successful make-up artist. His father is a fruit vendor, mother a homemaker, and his two younger siblings study in Class 12 and 9. When Save the Children met him, he was in second-year graduation and looking for a job to help support his family. During counselling the team found out what was of interest to him and enrolled him in a beautician's course at Learnet Institute. He completed his training in January 2022. After a life skills course and vocational training, he began working as a freelancer in January 2022. His monthly earnings ranges from Rs 9,000 to Rs 10,000 and goes up to Rs. 20,000 in the festive season.
- Nineteen-year-old Nisha from Geeta Colony, East Delhi needed to help her father who earns around Rs 10,000 and could not meet the expenses of their family of five. After she completed Class 12, Save the Children team identified her for the Retail Management vocational course and counselled her on how to move ahead. Despite serious challenges in the family, Nisha made it a point to complete the course. She now works with Reify Consulting Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Noida, earning Rs 10,000 per month.

- Twenty-one-year-old Rupali, who lives in Kailash Nagar, East Delhi, also needed to assist her six-member family as her father's job was dependent on factory workload and her mother was working in a low-paid thread cutting job. Save the Children identified her for the Retail Management vocational course. She faced challenges with daily conveyance but managed to attend every online and offline class. Today, Rupali works with the Symphony brand and earns Rs 14,500 per month.

## Never enrolled and dropouts inducted into formal schooling



As many as 392 children (boys -174 and girls - 218) were inducted into formal education in Delhi. Learning materials and essential stationery was provided for running the learning centres that were set up. Post-assessment tests and unit tests were conducted to evaluate the learning level improvement of the children enrolled. There were 20 group counselling sessions, a peer-to-peer learning group, a medical camp and celebration of festivals. Meritorious children received scholarships through the Buddy4Study programme.

## Campaign against Child labour in Rajasthan

Save the Children organised a state-level culmination event around the Campaign against Child Labour 2022 on November 19 under the banner of 'Rajasthan Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Child Labour'.

Children, NGOs from 13 districts and stakeholders from the government—the State Child Right’s Commission, Department of Labour, Anti-Human Traffic Unit, Rajasthan Police, and officials from the District Child Protection Unit participated in the event. The culmination event was a successive advocacy effort of district level consultation held in June 2022 with children, CSOs in 20 districts of Rajasthan. Child labour issues that had emerged included gaps in implementation of child labour laws.

At the event, children got an opportunity to interact with state representatives and shared their suggestions, recommendations to strengthen prevention, response and rehabilitation of child labourers under the existing child protection system. Towards the end of the consultation, the children submitted a Charter of Action to the administration.

#### **FAKIRANA SISTERS SOCIETY/ Bihar**

### **Committed to the cause**

The FSS sees its efforts to stop child labour as a journey. Its project is being implemented in the districts of Bettiah, Chanpatia, Jogapatti, Nautan and Bairia in West Champaran, Bihar where there are 1039 out-of-school children.



The project’s stakeholders are the under 18s, parents, youth, community members, teachers, the private sector, government, and the media. The issues they work on include community awareness, girls’ school enrolment, elimination of child labour, elimination of child marriage, youth employment, and livelihood interventions.

### **Activities that pave the way**

Towards these objectives the activities they conduct include making the community aware through mass

communication; motivating children to enrol in school, forming peer groups of both boys and girls for gender management, tracking out-of-school children and those who are irregular. In addition, bridge education centres are run. So are skill courses offering computer classes and tailoring courses.

To prepare a joint plan against employment of child labour, FSS holds meetings with the district DCPU, labour department, child line, CWC and the police. Training of newly elected Panchayat Raj Institution (PRI) members on child protection is also undertaken.

Stakeholder meets/consultations are held with private players of informal sector employers towards adoption of Children’s Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) in the domestic bidi making



sector, brick kilns, agriculture, hotels and other sectors. Individual contact is established with private sector players along with involving them in a signature campaign to stop child labour.

### **What was achieved**

There were 54 peer group meetings that raised and resolved issues of child labour, child marriage, and safeguarding child rights; 592 children between 6 to 14 years of age were enrolled in school and 56 early marriages of the girl child were delayed and solemnized after the legal age of 18; 22 adolescent girls and eight boys completed computer courses in two batches, while 20 more were admitted in ongoing classes; 45 adolescent girls completed stitching in three batches.

Besides this, a workshop on gender equality was organized in the project areas with participation by 563 adolescents. This helped to improve existing gender-based practices in the villages.

#### **NAV JAGRITI (Bihar)**

### **In the hope to eradicate child labour**

With the objective that no child should



be in employment a large number of activities were undertaken. Among them were community mobilization, community empowerment on child rights issues with special emphasis on women, and group meetings for adolescent girls and boys. Livelihood enhancement was also undertaken with active participation of the public.

The training programmes organised in the six months focussed on personality development and communication for adolescent boys and girls. It concentrated on reducing their fear/trauma during the Covid 19 pandemic period even as it exposed them to issues such as gender discrimination and its negative impact on the life of the girl child. Women too were included in this project.

There were meetings with schoolteachers and adolescent girls. Five bridge courses were offered to children who missed



out on education during the pandemic, dropouts and the non-school going.

## Livelihood promotion

Besides this, there was training on different livelihood options. Around 57 women farmers learned bee keeping skills with support from the state government's agriculture department. Beehives were provided at 90 per cent subsidy to the schedule castes and 75 per cent to the general category.

Ten women attended classes on goat rearing with the help of ICCSPL and found employment that fetched between Rs. 3000 to Rs 5000 per month. The project also trained youth and women how to cultivate mushrooms, keep a kitchen garden and poultry farming skills.

### MANJARI/ Rajasthan

## Celebrating the lives of children

On November 14 Children's Day was celebrated in all the 13 intervention locations and in the extended areas. Over 1000 children participated in different events organised at Dhaneshwar, Dhorela and Budhpura. The celebrations continued into Child Rights Week with events organised in Sukhpura, Dhorela and Budhpura. Around 350 children both in school and out of school participated in these events.

Human Rights Day was also celebrated with women workers at Dhaneshwar, where the emphasis was on dignity, freedom and justice for all.

The state government's Department of Language & Library invited Manjari



to share its experience of running a community library in Budhpura. The participants included newly recruited library counsellors for 33 districts.

December saw a lot of activity on the livelihood front. Ms Santosh Kanwar and Ms. Manbhar, residents of village Parana Karad, which was earlier in a different area are now relocated and settled in the vicinity due to expansion of the mining area.

Manjari initiated a group formation process in 2019 with the women living in this village. Now there are 14 members in the self-help group (SHG), with most either working in the mines or engaged in daily wage work such as National Employment Guarantee Programme. Santosh and Manbhar are part of the Radhika Swyam Sahayta Samooh SHG. The group holds meetings on bi-monthly basis where they discuss a range of issues—from domestic violence to livelihood enhancement. The members have been contributing Rs 200 per month, and now have a saving of about Rs 2,00,000 in their account. The group received a proposal from two members seeking financial help to set up a small flour mill. The WNCB project team undertook a feasibility analysis of the proposal and is supporting it. The Manjari team helped the women to buy the best machine. The SHG soon got its first customer and has since not looked back.

### ARAVALI/ Rajasthan

## Incorporating SDGs in gram panchayats

Aravali has actively been working with the gram panchayats. In November

they conducted sessions on the role of children, adolescents and youth in the planning process at gram panchayats. Training the trainer sessions were also organised in partnership with the Panchayati Raj development department on incorporating sustainability development goals in the gram panchayat development plan.

Sessions were also conducted on the child-friendly village concept. This was attended by 130 block level elected representatives in Jaipur.

December saw the signing of an MoU with the state government's education department to strengthen inclusive education. Thanks to this, Aravali got the opportunity to work closely with the SCERT. It has also enabled the organisation to raise the issue of first-generation learners and find alternatives for them.

WNCB's India chapter, along with Aravali, was successful in its relentless





campaign and continuous engagement with the administration. In December, a high-powered committee was formed on eradicating child labour in Rajasthan. It is composed of representatives from both the government and civil society.

According to Varun Sharma, Programme Director of Aravali, this is “a very significant milestone as based on the recommendations of the committee a state-specific action plan could be developed and the government can use their existing resources in priority districts where there is high child labour.”

A Bal Samvad was also organised in the end of December with district level government officials. Here child friendly village guidelines were adopted. Around 2000 children and 350 government officials were witness to this process

**MANJARI AND ARAVALI / Rajasthan**

**Safety first for the unorganised sector**

Both the organisations together attended a workshop organised by the Rajasthan Chapter of the Indian Association of Preventive & Social Medicine. This was attended by over 500 medical practitioners, researchers and community health experts. Manjari and Aravali shared their experience of working on occupational health issues and designing occupational health and safety strategies for workers of the unorganised sector.

**Addressing gender and social inequalities in child labour programming**

The WNCB programme aims to:

- empower children to access education and enhance their employability within a supportive family and community environment;
- improve access to decent (youth) employment;
- support governments to reform child labour laws, and implement policies on child labour, education, health empowerment, and social security; and
- to ensure that the private sector parents and addresses child labour.

**Objective:** In order to strengthen WNCB's Gender Transformative approach within the programme, a cross country gender research was commissioned for the 5 implementing countries and conducted in 5.

**Methodology:** To ensure that the country studies identified the most impacted gender gaps, the Gender and Equity Working Group developed an Integrated Framework combining traditional Gender Analysis methods, WNCB's Theory of Change and the Child Rights Approach (CRA) and Child Labour.

**Key findings:** Risk factors across the countries:

- inequities in the roles and responsibilities of protection actors are the primary risk factor of child labour;
- Gender poverty is generated as a cause of child labour;
- Local norms and social practices are key drivers of child labour, and parents play a key role in this;
- lack of parents or caregivers;
- lack of access to schools.

**Recommendations:**

- State authorities need to ensure a change in attitudes among communities, especially parents and their children regarding children's rights concerning education and working conditions;
- Addressing deep-rooted norms that disadvantage girl children in particular concerning their education and prospects for decent work is critical;
- making explicit the hidden value of girls' domestic labour and acting to change household dynamics;
- Tackling the hazardous conditions under which many children work.

Addressing Gender and Social Inequalities in Child Labour Programming: A Glimpse of Findings from Five WNCB Countries presented by the Gender Equality Working Group

**WORK: NO CHILD'S BUSINESS**

**MAKE SCHOOLS SAFE**

**The All India Primary Teachers' Federation (AIPTF)** - India's largest primary teachers' organisation with affiliates in **24 states** of India having membership of approximately **2.3 million** elementary teachers- is launching a campaign on School Related Gender Based Violence, under the child labour eradication programme **Work: No Child's Business**.

The **AIPTF** aims to ensure that all children are in schools and receiving quality public education and not engaged in any kind of labour which robs their childhood.

**ABOUT SRGBV CAMPAIGN**

The campaign is aimed to sensitize the education community, teachers, parents, students and other education stakeholders. **School Related Gender Based Violence (SRGBV)** is one of the major factors for girls dropping out from education. It violates children's fundamental human rights to safety and education and it constitutes gender discrimination. **SRGBV** also negatively affects school performance and school environment is no longer perceived as safe for learners and teachers. The teachers and education activists committed to the child labour eradication programme **Work : No Child's Business** have clearly identified **SRGBV** as a major obstacle to the right to quality education of all children, and particularly girls.



**Sexual violence** affects children and students in all countries, regardless of the levels of economic development. It also affects boys.

**SRGBV** is complex and multifaceted. The root causes do not lie in any culture, tradition or institution, but in wider structural issues, social norms and deep-rooted behaviours and daily practices that shape gender and authority.

The partners in **Work : No Child's Business** commit, with this campaign, to address the significant negative impact of **SRGBV** on health, well-being, and learning outcomes.

## About the Alliance:

Work: No Child's Business aims to contribute towards the concentrated global efforts in ending all forms of child labour by 2025. The WNCB alliance envisions a world where children and youth are free from child labour and enjoy their rights to quality education and (future) decent work, thereby contributing to SDG 8.7 in six countries- Côte d'Ivoire, Jordan, Mali, Uganda, Viet Nam, and India.



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## EDITORIAL TEAM

Garima Kaur, Editor  
Preeti Mehra, Consulting Editor

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