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Join the Campaign  
Against Child Labour

Central Secretariat, C/o RLHP, Udayagiri P.O, Mysore - 570 019.

Karnataka



# Join the **Campaign** **Against Child Labour**

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Central Secretariat, C/o RLHP, Udayagiri P.O, Mysore - 570019.

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Join the Campaign  
Against Child Labour

Central Secretariat, C/o RLHP, Udayagiri P.O, Mysore - 570 019.

## Child labour - the national scenario

Child labour is an existing and growing phenomenon. You will find a child working near you, wherever you are. You may cite several reasons for their economic exploitation and abuse. But the fact remains that the rights of the child are violated every moment. Children are not only tomorrow's citizens; they are today's citizens too! Child labour cannot be justified in any manner as it is a crime committed against a child. Child labour includes children prematurely leading adult lives, working with or without wages, under conditions damaging to their physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual development, denying them their basic rights to education, health and development. Any child out of school is a potential child labourer.

India has got the dubious distinction of employing the largest number of children in the world. According to the NSS survey (NSSO 55th Round) results there are around 10.23 million child labourers in India. CACL does not consider this figure to be accurate due to definitional problems like the exclusion of children's work in the age group below five and between fifteen and eighteen. Again, children engaged in household activities are not adequately enumerated. Multiplicity of definitions, no uniformity of age of child, different sources of data and exclusion of several sectors like domestic work and

agriculture amount to the reduced number of child labourers rather than the actual number.

About 77.2% of the 402 million workers in India are in rural areas and more than 73% engage in agriculture and related activities. It is an established fact that the structure of production is indeed a good indicator of child labour; the greater the weight of traditional agriculture in the economy, the higher the incidence of child labour. This structural characteristic is overwhelmingly true for child workers because in the organized manufacturing enterprises child labour does not exist.

The context is observed in agriculture and related activities, household work, construction, beedi making, mining and quarrying, brick kilns etc. This constitutes the largest chunk.

India promulgated the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act in 1986. Despite strong interventions by the Supreme Court, convictions have taken place only in a very few cases based on violations of the provisions of the Act. CACL considers the provisions of the Act inadequate because it makes an artificial distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous sectors and legally permits child labour in so called non-hazardous sectors.

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India is a signatory to the CRC and the laws should be framed keeping in mind the best interests of the child. A child is defined as anyone below the age of 18 years in the CRC. From field experiences, CACL has come to the conclusion that all children have the right to equal

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education in regular schools. Non - formal education or alternative schools suffer from poor quality, discrimination in the provision of opportunities, and reinforce prejudices and value judgements. When practiced by the State, non-formal and alternative schools become easy ways to escape responsibilities. Budget allocation is a measure of any government's commitment to education. Government of India allocates only 3% of its budget to education and .3% to primary education.

Child labour is denial of childhood. It is denial of child rights too! Children are eligible for the right to protection, right to survival, right to development, right to participation as the United Nations guarantees in its convention on the rights of child in 1989. These little ones undergo the worst conditions during their working life. It is applied to almost all the sectors. They are found in large numbers in sectors like diamond cutting, gem polishing, powerloom, carpet weaving, lock making, brassware, match and fireworks, glass, sericulture, garments, silk weaving, zari, handlooms and handicrafts, cotton, hosiery, hotels, garages, slate, slate pencil, beedi, circus, rope making, construction etc. Some of the pernicious characteristics of toiling children are: opportunity for the formal education is completely negated; Children as young as six years work; Employers/agents often pay an advance to the parents of these children which is adjusted against their nominal wages or not paid at all. Often their conditions are that of bonded labour and even technically they are covered by the definition of Bonded Labour under Section 2(g) of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976; Large number of children are known

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to be trafficked; They are forced to work for low wages or no wages; The hours of work are never regulated as a result of which these children have to start work as early as 5.00 in the morning and continue to work beyond 11.00 at night; They hardly get rest hours and holidays; They hardly get time and opportunity for recreation and play; Children are under the control of the employer. All through the 24 hours, everyday of their working life, they are at the employers' beck and call; These children are forced to live with extremely deplorable and congested inhuman conditions with no basic amenities like toilet, drinking water and sleeping facilities and no provision for adequate food and health care; The lack of hygiene at the work place (which is same as living place) results in multiple health hazards to the children; They are targets of torture and objects of extreme physical violence; These children are subjected to sexual molestation, harassment and rape; The girl children are more vulnerable to such abuses.

The health risks for child labourers are chronic bronchitis, tuberculosis, asthma, eye defects, burns, stunted growth, spinal problems, accidents, silicosis, infectious diseases, skin diseases, dermatitis, sexually transmitted diseases etc. Many deaths (murders!) of child labourers have been reported in several parts of the country for menial causes. But punishment of the employers is a rare phenomenon. The range of employers includes doctors, engineers, teachers, professors, lawyers, high-ranking officials, police officials and politicians! The children are employed in their houses to do the domestic chores without having any specified working hours for a



nominal sum. During the working hours, the child does undergo the torture, harassment and abuse by the employer or the members of the family. Since domestic sector does not come under the prohibition part of the law, it is considered as child protection in public! But, the government employees are prohibited from employing children under the age of 14 as domestic workers as per the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1967. Any violation of this rule will attract penalty on the employees. Though this is a ray of hope, it is hardly implemented and monitored.

#### About Campaign Against Child Labour

Campaign Against Child Labour is a national network launched in 1992, initially with a few organizations. It grew over the years and presently consists of over 6000 anti-child labour groups spread over 16 states in India. CACL has established state units in 13 states and the networking process is in various stages in 4 other states. Active women's groups, trade unions, academic institutions, media agencies, child rights and human rights organizations, research bodies, corporate houses, student volunteers and eminent citizens constitute an integral part of the campaign. The ultimate goal is to broadbase the campaign to include various concerned groups and individuals and make it a people's campaign.

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CACL is against all manifestations of child labour, in any occupation or processes of all sectors of work including the formal, informal, organized, unorganized, with or without wages, within or outside the family. CACL does not accept the classification of hazardous and non

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hazardous sectors in the CLPRA 1986, as all forms of labour are hazardous and detrimental to their development.

CACL aims to bring together groups, individuals and organizations to work collectively towards eradication of child labour and restoration of child rights. Initially, the focus of CACL was solely on the eradication of child labour. But over the years the scope of CACL activities has broadened to address the issue of child rights and human rights.

#### Aims & Objectives of CACL

- CACL aims at immediate and total eradication of child labour and ensuring fundamental right to education for all children up to 18 years.
- Create mass awareness and mobilize public opinion against child labour.
- Pressurise the Government to evolve a comprehensive policy for eradication of child labour.
- Ensure that the Government introduces and passes legislations in the spirit of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Reviewing national policies and legislations on child labour, ensuring strict implementation of existing child labour laws
- Direct intervention in cases of violations of child rights and abuse of child labourers, in the form of fact finding and litigation

- Putting forth strategies and alternatives for rehabilitation of working children.

### Structure of CACL

CACL is a national network with a presence in over 16 states. The organizational hierarchy of CACL is loosely structured to avoid bureaucratic impediments.

The Executive Committee consists of the Convenors of the State Secretariat. The EC is responsible for carrying on the programmes and policies of CACL. The EC meets once in six months and reviews implementation of programmes and policies

**National Coordination Committee:** The National Coordination Committee (NCC) consists of the State Convenor, State Coordinator and 4 active members of State CACL. The NCC is the supreme authority to decide the policies and programmes of CACL. The NCC meets once in 9 months and decides on the policies and programmes and devises an action plan for the current year.

**Central Secretariat:** The coordination of national programmes and activities is the responsibility of the Central Secretariat. The Central Secretariat implements the mandate given by the National Coordination Committee. The Central Secretariat is hosted by a CACL member organization and is shifted every three years.

**Advocacy Unit:** The Advocacy Unit is responsible for advocacy and lobbying at the national level. The Advocacy Unit is also shifted once in three years.

**Advisory Board :** CACL also has an advisory Board, which consists of eminent persons from different walks of life who offer advice from time to time on broader issues and provide direction to the campaign.

**State Secretariat:** Each state has a core committee which elects the State Convenor. A co-convenor can also be elected. The state can have a separate advocacy unit or it can be combined with the State secretariat. The State Core Committee consists of the Convenors from the District Secretariats of the State.

#### CACL activities and interventions

CACL has submitted recommendations and influenced policy decisions of the Government.

**II National Labour Commission :** Recommendations on the measures to eliminate child labour were formulated and submitted to the II National Labour Commission at the national level. State secretariats in some of the states also submitted state recommendations.

**Planning Commission :** CACL conducted two consultations - southern and northern on "Vulnerable children - Approach paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan". The consultations helped in evolving a set of recommendations to be included in the Tenth Five Year Plan, which was submitted to the Planning Commission.

**ILO :** CACL, in partnership with trade unions intends to participate and express its views on child labour in the International Labour Conference. This will influence the policies of the Government. A social audit on 15 years of interventions on child labour was organized by CACL

and other Trade unions in November 2001 at New Delhi, in this regard.

- At the state level, CACL state secretariats have influenced state government policies. The Karnataka Government launched the Action Plan for elimination of child labour, the formulation of which was assisted by CACL-K. Tamil Nadu submitted a Children's Manifesto to all the electoral candidates during the assembly elections, demanding their rights. CACL-Bihar also submitted its recommendations to the National Labour Commission. Children's Parliament was organized by CACL-Orissa

- CACL organized a national consultation on the proposed 93rd Amendment Bill, 2001 in which major networks, NGOs and child rights groups from various parts of the country took part. A common position and an alternate Bill evolved, which will form the basis of our advocacy efforts. CACL has mounted a strong campaign to influence the MPs and ensure that the Bill is passed with positive changes. Now, the Bill has received the President's assent and CACL will take an active role in monitoring the implementation and influencing legislations by the States.

- CACL organized a national consultation on child labour in hotel and domestic sectors and submitted recommendations to the Ministry of Labour and Dept of Women and Child Development to prohibit child labour in both the sectors.

CACL has intervened directly in a number of individual cases of child rights violations

- Sivamurugan was beaten to death at Vani, Maharashtra in 1993. CACL fought this case and his employer paid a compensation of Rs.1,00,000/- to his family.
- 4 children died in a fire in Arun Kumar Match factory in Tamil Nadu. The employer was forced to pay a compensation of Rs.50,000/- to each victim's family.
- Sumitra was made to work as a domestic help by the Mrs. Vimlabhai Deshmukh, a former minister in the Karnataka State Government. She was taken from Sumangali Ashram in Bangalore on the assurance that she would be adopted. CACL intervened and released the girl.
- A small girl working in a Tirupur hosiery unit had her scalp peeled off when her hair caught in an overlocking machine. CACL helped in filing a case and the Court ordered the employer to pay a compensation of over Rs.2,00,000/- to the family.

Interventions in various sectors where child labour is endemic include,

- Public Interest Litigation was filed to release and rehabilitate the children in cotton and sericulture industry in Karnataka
- Campaign against fireworks to highlight the plight of children in the fireworks manufacturing industry in Sivakasi.

- Campaign against the textile industry to expose the employment of child labourers in Tirupur of Tamil Nadu.

Some of our interventions have evoked tremendous response within the community and have proved successful. See some Instances:

- CACL - Bihar campaigned actively against child labour in Bihar and this led to the establishment of Child Labour Commission. This is a joint initiative of CACL and the Women and Child Welfare department.

- The Karnataka government launched an Action Plan for elimination of child labour, which was formulated with the assistance of CACL - Karnataka.

- Because of CACL's lobbying, many state government schemes have been launched to prevent child labour.

- CACL is motivating the Government to remove the distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous sectors and ban employment of children in all sectors.

- CACL's advocacy has resulted in 25% reservation in all Government hostels for released child labourers. This facility was very essential in the rehabilitation of the released child labourers.

- According to Supreme Court ruling in 1996 special schools for child labourers was set up. A special task force was formed to release the child labourers. After CACL's intervention, the task force recommended that the district officers be conferred the powers of a Labour Inspector.

## International treaties and Conventions

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)- 1989: India signed for CRC in 1992 and became one among the 192 signatory countries to CRC. CACL subscribes to all the articles of CRC and considers it as a major international initiative in order to protect the rights of millions of marginalized children. CACL recognizes this as one of the most important tools for lobbying and advocacy with Government.

Although India ratified the CRC, the unfortunate fact is that attempts have not been made by the government to implement the provisions of it in the country. Seven alternate country reports by different NGOs and networks including CACL were submitted to the UN in 1997. Every country that has ratified CRC has to submit the country report once in five years. There is a provision for the NGOs to submit their alternate reports to the UN. CACL had submitted the first alternate report to the UN and is planning to submit the second alternate report after the India Country report is presented to the UN. CACL in its campaign to eradicate child labour, popularizes the CRC in its working areas. Whenever the documents or recommendations are submitted to the Government, CRC provisions are quoted to make it obligatory to the cause of children.

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## Conventions 138 and 182 of ILO

International Labour Organisation, which is a tripartite body consisting of governments, employers and trade unions, has come up with major conventions in order to

eradicate child labour. India has till now ratified only six conventions. Convention 138 which has made recommendations on minimum wage and Convention 182 which is on worst forms of child labour have not yet been ratified by India. CACL intends to intensely lobby and pressurize the Government to sign these conventions relating to child labour.

#### *Nai Subah* - National event on girl child labour

CACL is now putting effort to bring the national focus on the plight of girl children by organizing a national event on girl child labour named as "Nai Subah" on March 5-7, 2003 at Mysore, Karnataka. CACL had organized the National convention of child labourers and Public hearing earlier in 1994 at Chennai and in 1997 at Delhi. The Mysore event will be the third in the series. 1200 girl child labourers working in various sectors from 20 states will be participating in this event. A national event focusing on girl child labour is an attempt to provide a common platform to share the experiences of persons involved with these children at the grassroots level and also let the children speak up for themselves. It is the constant endeavour of CACL member organizations to eradicate child labour and restore rights to every child in the country. The issues of the girl child are critical and central to any child rights restoration. Many issues and concerns like infanticide, foeticide, declining sex ratio, health and education for the girl child, gender disparities, etc. have assumed alarming proportions. The plight of the girl child labourer, especially in hidden sectors like the domestic

sector, needs our immediate intervention. These events helped in creating awareness among the public and also exerting pressure on the Government to form policies and programmes to tackle the problem. The event presently planned will help keep up the pressure on the Government to immediately implement programmes for the rehabilitation of girl child labourers.

### Why don't you join us?

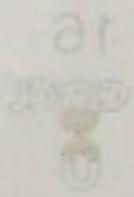
It is our collective responsibility to take care of the other children as we care for our own children. Despite the fact that there are 120 schemes and programmes attached to 12 ministries and departments for the welfare of the children in this country, it is impossible to point out at least one successful venture. Though there are a variety of laws at the national and international levels, abuse and economic exploitation of children continue to be a constant phenomenon. The nexus of bureaucrats and employers conniving with the local politicians does enough harm to the proper implementation of existing laws on child protection. Our constitutional guarantees remain in the dusty shelves of judiciary, never reach to the toiling children.

Therefore campaigning against child labour is imperative both at the individual and organizational levels. It is to be done at the local as well as the national level. It is a struggle for regaining the rights of the child who has been denied them for all these years. While campaigning against child labour, we will have to address several other issues related to children. Since child is an integral part of the society, an integrated approach that encompasses

all the aspects needs to be adopted to remove the children from labour and ensure their rights. The Campaign Against Child Labour precisely does it in 16 states of the country and relentlessly works for a better tomorrow for the working children. You can join this campaign and strengthen it with your contributions in terms of cash, kind, time and skills.

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**Laws :**

- Constitution of India
- Supreme Court/ High Court Judgments
- Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986
- Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, 2000
- Shops & Establishments Act
- Indian Penal Code (IPC)
- Criminal Procedure Code
- All India Services (Conduct) Rules
- The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933
- The Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act

**Policies :**

- National Policy for children 1974
- National Health Policy
- National Policy on Education, 1986
- National Policy on child labour (1987)
- National Nutrition Policy

**International bindings :**

- UN Declaration on the rights of the child, 1959
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989
- ILO Conventions
- World Conference on education for all, 1990
- UN Millennium Declaration, 2000

**On the Anvil :**

- Policy charter on children
- National Commission on children
- Fundamental Right to Education
- Law Commission recommendations
- Domestic Workers Bill, 2001

## SOME SCHEMES FOR CHILD PROTECTION

- National Child Labour Project (NCLP)
- International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)
- Child Labour Cell
- National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour, 1994
- Grants to voluntary Agencies (Schemes of Ministry of Labour)
- Central Adoption Resource Agency
- Scheme for assistance to Homes for infants and young children for promoting in- country adoption.
- Scheme of prevention and control of Juvenile Social maladjustment
- Integrated Programme for Street Children
- Services to children in need of care and protection (Schemes of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment)

### Education Schemes

#### Elementary & Secondary

- DPEP - 1994
- Midday Meal Scheme August 15, 1995
- Operation Black Board 1987 - 88 (Expanded in 1993-94)
- NFE -1979-80 ( 25 states )
- Lok Jumbish -Rajasthan 1991-92 (People's movement for Education for all)
- Shiksha Karmi Project 1987 - Rajasthan
- Mahila Samakhya - 1989
- National Bal Bhavan
- Integrated Education for the Disabled 1974
- Education Technology Program
- Scheme on Education Concession for children of parents killed/ disabled in armed conflict.
- Education concession for Tibetan Refugee children.
- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan

## HEALTH RISKS FOR CHILD LABOURERS - General

Beedi Rolling	: Chronic bronchitis, TB
Glass Industry	: Asthma, bronchitis, TB, eye defects, burns
Handloom & Carpet	: Asthma, bronchitis, TP, spinal problems
Zari & Embroidery	: Eye defects
Gem polishing & diamond Cutting	: Eye defects, injuries
Construction	: Accidents, stunted growth
Rag picking	: Skin diseases, infectious diseases, tetanus
Pottery	: Asthma, chronic bronchitis, TB
Stone & Slate	: Silicosis
Sex work	: STD, AIDS
Agriculture	: Hazards related to farm Machinery and pesticides
Domestic work	: Stunted growth, Dermatitis, Abuse

## Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986

### PART A Occupations

Any Occupation connected with

- (1) Transport of passengers, goods or mails by railway;
- (2) Cinder picking, clearing of an ash pit or building operation in the railway premises;
- (3) Work in a catering establishment at a railway station, involving the movement of a vendor or any other employee of the establishment from one platform to another or into or out of a moving train;
- (4) Work relating to the construction of a railway station or with any other work where such work is done in close proximity to or between the railway lines;
- (5) A port authority within the limits of any port.
- (6) Work relating to selling of crackers, and fire works in shops with temporary licences
- (7) Abattoirs / Slaughter Houses
- (8) Automobile workshops and garages;
- (9) Foundries;
- (10) Handling of toxic or inflammable substances or explosives;
- (11) Handloom and powerloom industry;
- (12) Mines (underground and underwater) and collieries;
- (13) Plastic units and fiberglass workshops.

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### PART B Processes

- (1) Bidi- making
  - (2) Carpet weaving including preparatory and incidental process thereof
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- (3) Cement Manufacture, including bagging of cement.
- (4) Cloth printing, dyeing and weaving, including processes preparatory and incidental thereto.
- (5) Manufacture of matches, explosives and fire-works.
- (6) Mica cutting and splitting
- (7) Shellac Manufacture
- (8) Soap manufacture
- (9) Tanning
- (10) Wool - cleaning
- (11) Building and Construction industry, including processing and polishing of granite stones;
- (12) Manufacture of slate pencils (including packing)
- (13) Manufacture of products from agate.
- (14) Manufacturing processes using toxic metals and substances such as lead, mercury, manganese, chromium, cadmium, benzene, pesticides and asbestos.
- (15) 'Hazardous processes' as defined in Section 2(cb) and 'dangerous operations' as notified in rules made under Section 87 of the Factories Act, 1948 (63 of 1948)
- (16) Printing as defined in Section 2(k)(iv) of the Factories Act, 1948 (63 of 1948)
- (17) Cashew and cashewnut descaling and processing
- (18) Soldering processes in electronic industries.
- (19) Agarbatti manufacturing
- (20) Automobile repairs and maintenance including processes incidental thereto, namely welding, lathe work, dent beating and painting.
- (21) Brick kilns and Roof tiles units
- (22) Cotton ginning and processing and production of hosiery goods.
- (23) Detergent manufacturing.
- (24) Fabrication workshops (ferrous and non-ferrous)

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- (25) Gem cutting and polishing.
- (26) Handling of chromite and manganese ores.
- (27) Jute textile manufacture and coir making.
- (28) Lime kilns and Manufacture of Lime
- (29) Lock making.
- (30) Manufacturing processed having exposure to lead such as primar and secondary smelting, welding and cutting of lead-painted metal constructions, welding or galvanized or zinc silicate, polyvinyl chloride, mixing (by hand) of crystal glass mass, sanding or scrapping of led paint, burning of lead in enamelling workshops, lead mining, plumbing, cable making, wire patenting, lead casting, type founding in printing shops. Store type setting, assembling of cars, shot making and lead glass blowing.
- (31) Manufacture of cement pipes, cement products and other related work.
- (32) Manufacturing of glass, glassware including bangles, florescent tubes, bulbs and other similar glass products.
- (33) Manufacturing of dyes and dye stuff.
- (34) Manufacturing or handling of pesticides and insecticides.
- (35) Manufacturing or processing and handling of corrosive and toxic substances, metal cleaning and photo engraving and soldering processes in electronic industry.
- (36) Manufacturing of burning coal and coal briquettes.
- (37) Manufacturing of sports goods involving exposure to synthetic materials, chemicals and leather.
- (38) Moulding and processing of fiberglass and plastic.
- (39) Oil expelling and refinery.
- (40) Paper making.
- (41) Potteries and ceramic industry



- (42) Polishing, moulding, cutting, welding and manufacture of brass goods in all forms.
- (43) Processes in agriculture where tractors, threshing and harvesting machines are used and chaff cutting.
- (44) Saw mill - all processes
- (45) Sericulture processing
- (46) Skinning, dyeing and processes for manufacturing leather and leather products.
- (47) Stone breaking and stone crushing
- (48) Tobacco processing including manufacturing of tobacco, tobacco paste and handling of tobacco in any form
- (49) Tyre making, repairing, retreading and graphite beneficiation
- (50) Utensils making, polishing and metal buffing
- (51) Zari making (all processes)
- (52) Electroplating
- (53) Graphite powdering and incidental processing
- (54) Grinding or glazing of metals
- (55) Diamond cutting and polishing
- (56) Extraction of slate from mines
- (57) Rag picking and scavenging

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**DOWRY SYSTEM  
LITERACY  
CHILD LABOUR**

**Saturday 3rd December 1994**

**THE MYTHIC SOCIETY HALL  
NRUPATHUNGA RD. BANGALORE - 560002**

## PROGRAMME : Saturday 3rd December '94

- 8.50 am Registration of Participants
- 9.30 am Invocation by Ujjval Vidyalaya Students
- 9.35 am Welcome address  
by the President of PeaceQuest Karnataka  
**Ms. Hemalata Mahishi**
- 9.40 am Keynote address by **Justice H.G. Balakrishna**  
(Retd. Judge, Karnataka High Court)
- 10.15 am **TEA BREAK**
- 10.30 am **Dowry System**  
Speaker : **Ms. Donna Fernandes** from  
**VIMOCHANA**
- 10.50 am A real life experience
- 11.00 am **Literacy**  
Speaker : **Dr. A.S. Seetharamu** from  
**I.S.E.C.**
- 11.30 am **Child Labour**  
Speaker: **Ms. Caroline Wesley** from (CWC)  
**CONCERNED FOR WORKING CHILDREN**
- 11.50 am A real life experience
- 12 noon Slide Show on Child Labour by  
**Dr Vasundhra**

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12.15 - 1.15 pm

## LUNCH BREAK

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1.15 pm

Skit on Child Labour by M.E.S. Teachers College  
*Quest* Club representatives

1.30 pm

**GROUP DISCUSSION**  
Separate Group Discussion on  
the three different topics.

2.30 pm

## TEA BREAK

2.45 pm

Presentation of Group discussion :  
Dowry, Child Labour and Literacy

3.45 pm

Vote of Thanks.

## SPONSORS

The Management of *PeaceQuest* Karnataka Foundation thanks the following for their very generous contributions made towards sponsoring this Workshop

Mr. D.K Chowta, Managing Director of PC Exports Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Rajesh Jain.

M/s Professional Communications.

Mr. R.N. Mani of Dot-Line Process.

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## PeaceQuest International

The Global *Quest* Club project aims to empower students and educators to work for a healthy and peaceful future. By promoting the youth to Act Locally and Think Globally, it gives an opportunity to change one's surroundings in a global context. *Quest* Clubs seek to cooperate actively with partner Clubs in different countries giving their grassroots initiative a truly international character.

The Head office was set up in Stockholm (Sweden) in 1983 and as the Movement grew, offices were set up in Washington DC (USA), Riga (Latvia), Bangalore (India) and in the near future an office will be set up in Lusaka (Zambia)

The first Peace*Quest* Tour was conducted in 1988 with participants from Sweden, Russia and the United States. The Tour visited the decision makers in all the three countries with the message of peace and cooperation in the ongoing Cold War.

## PeaceQuest Karnataka

In May 1994 Mr Valentin Seveus one of the founders of Peace*Quest* (established in Sweden in 1983) came to Bangalore to set up the first Peace*Quest* office in India. Thus the Peace*Quest* Karnataka Trust was formed. Mrs Hemalata Mahishi, a leading advocate, is its Founder President.

The *Quest* Movement in Karnataka has focussed on six colleges. These are: Acharya Women's 1st Grade College (Gauribidanur), Al-Ameen College, M.E.S. Teacher's College, St Joseph's College of Commerce, Ujjval Vidhyalaya (Whitefield) and Vidya Vardhaka Sangha. Various activities such as debates, quiz, skits, discussions, surveys and poster campaigns have been conducted by these Clubs.

The progress of the movement will be evaluated regularly and further expansion will then be planned.

The organisation has a newsletter called *Shanthi Quest*, the first edition of which was published in November 1994.

Article 18. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20. A) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. B) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21. A) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. B) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country. C) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22. Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23. A) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. B) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. C) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection. D) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24. Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25. A) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. B) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26. A) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. B) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedom. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. C) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27. A) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. B) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28. Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29. A) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible. B) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society. C) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth in herein.

## Extract of the Universal declaration of Human Rights,

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 3. Everyone has the right to a life, liberty and security of a person.

Article 4. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6. Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7. All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.

Article 8. Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by the law.

Article 9. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10. Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11. A) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to the law in a public trial.

B) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law at the time when it was committed.

Article 12. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13. A) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. B) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14. A) Everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. B) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15. A) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

B) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16. A) Men and Women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and its dissolution. B) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. C) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17. A) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. B) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

## Summary of the Key-note address of Justice H.G Balakrishna.

### Human Rights

Human Rights have been described as the Gadfly of International law. Today, they have acquired an air of legitimacy and compulsion not only in International affairs but also in the relations between the State and its citizens especially in countries which believe in Rule of Law, democracy and self government. Human Rights have moved on to the centre-stage today in Global relations, stressing the need to emphasise and encourage the effective exercise of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights and freedoms.

Human rights emanate from the Natural Law Concept that the rights are universal, inalienable possessions of the individuals everywhere as expressed by great thinkers like John Locke, Montesquieu, the authors of the Magna Carta and the famous declaration of independence by Thomas Jefferson.

The urgency and relevance of human rights was keenly felt after the end of World War II as the war revealed the horrors inflicted by Nazi Germany on utterly helpless civilian population and the mass genocide of innocent people.

World-wide support grew for the formulation of human rights standards. America took the initiative for inclusion in its foreign policy, for the first time in its relations with other nations. Even before America entered into World War II, president Roosevelt delivered his Four Freedoms Speech on 6-1-1941 and defined the four basic rights essential to the restoration of World Order. They are:

1. Freedom of Speech and Expression.
2. Freedom of Religion.
3. Freedom from Want.
4. Freedom from fear everywhere in the world.

These ideas of human rights were reflected in the Atlantic Charter announced on 14-8-1941 by the Big Two namely President Roosevelt and Sir Winston Churchill.

Later, in the U.N declaration of 1942 which paved the way for U.N's establishment in 1945, the signatory countries solemnly promised adherence to the Atlantic Charter. Article 55 and 56 of U.N Charter predicate the assurance that U.N would promote "Human rights, and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion" and would require all member nations to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the U.N.

On 10 th December 1948, the U.N General Assembly baptised the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. India signed Atlantic Charter before independence and signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights after Independence. Let it be known that the Declaration was formed by the principles of the American Bill of Rights, the British Magna Carta, and the French Declaration of the rights of men.

Besides the covenants drawn up by the Human Rights Commission, the U.N and its specialised agencies have written several other human rights conventions which include one on Genocide adopted by the U.N General Assembly on 9-12-1948 and one on the political rights of women adopted in 1950.

The largest Human rights organisation is Amnesty International which is an independent body funded by subscriptions and donations from its more than 500,000 members world-wide, and being based in London, it claims to have more than 3000 local groups in more than 50 countries including Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America and Middle East in order to monitor human rights practises.

Amnesty International bases its assessments on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international declarations. It is the chief source of information for the U.S State Department's annual country practises Reports.

There are three categories of human rights.

1. The right to be free from governmental violations of the integrity of the person. Such violations include, torture, cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary arrest, or imprisonment, denial of fair public trial and invasion of home or privacy.
2. The right to the fulfilment of such vital needs as food, shelter, medicare (Health care) and education
3. The right to enjoy civil liberties and political liberties like freedom of thought, of religion, of assembly, of speech, of the press, freedom of movement both within and outside one's own country and freedom to take part in government. Recognised by the U.N, the list of human rights includes the rights of the Child, vacations with pay for workers, maternity leave, full employment and free medicare.

### Child Labour

Our Constitution prohibits Child labour but the practise persists. Ineffectiveness of the constitution in this regard needs analysis. The constitution is not self-executing instrument. It is the people who should be vigilant and ensure that the constitution is honoured. How, is the question.

1. By creating public awareness.
2. By educating the child about its constitutional rights.
3. By taking the bureaucrats to task for not implementing the law.
4. By educating and pressurising the political parties.
5. By educating the parents.
6. By encouraging the children to go to schools in order to avail themselves of the right to free and compulsory education.
7. By renewing the laws in order to eradicate the defects in the legislations.
8. By forming a consortium of social activists, voluntary agencies, lawyers and judicial officers as well as Legislators to put their heads together for revising the laws relating to prohibition of child labour.
9. By initiating public interest litigation before the courts for enforcement of the law.
10. By introducing the Child Rights Convention in the curriculum of studies at appropriate level of education.
11. By coordinating and centralising the work of various governmental departments to improve the lot of children.
12. By fixing accountability on the power-wielders by legislation for non-implementation of child labour laws.

### Dowry system

This evil has been dogging our society and has taken a heavy toll of innocent and helpless women. The fault lies with the men who are after money and who use the wife as the lever. Though there is a law prohibiting dowry, it has not been effective. Why is it so?

1. Man has become half monkey and half beast. The moral, ethical and spiritual values have been brushed aside. He regards marriage as sale of the bride. To him, the marriage is neither a sacramental tie nor a social contract. To him, it is a sale agreement. This mental attitude must change. A psychological revolution has to be started to educate the male and transform the animal in man into a divine man. The horrors of dowry practise have to be driven home, may be, at the early stages of education and that to demand and take dowry is a sin must be driven home. Tender age is the best stage to enlighten the boy and girl of the evils of dowry system. What would he do if it happens to his sister?
2. By effective enforcement of law.
3. By helping the court with sufficient evidence.
4. By educating the prosecutors, police officers, judicial officers and lawyers of the spirit of the legislation.

5. By awarding punishment commensurate with the gravity of the offence.
6. By not compromising with the evil by refusing to accept compensation from the accused and by refusing to withdraw the case or by not indulging in overt or covert sabotage of the case for the sake of money.
7. By shifting the burden of proof on the accused.
8. By speedy disposal of cases.
9. By the Bar extending free legal aid to the victim's parents.

### Compulsory education

Free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 years has been made a fundamental right by the Supreme Court. Education imparts knowledge and knowledge is power. The primary duty of every state is to give free and compulsory education to all up to the age of 14 years as seen from Article 45 of our constitution.

The child has the right to be educated. The parents are duty-bound to send the children to school. The constitution envisaged the total implementation of the right within 10 years from the date of commencement of the constitution. But 45 years have elapsed. The job has not been completed. What is the remedy?

1. Create awareness among the parents and the children.
2. By having primary schools in every village in accordance with the child population apart from Urban areas.
3. By enlisting the help of Big business houses and charitable foundations and philanthropers including political parties in the establishment and maintenance of primary schools apart from the obligation of the state in doing so.
4. By locating the schools at convenient distance from the village.
5. By providing sufficient teachers and proper conditions for teaching.
6. By providing free mid-day meals to children in order to ease the burden on the poor parents, having due regard for nutrition.
7. By changing the pattern and nature of education so that it is productive and profitable to the child and its family, with emphasis on self-employment.
8. To fix accountability on the officials for not implementing the constitutional obligation.
9. To revise the pattern and nature of education to be imparted to the children up to the age of 14.
10. By paying due attention especially to the street children in educating and rehabilitating them.
11. By giving due importance to good teaching.
12. By ensuring that the standards set up by CRC are adhered to in the matter of educating the child.
13. To popularise social, legal or judicial activism to respond to the specific needs of the girl child regarding her right to survival development, protection and participation.
14. To introduce more stringent laws prohibiting female foeticide, compulsory registration of births and deaths of all female children in particular and provide equal opportunity for girls and boys to participate in all social sector schemes dealing with health, nutrition and education.
15. By community awareness campaign through mass media and door to door approach regarding the values of Primary education in a more vigorous and effective manner.
16. By liberating the child from bonded labour.
17. In the establishment of primary schools, the simple, utilitarian and economical structures as found in Kerala state is worthy of emulation, in preference to concrete or brick-made buildings.
18. To build lobby and pressure groups to get the work done.
19. There is an alarming increase in school-dropouts and it is necessary to examine the causes and to devise the remedies.
20. There is gender bias against girl-child especially in rural areas thereby affecting their education and steps should be taken to remove the misconception of the parents.

## Conclusion

Human rights vanish into thin air when they are in the vortex of international power politics when principles are compromised and the real champions of human rights are confined to the wheelchair helplessly watching murders being committed on the other side of the street.

The cause of human rights flashed across the international scene like the shooting star, bright, amazing and fleeting. Suddenly the sky is empty and it seems as if the event is remembered only by academic astronomers busily engaged in analysing their findings. The motely crowd of human right exponents are engaged in an endless struggle and Human rights has become a relatively low cost enterprise and a twentieth century novelty according to some critics.

Pascal exclaimed three centuries ago that what is truth on one side of the Pyrenees is false on the other. Today, it is no less true. Human rights are looked at differently in Totalitarian States as well as Theocratic States though what is good for the goose ought to be good for the gander.

There is a strange co-existence of good and evil in all societies and so in the human beings. The effort is to minimise the evil and not to totally eliminate it. But one thing is certain to my mind and that is, man's inhumanity to man can be stemmed if in the mind of man, the seeds of compassion, Dharam, truth, morality, and justice and fair-play germinate. There is much to learn from the law of nature. I repeat the words of William Wordsworth.

"One impulse from the vernal wood, may teach you more of man, of moral, evil and good than all the sages can."

What the concept of human rights ultimately means is the transformation of man and the system into a divine force.

## Beautiful Thoughts

One of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is that all men are born equal. The preamble to our constitution proclaims dignity of the individual and unity of the nation. Our society has not given up social hierarchy and fragmentation on the basis of high and low. There is an undeniable division of our society with graded inequality in social life. How can we expect unity of the nation with a divided society? The social evil is still persisting despite constitutional declaration. There should be a confluence of the philosophy of our constitution and the social philosophy. Is it not time to break out of this artificial barrier which has seriously damaged the integrity of our country?

The flower of freedom and democracy can only flourish in a virtuous garden, is a vision which should not allude us.

There must be a passion and capacity for the enjoyment of liberty. There must be a sense of personality in each and respect for a personality in all, generally spread through the whole community of human beings, if a truly democratic state can be fully achieved. This is possible only in a community which has achieved a sufficient standard of material existence and a sufficient degree of homogeneity to devote itself to an ideal of liberty which has to be worked out in each by the common effort of all. Achievement of quality of life is an ideal dream of all freedom-loving people.

If the problem of national homogeneity is still insistent and there is no common feeling of fellowship, if some sections of the community are regarded by others as essentially alien and heterogeneous either on ground of their inferior education or on ground of their inferior stock or descent or on any other ground, the ideal of common life of freedom will be an illusion.

# PEACEQUEST

## The Global Quest Club project

● Empowering students and educators  
to work for a healthy and peaceful future

Promoting Democracy, Human Rights and  
peaceful Management of conflicts  
all over the World

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PeaceQuest International  
1994

## **Longing for Peace**

is part of Humankind's quest for a better life. War and violence in the 1990s still plague many parts of our world. We are all threatened by the prevailing risks of the failure to dismantle nuclear arsenals.

The *PeaceQuest* movement believes in the need and opportunity to empower youth, students and educators to be able to work for a healthy and peaceful future. Our programmes and activities are designed to provide an initiative to youngsters and adults to support positive change through education, tolerance and communication. We like to believe that we humans can develop the skills essential to the realization of lasting peace and sustainable development on Earth.

## **Think Globally**

Most problems facing the world today can only be solved at the international level. Issues such as global warming, disarmament, and trade regulations affect people across national borders. National and international decisions must be favourable for all humanity.

## **Honour Differences**

People hold many different beliefs and values. Honouring these differences, cultural and otherwise, is essential for peace. We can learn to cooperate as much with people and nations with different values as we do with our closest friends.

## **Recognize Similarities**

By focusing on our common beliefs, problems and goals, instead of our differences, we shift attention to action which is both supportive and constructive. The common bond of our humanity provides a potential for unity that by far exceeds the limits of our respective value systems.

## **Accept Opportunities**

Peace-making is everyone's business. Each and every individual can make a difference in one way or another. We must strive to seize opportunities to improve life at all levels - personal, local, regional and global. *PeaceQuest* offers opportunities to meet this challenge through a variety of creative activities.

## Programmes and Activities

**QuestClubs.** The Global *Quest* Club project invites students and educators from all continents to contribute to the planning of their future through a practical and constructive approach. This exercise in "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally" gives the opportunity to organize seminars and activities in schools and communities around themes including Democracy, Human Rights, Conflict Management, Environment Awareness and Sustainable Development.

*Quest* Clubs cooperate actively with partner Clubs in different countries, giving their grassroots initiative a truly international character.

**Peace*Quest* Tours.** In this unique student-diplomat exchange programme, young questers from different backgrounds tour together in search of knowledge and approaches for creating peace between peoples. Since 1988, *PeaceQuest* Tours have brought together young people from East and West Europe, North America and Asia. On tour, *PeaceQuesters* discuss politics, economics and history with diplomats and fellow-students, professors and grandmothers, scientists and steelworkers. They sample the arts, appear on TV and learn about local culture. From Ministries to family kitchens, *PeaceQuesters* experience both political and everyday life.

**International Youth Camps.** Each year, young people from around the world come together to form a "global village" in the countryside, learning about each other's culture and government, hopes and fears. They argue, play sports, and above all become friends. "Enemy" stereotypes shatter, assumptions change and together they plan their future.

**Peace Seminars.** In week-long seminars in capital cities stretching from Washington to New Delhi, students from different countries are introduced to the theory and practice of international peace-making. They attend lectures, do creative exercises and question diplomats, politicians and activists on current events.

**Education Campaigns.** Information campaigns on issues of global concern are initiated year-round by members of the *PeaceQuest* network. For current and future decision-makers, information on such issues as Human Rights and Sustainable Development is the key to empowerment for change.

## **PeaceQuest**

is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to peace education and citizen diplomacy. Its activities embraces a growing number of countries.

Guided by a vision of a future world defined by lasting, positive peace, sustainable development, democracy and human rights, PeaceQuest members have been innovators of unique peace education programmes for over 10 years. Your participation in PeaceQuest can influence the fate of the Earth!

### **The Global Quest Club Project** in brief

#### **To empower students and teachers to work for a healthy and peaceful future**

- \* Clubs associated with schools and colleges promote participatory democracy, awareness of and respect for human rights and conflict management through education and training, supporting a transition towards peace.
- \* First clubs in Latvia 1993, activities 1994 in Karnataka, Zambia and Chile, from 1995 in more countries.
- \* Development of Club models concentrated to Bangalore (from June 94); well functioning models and materials then to be used initially in Karnataka, Zambia and Chile.
- \* Initiation of and continuous support to Quest Club activities through regional PeaceQuest Centers.
- \* Longer term goal: Well established global network of Quest Clubs, making a significant, sustainable contribution to the cause of peace. Growing number of decision-makers with Quest Club background will support peace education and contribute to conflict management resources in their countries and well as globally.
- \* International coordination work is presently done by PeaceQuest International board members, Alan Frisk (USA/Latvia), Valentin Seveus (Sweden), and Jakob Strom (Sweden). Evolving partner organizations (PeaceQuest /Karnataka, PeaceQuest/Zambia etc) in different areas to successively involved in evaluation and consultations.

## Join the *Quest* !

- I would like to be part of the *PeaceQuest* network  
 as a member of a *Quest Club* in my school, college or community  
 As an individual member associated directly with a *PeaceQuest* center or *PeaceQuest International*  
 as an organizational/corporate member
- I would like to form or support the formation of a *Quest Club* in my school, college or community
- I would like to support the Global *Quest Club* project by  
 a monetary donation  otherwise

BLOCK LETTERS OR TYPE PLEASE!

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post code \_\_\_\_\_ State/Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

School/Institution \_\_\_\_\_

*Quest Club* \_\_\_\_\_

If student, grade \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other info \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed my membership fee/contribution of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (amount/currency)

Please, contribute as much as you can. (No fixed fee).

I wish to qualify as a non-paying member

Please make cheques payable to *PeaceQuest*. - Send or give this form to a *PeaceQuest* representative or a center.

## **PeaceQuest/Karnataka**

is the newest regional *PeaceQuest* organization, established in June 1994 at Bangalore, the capital of the South Indian state of Karnataka. The Bangalore Center coordinates the international work of the *Global Quest Club* project in coordination with the center in Stockholm.

The **Board of Trustees** consists of Hemalata Mahishi, President, S Ramesh, Treasurer, B M Muddaiya, Secretary, Shanta Diwakar and Rajesh Jain.

## **PeaceQuest International**

is registered in Washington, DC, as a non-profit organization. The **Board of Directors** is presently constituted by: Valentin Sevcus, President, Franklin Lee, Vice-President, Alan E Frisk, Executive Secretary, Michael Brown, Olaf Eggeberg, Patrik Englund, Nancy Iskenderian, Fredrik Jonsson, Marsha Stithem, Jakob Strom and Jamie Wellik.

The **Advisory Board** consists of: Alexander Bazarov (Ukraine), Alexei Belyukov (Russia), Robert Bussow (Germany), Mohammed Darawshe (Israel), Nikolai Doroshenko (Russia), Ina Dubovik (Ukraine), Shirley Farlinger (Canada), Suman Khanna (India), Jan Lonn (Sweden /Switzerland), Reward Simbeye (Tanzania), Bill Stilwagen (USA), Marcin Talwik (Poland) and Igors Tipans (Latvia).

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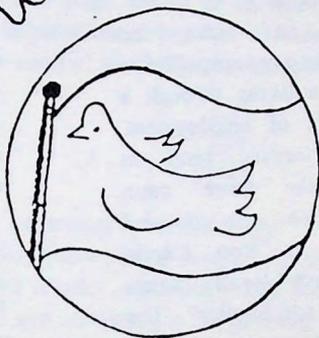
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# SHANTHI QUEST

Vol:1 No:1, November 1994

*Think Globally*



*Act Locally*

**Quest Clubs in Bangalore:**  
*Indeed a Need ?*

**Exciting Seminar in Sight:**  
*The right to be human !*

**Painting Competition:**  
*What is happening in schools  
on the 9th of November?*

**Peace Components:**  
*Sharing our thoughts.*

**The Club Page:**  
*The Quest has started. Club by  
Club*

**Mahila Samakhya:**  
*A report from the fields*

**PeaceQuest/Karnataka**  
(Bangalore Center)

## Quest Clubs in Bangalore- indeed a need?

It is a strange twist of fate that to the land of YOGA, AHIMS(A Non-Violence) and SPIRITUALISM, a cool breeze of Peace education blows from far of Sweden. This is the land of Buddha and Gandhi, yet ironically, it is a land where the need for an education to achieve Peace in all its rich hues, not only exists, but is also an urgent necessity.

Usually in India, an individual's major preoccupation is that of making a living through a dependable form of employment. Thus one's priorities tend to converge on the three main essentials as we see it and colloquially put as "Roti, Kapda and Makaan" which literally means "Bread, Clothing and Shelter". The need to link up issues greater than oneself requires to be emphasised. Here is where the Quest Clubs come in.

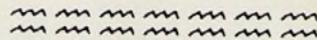
The great loss suffered by humanity due to the progressive deterioration of the flora and fauna of the country is now making people sit up and think. There is a need to act now so that succeeding generations benefit from our efforts

and the world remains green and beautiful. Quest Clubs could participate actively to achieve some results in this field too.

Illiteracy and Poverty are characteristic companions in developing countries. These are problems that take a long time to overcome. Particularly so when there is a population explosion. One of the evils of this situation is child labour. One sees children trying to earn a living at work all day, when they should actually have been at school. They have lost their childhood. Quest Clubs could contribute significantly by teaching such children in the evenings or at suitable hours during the weekend.

The theme "Think Globally-Act Locally" sounds very encouraging to pursue. One could learn to take one's first steps to grow into a full fledged citizen of the world by the initial progress made in one's own neighbourhood. The movement can thus slowly and surely grow into a force to reckon with.

- B.M.Muddaiya



# PEACE ACTIVITIES by Questers

SHANTHI QUEST is a newsletter for the members of PeaceQuest / Karnataka. Opinions published are not necessarily those of the organisation.  
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(attn. PeaceQuest)

Here are some thoughts on three of the major components of PEACE that we have been introducing to the *Quest* Clubs in Karnataka.

### *Conflict Management— Live and let live* Diffuse tension

Conflict is a part of life it is as natural as living itself. It exists in various forms and in varying intensity in almost every sphere of human activity. Our concern is to seek ways and means of managing conflicts which, if left unattended to or mismanaged, could lead to violence or even large-scale bloodshed.

Prejudices exist in the mind of a person or a group of persons. These are the nurseries where conflict takes root. Prejudices are often based on mistaken concepts. The key to overcoming such a state is "communication". A dialogue on the areas of conflict is an essential tool for its management. It could lead to a clear identification of the stands of the parties concerned, and the specific issues get defined. The next stage would be an acceptance of these positions. Thereafter come the negotiations, where the attitude of give-and-take plays a significant role. The conflict would thus be narrowed down and hopefully a solution found.



### *Democracy— "Information is the currency of democracy"*

Democracy is an age-old concept. Most people would probably agree that it is a good thing to have. But what is more important is that we need to cherish democracy, learn to defend it and strengthen it. Democratic thinking also has to be incorporated into everyday life— at the home, school/college, work etc.

Democracy should be made to work in a peaceful manner. Tolerance, cooperation, respect for human rights, civic responsibility and awareness of one's duties, are some of the key factors upon which democracy depends. A free flow of unbiased information, plenty of open dialogue and negotiation, and the ever vigilant 'watchdog' citizen— all this is needed if democracy is to flower and flourish. So let's work together to make it really work for us!



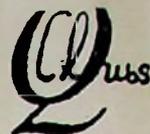
### *Human Rights— For a kinder world*

The inequalities in nature's creations are called to one's notice by the proverbial reference to the human fingers being of different sizes. The animal world has a law of its own and there is no unnecessary harassment, torture or genocide. The law of the jungle aims at a balance in natural existence.

The human being unfortunately does not seem to be so governed. Each day one hears of reports of atrocities committed against some people or other. The greater tragedy here is that the victims themselves are rarely guilty individually or collectively of any crime that has been adjudged in a court of law. This state of affairs gave rise to the creation of the Human Rights Bill of the UN.

It is now necessary to draw the attention of those who lead comfortable lives, that persecution in varying degrees may exist even in one's own neighbourhood. Child labour, dowry system, female infanticide, the ill treatment of the girl child are some of the instances which highlight that the UN Bill needs to be further publicised. *Quest* Clubs intend to take up these issues to spread awareness among people so that the victimisation of the innocent could be reduced progressively and stopped finally.

# The Quest Club Page!



PeaceQuest Karnataka is part of the Global Quest Club Project. This is what the different colleges in Bangalore have done so far: Club by Club. For the next edition of SHANTHI QUEST we hope the Clubs themselves will contribute to this page.

## Ujjval Vidhyalaya

The Club members here are 16-17 years old. The first Club meeting was held on the 8th of August. The college premises are very green and peaceful-an ideal place to start a Quest Club. The members have decided to embark upon an "Each One, teach one" Campaign. This is a project where students donate some time for teaching a child or even an adult, or atleast motivating him/her to study. The Club members will also observe one day as "Cleanliness Day" in the college. So far they have presented a discussion and skit about the Hindu - Muslim conflict, a very relevant theme in Bangalore today. The elected President here is V Srinivas Chari. Mr. M. L. Ramesha is Club Coordinator.

## M.E.S Teachers College

The first Club meeting was held on the 25th of August. POK had anticipated 15 volunteers but 34 showed up and the very enthusiastic response came as a pleasant surprise! Group leaders were chosen. Sunny Augustine was unanimously nominated President. The Coordinator here is Mr. A. N. Vijaya Murthy. The Club has been very active inspite of a hectic academic schedule. So far they have put up a presentation on the bus system in Bangalore, a programme on child labour including a moving skit and a very organised and well planned discussion on the caste system.

## St. Joseph's College of Commerce and Business Administration

The 1st meeting was held on 2nd September, and Ketan Gupta was nominated President. Mr. Jerome Nirmalraj is the Coordinator. A POK sponsored poster campaign on burning issues like child labour, environment, the girl child etc is now the major project. The posters will be exhibited at different college festivals- an excellent way of promoting PeaceQuest. The Club is also planning a donation campaign of the excess food from five star hotels to orphanages and old age homes.

## Vidya Vardhaka Sangha 1st Grade College

We established a Club on the 30th of August. Office-bearers were nominated unanimously. The students seem to be really interested in the Movement and are led by Ms. Jasantha Dorairaj. The President here is B. V. Sandhya.

## Al-Ameen College

PeaceQuest staff addressed the Class representatives on the 8th of September. The response from the students has been very enthusiastic. We are yet to form a Club at this college, but we are very eager to do so. Al-Ameen is a predominantly Muslim college and is for men only. Mr. Mirza Ali Abbas and Mr. Shabeed Khan will spearhead the Movement.

## Acharya Women's College

This college is situated in a small town called Gauribidanur in Kolar district. We set up a Club here on the 20th of September. The response from these "rural" young women has been overwhelming. The President of the Club, Miss Roopa, was elected by a secret ballot. The Principal, Mr. K. Varaha Murthy, himself is Club Coordinator. There are seventy-six members as of date!

### The Quest for an emblem

Our organization is looking for a mark of identification-an Emblem. We plan to hold a competition in colleges where we have Quest Clubs. Students have been asked to draw an attractive, innovative and eyecatching emblem which can also be reproduced on a small badge. The deadline for this competition is 31st October in order to have it ready for the seminar.

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### Painting Competition

On the next page Sangeeta has written an article on Children's Day. To commemorate this day, we are arranging a painting competition under the aegis of PeaceQuest Karnataka. The theme will be the Dangers of Violence/War. School children of M.E.S. Ujjval Vidhyalaya and Vidya Vardhaka in Bangalore and Acharya Women's College in Gauribidanur shall participate. The participants are divided into two groups, one group with children from the 1st to the 4th class and the other group consisting of children from 5th class upto the 10th. The competition is to take place on the 9th of November and the winners' names are to be announced on Children's Day- 14th November. The Quest Club in the school will select the ten best and send them to the POK office where a panel of judges will select the two best in each category.

### The right to be Human!

✓

We are planning to conduct a seminar/ workshop on Dec. 3rd, 1994 on some of the socio/economic aspects of Human Rights viz. Dowry system, Child Labour and Literacy. This will be our first opportunity to have representatives of all our Clubs under one roof, for at least a few hours. It is an exciting prospect. We see Club members making new friends, learning of Club activities and practices at other colleges. To us it would seem like a large family get-together.

To ensure that we capitalize on such a meet, we plan to organise a programme where every member will be encouraged to participate. It is intended to have a formal opening session of about 90 minutes. In this, a keynote address on Human Rights will be delivered by a prominent speaker, the other invited speakers will each deal with one of the three subjects chosen.

This is to be followed by group discussions. Three groups are to be formed. Student members are expected to lead the discussions. Finally, chosen representatives of each group will be called upon to address the audience on the subject. They may propose a plan of action for Quest Clubs to pursue- to act locally and contribute in their own way towards the progress of humanity.

Invitations for this seminar will be sent to the Clubs, when all the necessary details have been worked out.

-Shashi Ramachandra

## Children's Day

In India, the 14th of November is a special day. It is the birth anniversary of our first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Chacha (Uncle) Nehru loved children and celebrating his birthday as Children's Day is one way of paying tribute to this jovial, humane and almost child-like side of his personality.

Personally, I never made much of Children's Day as a kid. It was a school holiday and that meant a day off and wow, that seemed like so much fun! No school, no studies. Great!

Today, my perceptions have changed. Children's Day has assumed a new significance. As I emerged from the blissful ignorance of childhood to those "difficult" teenage years and then moved on to early adulthood, and finally an adult (Thank Goodness), I am saddened. Saddened by scenes of poverty, hunger, exploitation, sorrow and despair. And when I see children suffer for no fault of theirs, I realise how fortunate I was to have had a "good" childhood.

Children's Day receives much media coverage. The P.M. and the President felicitate a select few on this day. Sweets and candy is distributed and there is much gaiety in the air. That's it. The day is over and the sun goes down. It rises again the next day and life moves on.

I believe we should think about the state of children all over the world. Children are our treasure and they shall inherit the Earth. They are our future and our hope. Children's Day is here to remind us that we need to learn more about young people, their hopes and aspirations, their dreams and desires, their problems and difficulties. We need to take children seriously, respect them as individuals and allow them to grow. They need SPACE and tenderness, love and affection, and discipline but not harshness.

I think children should enjoy themselves everyday and more so on Children's Day. I really hope that teachers, educators, parents and all 'grownups' make this day a memorable one. Children need to feel really special and cherished. My teachers didn't really do that for me. But I hope kids today are made to feel very good, especially on Children's Day.

- Sangeeta Cavale



## Rooted in Reality -reaching for the stars

As a volunteer for Peace Quest Karnataka, I have come in contact with another NGO (Non Governmental Org.) called Mahila Samakhya M.S Karnataka is a women's organisation and works in rural areas. The idea is to form groups-Sanghas in villages. MSK believes that the most important task is to enable rural women to articulate their feelings and experiences and to allow themselves personal space.

The sangha brings together women belonging to various religions, castes, classes and social backgrounds. This makes it develop a strength and a character of its own. Sanghas organise themselves into committees at the village, taluk, district and state levels. There are committees for literacy, environment, health and economic development programmes.

One or two women of each committee get training in a district workshop and when they go back to the sangha in their village, they will share their knowledge with the others.

### A Swede in the Fields

I left for Bijapur on the 27th of September, the ride for 10 hours was an adventure in itself. Bumpy and with loud Hindi music for several hours. It was early in the morning when I reached the MSK house outside Bijapur. I had come to observe a Sahayogini meeting. A Sahayogini is like a tutor for about 10 villages. In Bijapur district there are 20 Sahayoginis and I was about to attend their monthly meeting. The meeting goes on for three days and it is the forum for the Sahayoginis to talk about the present problems facing the sanghas as well as discussing different topics like leadership and the future of Mahila Samakhya.

The day started with singing a song and then lighting a candle and quietly concentrating about the topic for the day before discussing it. I was thrilled to see and feel the intensity of the discussions (unfortunately I didn't understand all of it since my knowledge of languages does not include Kannada, but I understood the

context, and was most impressed.)

In the evenings I was happy whenever there was a power shutdown since that meant entertainment in the form of singing and dancing in the light of a gas lamp- exotic for a Swede!

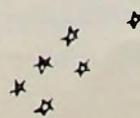
A health seminar had been arranged by the Rotary Club in Bijapur. All the Sahayoginis were present as well as around 100 sangha women. The MSK coordinator in Bijapur, Ms. Nirmala Shiraguppi was invited to talk and the Rotary Club wanted me to speak about what I was doing in India and what I thought about their seminar. Although I was very nervous, I managed to speak beautifully about the PeaceQuest Movement and thanked them for inviting me. One of the most memorable moments was when a sangha woman told those gathered at the auditorium- This is not a drama, this is our reality. So go out to your villages and WORK!

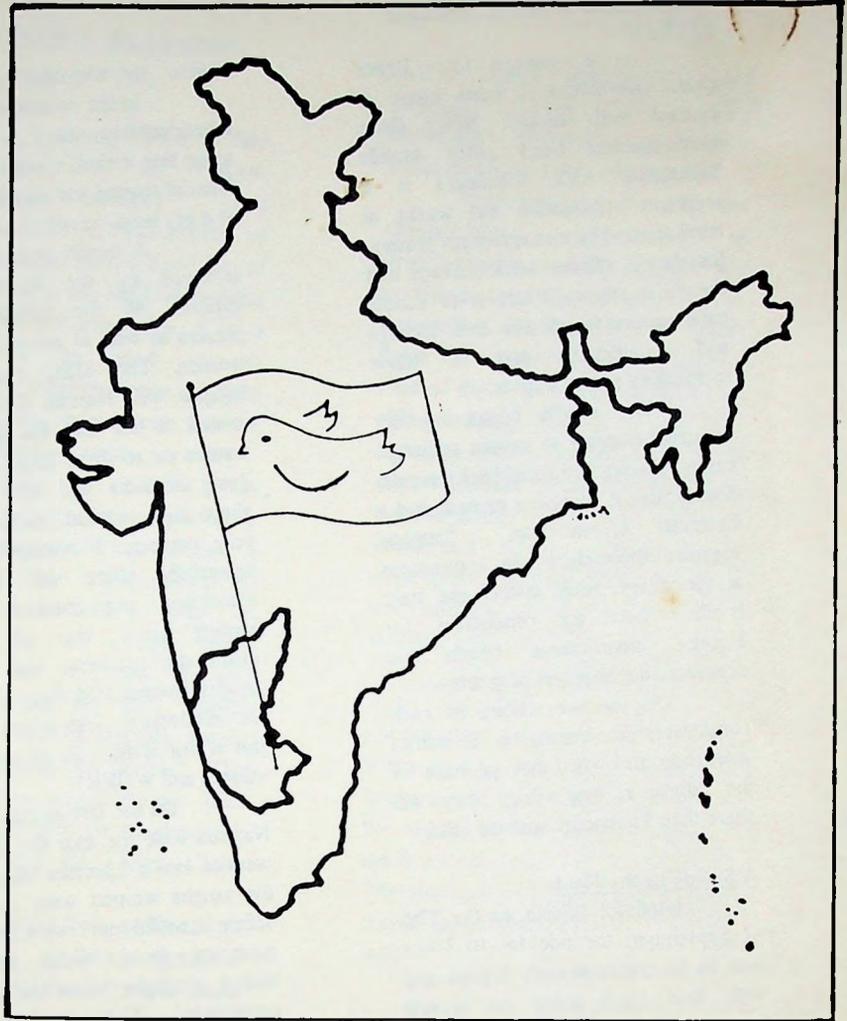
On the last day of my stay, Nirmala took me into the fields. We went to visit a Lambani village. There the sangha women were sewing and selling beautiful mirrorwork shawls and garments. In the other village we visited, a sangha house had just been constructed. This was a unique experience for me, as it was the first time I had seen a small village with mudhuts. The womenfolk were working in the cottonfields when we came-but most of the men were idle! This was clear proof for me that there is a need for organizations like MSK and Sanghas in India.

I was really sad leaving Bijapur, as I had such a good time there and learnt so much about Indian culture. My heart is filled with respect, love and admiration for these women trying to change a suppressive society which has its roots in centuries of tradition.

Thank You MSK for a lovely stay!

Anna Lenneby





PeaceQuest Network



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## CHILD LABOUR IN THE HOSIERY INDUSTRY OF TIRUPPUR

BY

C.NAMBI

### INTERNATIONAL SCENARIO:

Widespread employment of child labour has become a common feature of many of the third world countries to which India is not an exception. The condition is so bad that there is no need to go anywhere to see the child labour - just open up your eyes - the picture will start running in front of you. From primitive agriculture to modern industry we witness the employment of children between the ages of 5 and 14. Children are also employed in most hazardous occupations. They work under humiliating conditions without having any freedom to express the torture they undergo and in fact they are deprived of their childhood. It is estimated that around 200 million children all over the world go through this ordeal of torture, suffering and depreviation.

### SCENARIO AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL:

Several estimates have been made about the magnitude of child workers in India.

- \* According to Global Labour Force Estimates of the I.L.O, every fifth child in the age group of 10 - 14 years was part of the country's active labour force. The number of child workers in India was estimated at 15.1 million in 1975.

- \* The NSS 32nd round (1977-78) estimated child workers in the age group 5-14 at 16.25 million in 1978.
- \* According to 1981 census 13.6 million children are in the labour force (11.2 million as main workers and 2.4 million as marginal workers).
- \* In 1983, the Planning Commission had projected the number of child workers at 17.36 million.
- \* The findings of the Operations Research group, Baroda (Published in 1983) came up with an estimate of 44 million working children in India. This number is widely accepted as being closest to reality.
- \* The Balai Data Bank, Manila estimates about 111 million child workers. If nearly half of India's (over 800 million) population lives in poverty, the number of working children in India is likely to be over 100 million.
- \* The Labour Minister while announcing a plan to liberate 2 million working children in August, 1994, said that there are 20 million child workers.

1/3 of the world Child Labourers are in India. Child Labourers are found in occupations like 1. Agriculture 2. Plantations 3. Mining and quarrying 4. Bidi 5. Match and fire works 6. Hosiery and other allied industries 7. Glass and bangles 8. Zari and embroidery 9. Machine tools repair shops 10. Gem cutting and polishing 11. Cashew processing and manufacturing of coir products 12. Handloom and carpet-weaving 13. Domestic

workers 14. Helpers in hotels, restaurants, canteens, tea-stalls, shops and wayside establishments. 15. Rag-picking 16. Construction 17. Hawkers, Vendors, newspaper sellers 18. Coolies etc....

#### SCENARIO IN TAMIL NADU:

In Tamil Nadu there were 9,75,055 (871313 main and 103742 marginal workers) working children below the age of 15 during 1981. Working children formed about 5% of the total workforce in Tamil Nadu. The incidence of child workers varies across the districts of Tamil Nadu. Apart from the well known child employment in Sivakasi area in the match and fire industries, large concentration of child labour exist in the Beedi industries in North Arcot - Ambedkar, Trichy and Nellai - Kattabomman districts, Tanneries in Dindigul and in the hosiery industry of Tiruppur. Besides these, children are also employed in unorganised sectors like agriculture and being employed in hotels, workshops of different kinds, construction work, loading and unloading, shoe-polishing and rag-picking. We can say that there is no activity without the employment of child labour.

Several thousand children (between the age of 5 - 14) are reported to be employed in various operations of the hosiery industry. A rough estimate shows that around 25,000 children are employed in the knit-wear industry of Tiruppur. Tiruppur, the hosiery town in Coimbatore district of Tamilnadu is an important centre dealing with cotton and cotton products for a very long time. Today Tiruppur remains as one of the principal centre of cotton knit-wear industry in the country. Approximately, it accounts for about 35% of the domestic production in the country. The other two major centres are located in Calcutta and Delhi account for 30 and 10 percent respectively. The rest is contributed by the secondary centres distributed throughout the country.

Since 1980s, this industry witnessed a production boom. From a producer producing solely for the domestic market, the knit-wear industry of Tiruppur became one of the largest exporter of hosiery products and a net foreign exchange earner. Tiruppur knit-wear exporters who started out with Rs.18.60 crores worth of direct exports in 1985, reached Rs.400 crores in 1989 and very recently it touched around Rs.1,200 crores. In 1993-94 this industry fetched Rs.2,200 crores in foreign exchange. The ultimate target is "BILLION DOLLAR EXPORTS"

Tiruppur can boost of such things. But at what and whose cost?

It must be noted here that the current fashion boom in western Europe and North America for all kinds of cotton knitted clothes contributed significantly to this. Moreover, the domestic market for the hosiery products expanded considerably. This development was made possible by the structural adjustment policy adopted by the government since the 80s, during which period we see the proliferation of hosiery units in every nook and corner of the Tiruppur town as also the surrounding areas.

While on the one hand the expansion of the knitwear industry of Tiruppur has resulted in the creation of more employment, on the other hand, the labour force participation in the industry has undergone a substantial change. It is quite evident that in almost all production process children are employed in large numbers. This is mainly as a result of the change in the organisation of production in these units that now most of the production is done on job work basis.

Job work refers to an interactive relationship between and also within firms. It is also used to describe the divisions of labour which exist within firms.

Above all, this system also allows fragmentation of the production structure - both spatially and organisationally. However, from workers perspective this perpetuates the existence of numerous small units of production and allows owners to flout or ignore questions related to conditions of work and labour laws. In other words, this kind of job working enabled many owners to employ children between the ages of 5-14 in operations which involve only a small period of training for acquiring the skill.

Largely, the children are drawn from the neighbouring villages which are located along the roads that connect them with Tiruppur town. Children from interior villages are also employed in Tiruppur units who either walk or use cycle to reach the nearest bus route from where they reach Tiruppur. Thus, we see children coming to the banian companies from 30 kilometers radius of Tiruppur town. We do see working children from far off districts like Tiruchi, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Ramnad. They are mostly settled in the newly emerging slums of Tiruppur town.

Thus children form an important labour segment in the production process of Hosiery Industry and this state is likely to intensify and draw more and more children into the workforce depriving children of their childhood and future development.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS OF THE STUDY UNDERTAKEN AT TIRUPPUR AREA BY  
OUR ORGANISATION :

Totally 18424 households are covered under the household survey. (4533 in Avinashi block, 9555 in Tiruppur block and 4336 in Tiruppur Municipality). Total population covered under the survey is 73278 (52% males and 48% females). Children constitute 32% of this population (children below 15 years of age).

Population covered (as per 1991 census) under the household survey is 15% in Avinashi Block, 27% in Tiruppur block and it is 8% in Tiruppur Municipality.

Of the 4533 households covered in Avinashi block households with child workers constitute 17% and it is 21% in Tiruppur block and 26% in Tiruppur Municipality. This reveals that households with child workers are more concentrated in Tiruppur slums where every fourth household sends its children for work. Next comes Tiruppur block with every fifth household sending its children for work. Villages in Tiruppur block are close to Tiruppur town.

Backward caste households accounts for the highest proportion in the three areas surveyed and among these households 19% of the households have working children. It is highest among the most backward castes with 27% of households with working

children. Proportion of households with working children among SC & ST communities is 25%

**WORKFORCE:**

Total workers (37427) constitute 51% of the total population covered. Of this male adults account for 63%, female adults 23% and children constitute 14% (7% males and 7% females).

While the state average in terms of child workforce to total workforce is only about 5%, it is much higher in the hosiery belt than the state average. This indicates higher employment of children in hosiery industry. This is clear from the figures available on the number of children employed in Hosiery units.

**HOSIERY WORKERS:**

In the three areas covered there are 11243 workers involved in knitwear industry. This accounts for about 31% of the total workers. Thus it shows that next to agriculture hosiery industry is the main occupation for about one third of the population. Of the total hosiery workers there are 4554 children below the age of 15 Accounting for 41% of the total work force in the industry.

Given that the door to door survey represents the overall trend, it reveals that about 40% of the workers supplied to the industry from these areas are Children below the age of 15.

Of the total workers in Hosiery male adults account for 55%, female adults 4%, male children 20% and female children 21%.

In the three areas surveyed Tiruppur Municipality accounts for highest proportion of child workers with 62% of the total workers involved in Hosiery work. It is 36% in Tiruppur block and 32% in Avinashi block.

Unlike in the match and Fireworks and beedi industry, here both boys and girls are working in equal numbers. There is also not much difference in the operations carried out by male children and female children and also in terms of wages.

Of the children involved in hosiery industry 22% of them are in the age group of 6-11 and the remaining in 12-14 years.

Among the population surveyed there are 15441 children in the age group of 6-14 years and of these 35% of the children are already in the workforce.

#### WORKING CONDITIONS AND WAGES:

Unlike Sivakasi, where children work in the factories as well as in the home, in Tiruppur the children will have to work alongside adults in factories for long hours of work. It is a normal scene to see the buses packed with thousands of young children with the tiffin carrier in their hand going to their work spot in the early hours of the day as well as in the evening. Again inside the factory, they have to work like a machine since wages are paid on piece-rate for the adults. Since the children are helpers to the adults they have to cope with the speed of the adults eventhough they (children) are paid only daily wages. They are also wooed by overtime incentives. So, most of the children work for 12-16 hours per day. Comparatively the wages paid to adults as well as to the child labour is better than Sivakasi. A child labourer in Tiruppur starts with Rs.10/- per day. The wages slowly increases as she/he grows physically and getting experience in a company. Mostly these children are helpers to the adults. Learning of a particular skill depends upon (i) Style of functioning of a company (ii) the kind of rapport built between the adult worker and the child worker. (iii) physical growth of a child. A boy or girl from this area is better appreciated for his/her earning capacities than his/her performance in class rooms. There is a general tendencies among the parents that let our children find their own way of

living than thinking of sending them to a school or continuing their education. School children who go for work during the school vocation (especially during summer holidays) never come back to school again. They are sucked into the industry. These things have led to decrease in enrolment in schools and increase in school drop-out rates, recently.

#### HEALTH HAZARDOUS:

Eventhough there is no scientific study on these, it is told that 10 to 15 new cases of T.B. is being admitted at Tiruppur Govt. Hospital in a day. There was a shocking news in Daily Thanthi newspaper dt.24.6.94. Dr. Karuppannan, the Chief Eye Specialist in Tiruppur Govt. Hospital has revealed the fact that 80% of hosiery workers are having eye related diseases in Tiruppur. He specifically mentions that child workers are also affected. While it is the cotton dust inside the hosiery industry, it is the chemical dust in the dyeing and bleaching units. The Doctor warns that until and unless the workers go for treatment on time, they will become blind over a period of time. A river is usually the lifeline of any area through which it passes. But this is not the case with Noyyal, a tributary of the Cauvery which passes through Tiruppur. Toxic effluents flow through this river. It not only affects Tiruppur but also neighbouring areas in Periyar district.

This leads to widespread skin ailments and pulnological diseases. The main reasons are the chemicals used in processing the cotton - i.e. Sodium hydroxide, Sodium hypochloride, Sodium Sulphide, Hydrochloric acid and a number of dyes based on a toxic benzidine structure.

Our present study undertaken by us will bring in lot of information in this regard.

Tiruppur town has become congested, dirty and dust. The entire area is being polluted because of the dyeing and bleaching factories in and around Tiruppur. The damage is such that if you dig a well or put up a bore-well, you will get only coloured water. The social life is also polluted in the sense that more and more people are getting into habit of drinking and using all other kinds of indoxicating things.

#### **ENFORCEMENT OF LAW:**

The Consitution of India is the basic law. It is not supposed to be violated by the Government, parliament; State Assemblies, administration or citizens. Act.24 of the Constitution gives a fundamental right that 'no child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment'.

There is another view viz that all employment of children below fourteen is hazardous since it interferes with their education and denies their opportunities for healthy growth. Legal support for this argument is derived from the directive principles of the Constitution (which are fundamentals in the governance of the country) especially Article 45 which guarantee for free and Compulsory education till 14 years.

At the world Summit for Children on 30th September 1990 the world leaders declared that 'we have gathered at the World Summit for children to undertake a joint commitment and to make an urgent universal appeal - to give every child a better future. The children of the world are innocent, vulnerable and dependent. They also curious active and full of hope. Their time should be one of joy and peace, of playing, learning and growing. Their future should be shaped in harmony and co-operation. Their lives should mature, as they broaden their perspectives and gain new experiences.

But the enforcement of these principles, visions and hopes have faded away. As anywhere in India enforcement of factory and labour related laws are flouted around in Tiruppur, too. My informal talk with the Inspector of Factories reveals that if he books any case against anyone he will be punished as any honest Government employee is being punished. Atleast in Sivakasi, some

noise is being made about child labour. Even that is not being done in Tiruppur, till date. Child labour is not at all seen as a problem either by the parents or teachers or trade unionists' or the general public or by the enforcing authorities. It has become an accepted norm and become part of life. No one bothers about it.

#### **STATUS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION:**

A quick analysis of data collected from primary schools reveal that most of the schools lack adequate infrastructural facilities in terms of building, adequate learning space, teaching and learning equipments and so on. Our sample survey of schools reveal that in the high child labour incidence areas drop-out at the primary level is as high as 50%. In most of the schools teacher-student ratio is also very unfavourable.

#### **ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS:**

In Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore District is the place where Trade Unions are active in Textile and other allied industries. Same is the case in Tiruppur too. Leading Trade Unions are CITU, AITUC, INTUC, Hindu Mazoor Sabha and all other State level political parties Trade Unions. The unions are powerful and they have their own voice and strength. They are in a position to

dictate and decide on things with the management. The situation is such that the hosiery manufacturers have to take into account the possible Trade Union's strike (reaction) whenever they go for an agreement with the importers while taking bulk orders. But, it is unfortunate and sad that the child labour issue hasn't come under the purview of Trade Unions, till date. They are just blind to this issue. Having got so much of power, if Trade Unions are able to take up this issue of child labour in Tiruppur, they will be able to succeed in solving some of the problems of child labour.

#### STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO ERADICATE CHILD LABOUR

1. Since Child Labour has become an accepted norm, efforts should be made to create awareness about evils of child Labour and the need to protect childhood among parents, child labourers, employers, teachers, trade unionists, bureaucrats, administrators, legislators, lawyers, enforcement authorities, media persons and general public.
2. Compulsory, free, quality primary education should be strictly implemented. Learning should be made interesting and the infrastructure facilities of the schools should be developed. More fund allocation should be made for strengthening the primary education.

3. Child Labour should be replaced by adult labour. Implementation of Minimum Wages Act is very essential. Adult wages should be raised to a reasonable level.
4. More and more employment opportunities should be generated for adults. Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) should be implemented throughout the country.
5. Special financial assistance and Government schemes should be made available for families with working children to increase the family income level.
6. ENFORCEMENT OF LAW: Labour related laws such as child labour (prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, Factories Act, 1948 and Minimum Wages Act 1986 should be strictly adhered to
  - i. Enforcement Authorities should be given more power
  - ii. Labour Department should be strengthened with more manpower.
  - iii. Amendments have to be made in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 in order to make it more effective. Some of the suggestions
    - a. All employment of children below fourteen years should be declared hazardous since it interferes with children's education and denies their opportunities for healthy growth.

- b. Onus proof of date of birth/age should be on the employer. As in the case of Factories Act, it should be made mandatory for all employers to have a birth certificate and maintain registers, the need for a medical authority to certify should be dispensed with.
  - c. Regulation of employment of young persons between 15-18 years of age should be made.
  - d. 'Joint Task Forces' at district level consisting of eminent citizens, social workers and concerned officials of the Labour Department should be formed.
  - e. Setting up of 'flying squads' consisting of factory-inspectors, officials of other departments and members of the public with powers to collect spot fines and impose punishments.
  - f. Trade Unions and Non-governmental organisations should be empowered to carry out inspections and call for records.
7. N.G.Os should be invited to participate in policy, programmes and decision-making at the district, state and National levels.

8. Government should come forward to give more concessions and loan facilities to the units run without Child Labour. If there is a need these units should be supported with subsidy facilities etc..
9. Institutions like AEPC (Apparel Export Promotion Council) should promote more and more direct orders from foreign countries, even for smaller units. This will stop the contract system and the profit level will go up which will enable the unit owners to employ adults. This does n't suit to the greedy employers.
10. All political parties should take up the issue of Child Labour in their agenda and work towards eradication of child labour.
11. People should vote for parties which promise to take up the issue of child labour and eradicate it.
12. The media of this country should give utmost importance for the issue of child labour to protect the childhood and put an end to the shrinkage of human resources.

Late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru told a gathering of scientists and educators in New Delhi a little while before death.

"Some people seem to think education is not so important as putting up a factory. I may sacrifice any number of factories, but I will not sacrifice human beings and their education because it is the human who sets up factories and produces the things we want".

"CHILD RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS"

SAY NO TO CHILD LABOUR

IMPLEMENT FREE, QUALITATIVE COMPULSORY

PRIMARY EDUCATION

SAVE AND PROTECT CHILDHOOD

JOIN HANDS TO ERADICATE CHILD LABOUR.

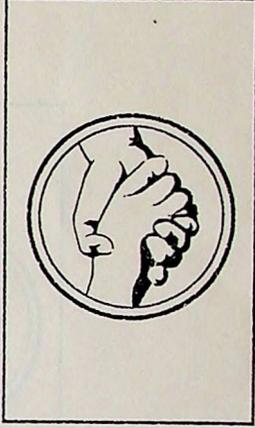
C. NAMBI  
DIRECTOR  
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ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಮಾವೇಶ  
ಮಕ್ಕಳ ತಂಡದ ನಾಯಕರಿಗೆ ಸೂಚನಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿ.

- ದಯವಿಟ್ಟು ತಾವು ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಸುವ ವೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಳುಹಿಸಿಕೊಡಿ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಅತ್ಯಗತ್ಯವಾದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಲು ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗಬಹುದು.
- ತಮ್ಮ ಜೊತೆ ಬರುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ತಂದೆ-ತಾಯಿ\ ಪೋಷಕರ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಿ.
- ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಕಳುಹಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದು. ಶಿಬಿರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಂಡದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಮತ್ತು ಗಂಡು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಒಟ್ಟಿಗೆ \ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆಯಾಗಿರಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆಯೇ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಿ.
- ಅಗತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಹಣವನ್ನು ತಂದಿರುವುದು ಉತ್ತಮ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯವಾದ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ತಂದೇ ಇರುವಂತೆ ಎಚ್ಚರವಹಿಸಿ.
- ದೂರಿಯಬಹುದಾದಂತಹ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯಪರದಿಯನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬನ್ನಿ. ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದರೆ, ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಆರಂಭಿಸುವ ಮೊದಲು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ತಪಾಸಣೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಸುವುದು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದು. ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಗುವಿಗೆ ವಿಶೇಷವಾದ ಪೆಥ್ಯ ಅಥವಾ ಔಷಧಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ನಮಗೆ ಮೊದಲೇ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರೆ ಅನುಕೂಲ. ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಿ. (ಉದಾ. ರಕ್ತದ ಗುಂಪು)

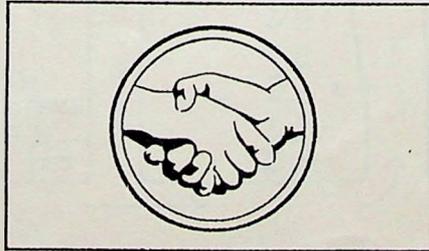
ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸೂಚನೆಗಳು:

- ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ, ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ಮೊದಲೇ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನಾಯಕತ್ವದ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಯನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೆ ಉತ್ತಮ.
- ನಿಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ\ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಹಾಡುಗಳ ಧ್ವನಿ ಮುದ್ರಣ ಪ್ರತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಗೀತ ಪಾದ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬನ್ನಿ. ಬಾಲಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಅಥವಾ ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಗುಂಪಿನ ಹಾಡುಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರೆದು ತಂದರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಇತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳದೊಂಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.
- ನಿಮ್ಮ ಪಟ್ಟಣ\ಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಉಡುಪಿನ ಒಂದು ಜೊತೆ ತಂದರೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಕೂಡ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸಬಹುದು.
- ಮಕ್ಕಳು ವೇದಿಕೆಗೆ ಸಮೀಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ.
- ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.
- ನೀವು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬಂದ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಉತ್ತಮ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಭರವಸೆಯನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆ.
- ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಾದರೂ, ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸಹಾಯಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಕರು ಕೆಳಕಾಣುವ ಚಿಹ್ನೆಯಿರುವ ಬ್ಯಾಡ್ಜನ್ನು ಧರಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.



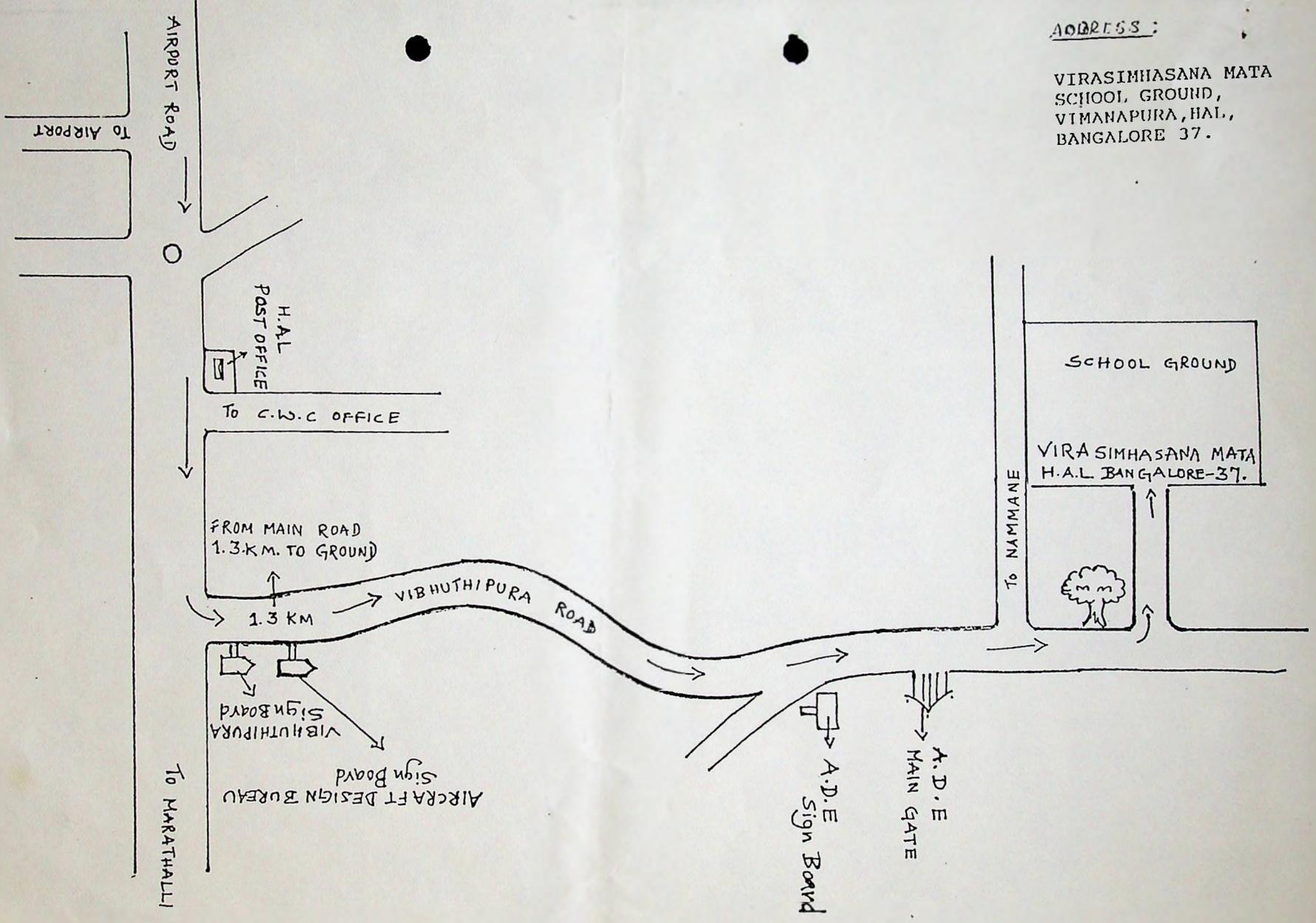
ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗಾಗಿ

- ನೀವು ಬರುವ ಸ್ಥಳದಿಂದ ಸಣ್ಣ ಕಲ್ಲು, ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ನೀರು, ಹಾಗೂ ಮಣ್ಣನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬನ್ನಿ. ಇದನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸೇರಿ, ಒಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಸೇರಿ ರಚಿಸಲಿರುವ ಪ್ರತಿಮೆಯ ರಚನೆಗೆ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು.
- ಒಂದು ಹಿಡಿ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಬೇಳೆಯನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬನ್ನಿ.
- ನಿಮ್ಮ ಗುಂಪು ಸಂಘಟನೆಗೆ ಧ್ವಜವಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅದನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬನ್ನಿ. ಸಮಾವೇಶ ನಡೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಧ್ವಜವನ್ನು ಹಾರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ನಿಮ್ಮದೇ ಆದ ಧ್ವಜಗುರುತನ್ನು ಹೊಂದುವ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ವಿಶೇಷವಾದ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರವನ್ನು ಆಯೋಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಹಾಡುಗಳ ಧ್ವನಿ ಮುದ್ರಣ ಪ್ರತಿಯನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಗೀತ ವಾದ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬನ್ನಿ. ಬಾಲಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಅಥವಾ ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಗುಂಪಿನ ಹಾಡುಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಬರೆದು ತನ್ನಿ. ಅದನ್ನು ಇತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.
- ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ದಯವಿಟ್ಟು ಮೊದಲೇ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರೆ ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಬಹುದು.
- ಅಗತ್ಯಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಗೆ ಹಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ತರಬೇಡಿ.
- ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊದಿಕೆ, ಟಾರ್ಚ್ ಮತ್ತು ನೀರಿನ ಬಾಟಲುಗಳನ್ನು ತರುವುದು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದು.
- ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ ನಿಮ್ಮ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನಿಮ್ಮೊಂದಿಗೆ ಇರಲಿ. ಸಮಾವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದ ನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ವಿಳಾಸವನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
- ನೀವು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬಂದ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಉತ್ತಮ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಭರವಸೆಯನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಾದರೂ, ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸಹಾಯಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಕರು ಕೆಳಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣುವ ಚಿಹ್ನೆಯಿರುವ ಬ್ಯಾಡ್ಜನ್ನು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

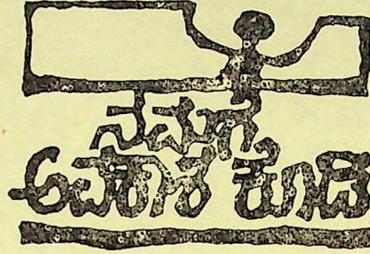


ADDRESS :

VIRASIMHASANA MATA  
SCHOOL, GROUND,  
VIMANAPURA, HAL.,  
BANGALORE 37.



# ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಚಳುವಳಿ



'ಭೀಮಸಂಘ' ಎಂದರೆ ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಂಘ. ನಮ್ಮ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಹರಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ನಾವು ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬಿಗಳಾಗಲು ನಮ್ಮದೇ ಆದ ಸಂಘವನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಈ ಸಂಘದ ಮೂಲಕ ನಮಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಓದು, ಬರಹ, ಮಾಹಿತಿ, ತರಬೇತಿ ಪಡೆದು ಸ್ವಂತಗಳೆಯ ಉದ್ಯೋಗವನ್ನು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅಲ್ಲದೇ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ಕಡೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅನ್ಯಾಯಕ್ಕೊಳಗಾದ ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕೂಡ ನಾವು ಕಾಳಜಿ ವಹಿಸಿ ನ್ಯಾಯ ದೊರಕಿಸಲು ಶ್ರಮ ಪಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಸಿಗಬೇಕಾದ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು, ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಕಾನೂನುಗಳು ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಜನರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತರಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

ನಮ್ಮಂತೆಯೇ ಎಷ್ಟೋ ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಸಿಗಬೇಕಾದ ಸಹಜ ಬಾಲ್ಯ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಇರುವ ಕಾನೂನು ಕೂಡ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಬಾರದೆ ಅವರಿಂದ ನಮಗೆ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿಯ ಬೆಂಬಲವೂ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ದಬ್ಬಾಳಿಕೆ, ಹಿಂಸೆ, ಅನಾರೋಗ್ಯ, ಮಾಲೀಕರ ತೊಂದರೆ, ಬಡತನ ಮತ್ತೆ ವಲಸೆ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ, ಕಾಟಂಬದ ಪ್ರೀತಿಯಿಂದ ವಂಚಿತರಾಗುವುದು.... ಹೀಗೆ ಅನೇಕ ರೀತಿಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಗುವೂ ಎದುರಿಸುವುದು ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಹೀಗಿರುವಾಗ ಯಾವುದೇ ಒಂದು ಗುಂಪಿನಿಂದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯ ನಿವಾರಣೆ ಅಸಾಧ್ಯ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಹಳ್ಳಿ, ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ರಾಜ್ಯ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸಂಘಟಿತರಾಗುವುದು ತುಂಬಾ ಅವಶ್ಯ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ನಮ್ಮ ಅನುಭವದಿಂದಲೇ ಕಂಡುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಇದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮವೇ 'ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಚಳುವಳಿ'. ನಮ್ಮ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಮಾಜದ ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಸೇರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಉದ್ದೇಶವೇ ಈ ಚಳುವಳಿಯ ಹಾಟ್ಟು. ಪರಿಹಾರ ಸಿಗುವವರೆಗೂ ಈ ಚಳುವಳಿ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯುತ್ತಲೇ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಇದು ಕಾರ್ಯಗತವಾಗಲು ಪೂರ್ವ ತಯಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ನಾವು ಇತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳ/ದೊಡ್ಡವರ ಗುಂಪುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ, ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಈ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇರದೆ ಇತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮುದಾಯದವರಿಗೆ ಈ ವಿಷಯ ತಿಳಿಸಿ ಅವರೂ ಕೂಡ ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ನಮ್ಮದು. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ನಾವು ಈ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ 30 ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳೆಲ್ಲರ ದಿನ. ಆ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ನಮಗೆ ಸಿಗಬೇಕಾದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಮತ್ತು ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷವೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾಜದವರು ನಮ್ಮ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇದುತ್ತಲೇ ಬಂದಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾಜ ನಮಗೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕಾದ ಗಮನ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ತುಂಬಾ ನೋವಿನ ವಿಷಯ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ನಾವು ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣಗಳ ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಒಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ದೊಡ್ಡವರ ಜೊತೆ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ ಪರಿಹಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

ಐದು ದಿನ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ನೀವು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಮ್ಮೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕವಿರುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬೇಕು.

ಇದರೊಂದಿಗೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು, ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನಗಳು, ಶಿಬಿರಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ಹಂತಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಭೆಗಳೂ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತವೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಏಷ್ಯಾ, ಅಫ್ರಿಕಾ ಮತ್ತು ಲ್ಯಾಟಿನ್ ಅಮೇರಿಕಾದ ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳೂ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ.

- 25-4-96 : ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ರಾಜ್ಯಮಟ್ಟದ ಚಳುವಳಿಯ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭೋತ್ಸವ.
- 26-4-96 ಮತ್ತು 27-4-96 : ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಮಟ್ಟದ ಸಮಾವೇಶ.
- 28-4-96 ಮತ್ತು 29-4-96 : ಏಷ್ಯಾವಿಟ್ಟದ ದುಡಿಯುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಭೆ.

ಈ ಬೃಹತ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ನಮ್ಮೊಂದಿಗೆ ಇದ್ದು, ಇದನ್ನು ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ನಡೆಸಲು ಸಹಕರಿಸುತ್ತೀರೆಂದು ನಂಬಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

ಭೀಮಸಂಘದ ಮಕ್ಕಳು