

SKILLS FOR FREEDOM

Newsletter from India

No: 27

July: 2017

This electronic newsletter from **PEACE TRUST, INDIA** is addressed to NGO's, Social Activists, Media, Opinion makers, Leaders and Bureaucrats for improving their understanding on skilling the youth for gainful employment and addressing social issues like modern slavery, child labour, migrant labour, un-employability of youth. We also send this to people who we believe are involved in improving the migrant worker's conditions. You are welcome to unsubscribe yourself, if you so choose.

-EDITOR

Peace Trust is a Non Government Organization working on Child Labour and Bonded Labour issues since 1984. It has also focused on Migrant workers rights and Anti Trafficking of Person issue since 1999. Facilitating decent employment of youth is taken up.

- o Peace Trust's Skills for Freedom is the only solution to end Modern Slavery in Tamil Nadu. It is on decent and skill based effort for enhancing the employment opportunities of rural youth in Dindigul, Karur, Tiruppur Districts.
- o Reduce the risk for Young Workers - Peace Trust is actively involved in Initiative to "Support School Education, Health Protection, Livelihood Development and Skill Training for Gainful Employment among Vulnerable Young Population in Dindigul District".
- o SPSC Vocational Education & Employment Facilitation Centre provides access to vocational education and employment facilitation for rural poor youth in Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur District Tamil Nadu and Karaikal District, Puducherry.
- o Peace Trust also provides training for Quality Teacher Education and gainful employment to young women from resource poor families in Dindigul and Karur District.
- o Peace Trust has also been broadcasting Pasumai FM community radio.
- o Peace Trust is actively engaged in building the capacity of youth aspiring for Government, Public Sector, Bank job
- o Peace Trust is providing guidance for higher studies to 17 + youth.

The views expressed are not of the donors but a compilation of field realities for the purpose of sharing and action. The News Letter is for academic purpose to understand Human Resources and Skill Education.

The Skills for Freedom e-newsletter is published by:



Peace Trust
Near Police Housing Colony
Trichy Road, Dindigul-624005,
Tamil Nadu, India
Ph:0451-2410021; Fax:0451-2410372
Email:info@peacetrust.in,chairman@peacetrust.in
Website:www.peacetrust.in

Edited By: **Dr. J. Paul Baskar Ph.D.**
Assisted By: **Er. P. Ruba Balan, Mrs. R. Jeevalakshmi, Mrs. Chitra**

We partner with



MIGRANTS

MIGRANTS ARE WRONGLY BEING MADE HOMELESS.

HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS MUST ACT



For almost a quarter of a century there has been a steady growth in legal measures that restrict migrants' access to housing. This has accelerated considerably in the past seven years. A raft of legislative and policy changes since 2010 designed to discriminate against migrants and refugees who have difficulty proving their right to be in this country has made an already complex situation even harder to navigate.

The onus is now on landlords to check immigration status, welfare benefits and other public services are being denied to migrants, while Home Office guidance states that those found sleeping rough would be deemed to be in the UK unlawful and subject to removal

The way these rules are sometimes applied, coupled with the sceptical, anti-immigrant attitude they engender, can lead to disastrous consequences for migrants with legitimate cases.

Many migrants with rights to remain, including long-term residents and British citizens, are getting caught up in this. Those who lose documents are refused services and become homeless, while others are assumed to be ineligible for housing simply because they are migrants. Our internal research suggests that charities helping homeless migrants find that almost a third of people they see have the right to remain and half have an arguable case to do so. Legitimate migrants find it difficult to challenge unfair decisions against them partly because of the removal of regulatory, advocacy and advice services and support for migrant organisations.

Understanding how housing associations can help steer this community through the dense forest of anti-migrant law is important. We need to obtain proper advice before making a decision; take a victim-centred approach rather than starting every case with scepticism; train staff in immigration and housing law; work in partnership with migrant and refugee organisations; ensure that tenants know what they and housing associations can do.

When there is such hostility towards migrants, the penalties of getting it wrong can be severe. That is why we have put together a pledge and are asking housing associations to sign it, agreeing simple

commitments, to provide services that are fair, compassionate and accessible to all. The pledge says to potential migrant and refugee customers that they will get fair, confidential treatment. To our staff it emphasises adherence to our company values, even when it appears easier to give tacit support to the government's agenda. Finally, to the government it says that the policy of discrimination is not done "in our name".

Social housing providers have a long and proud history of protecting the vulnerable and responding to their needs without fear or favour. The pledge – now signed by 18 housing associations across the country – is our way of underlining our core function at a time when our most vulnerable customers are under attack like never before.

THE LINE BETWEEN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IS BLURRING

There are refugees, there are migrants and then there are the millions who live in legal limbo because they defy easy categorisation. But everyone is just looking for a place to call home.



Refugees or migrants? When it comes to children who cross international borders without papers, there's no easy answer. Credit: Reuters/Stoyan Nenov A dozen years before the influx of refugees and migrants to Europe's shores would force policymakers to take heed, Michael Winterbottom's 2002 docudrama *In this World* brought the inside story of international migration to the big screen.

In charting the risky, clandestine journey to Europe of two Afghans – the teenage Jamal and 30-something Ineyatullah from the Shamshatoo Refugee Camp in Pakistan's northwest – the film demonstrates the simple but not uncontroversial truth: Jamal and Ineyatullah are at once refugees and migrants. Like so many immigrants, they simply seek a better life, one of freedom, opportunity and dignity. At the same time, these Afghans are also refugees – people displaced by conflict and poverty – seeking a better life.

World Refugee Day

June 20 is World Refugee Day, a time to reflect on not just refugees but on those people who, like Jamal and Ineyatullah, are both refugees and migrants.

The day of commemoration comes at a historic moment: for the first time ever, all United Nations member states are working together to develop two new global compacts. The first is on shared responsibility for refugees and the second on more humane, coordinated and dignified approaches to

governing global migration. The project began in September 2016, when the UN adopted the landmark New York Declaration to forge a coordinated architecture for global governance of both refugees and migrants within two years.

Both compacts are scheduled for completion by 2018. For them to work, policymakers must consider the many millions of people currently in transit whose situations confound the conventional demarcation between refugee and migrant.

Under international law, the rights of refugees – those forced to leave their country because of war or persecution – are enshrined in the 1951 Convention for Refugees and its subsequent 1967 protocol.

People who are perceived to have pulled up stakes by choice, on the other hand, lack any comprehensive global rights or protections. Migrants do benefit from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was signed in 1948 to respond to the refugee flows resulting from the Second World War. But beyond some basic protections, many displaced people today defy the parameters used by policymakers to define who is entitled to what rights. And this legal limbo puts many migrants in grave danger.

Migrant or refugee?

All people who cross international borders without papers, whether they are Central Americans riding the trains through Mexico to get to the US or Ethiopians escaping hunger in non-seaworthy dinghies, face myriad risks. They include the underworld of smugglers, inhumane treatment by authorities and the mental and physical dangers of invisibility and exploitation. A recent article in *The Guardian*, for example, reported that criminal gangs in Libya have been holding hundreds of migrants to ransom.

Since 2015, the waters of the Mediterranean have been replete with such traumas, as migrants and refugees from sub-Saharan Africa, Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Syria and Afghanistan try desperately to get to Europe. Some of these people may well fit the legal definition of a refugee. Others have set off on their dangerous journeys as migrants, in pursuit of jobs and opportunities.

THE PLIGHT OF LAMBANI MIGRANTS OF NORTH

KARNATAKA TELL A SAD TALE

Migrants account for about a third of India's population, yet their narrative goes unheard.

Internal migrants in India account for more than 30 percent of the total population, with estimates ranging from 326 million according to the National Sample Survey 2007-08 to 453 million (2011 Census). According to the latest available data released in December last year,

there are 45.36 crore migrants in India, who make up for 37.8 percent of India's 121.03 crore population. Despite these staggering numbers, migrant narratives repeatedly go unheard and undocumented for in the world's largest democracy. Even the ones recorded are limited to newspaper articles that portray migrants as a burden on the working of urban systems sidelining their marginalisation and vulnerability.

Internal migration in the millennial context is often discussed as a phenomenon that is either forced or impelled by certain push factors. However, I was surprised to discover some of the more complex and rooted reasons as to why rural folk migrate for work, when I was touring drought-hit areas of North Karnataka recently.

THE MIGRATORY TALE OF THE LAMBANIS

It was around noon when I reached the dusty and arid settlement of Mahaal Tanda, on the outskirts of Bijapur in North Karnataka. I was welcomed with a strange sense of wonderment and a few puzzled stares by many of the Lambani community, who made up about 90 percent of the village population.

And, soon, I was pleasantly surprised to know that for the isolated Banjara (nomadic) community of Lambanis in Karnataka, migrating for work is a rather cultural practice than an economic necessity.



As I sat down to talk to 48-year-old Nathuram Jadhav in his tiny stone-lined front yard, he explained- "Around 40 percent of the village workforce migrates during off season. This period usually ranges between six and eight months, from November to June. There isn't any specific reason why they decide to leave; it's been happening for ages".

The Lambanis of Karnataka are vastly a nomadic community of 1.1 million mostly concentrated in the northern districts of the state. With their unique artisanship dying a slow death, the tribe's distinctive identity is constantly at stake. And the worst drought in three decades has only added to their woes.

"Yes, the drought has aggravated the number of people migrating this year, but that's only a contributing factor. Even otherwise people migrate along with their families in search of continuous

employment,” says Sandeep Naik, who has been to Malkapur in Maharashtra for two years in a row now.

According to Census 2001 figures, about 30 percent of internal migrants in India belong to the youth category. However, the reasons that influence these rural youth to move in search of better opportunities might vary significantly. Sometimes it might be better wages, sometimes it is bonded labour. And some other times it might be to arrange emergency finances for familial commitments like weddings, as shared by the village folk of Mahaal Tanda.

The young and able ones from the tanda, including women, often take up ‘goundhi kelsa’ (construction work), ‘kab kattao’ (sugarcane cutting), road building and other seasonal, irregular jobs. “Sometimes we go through company contractors who hire us by paying an advance amount. But, usually it is by word of mouth that we come to know of opportunities in the neighboring states of Maharashtra and Goa. It is hard work there with no holidays or rest but we are paid what we rightfully deserve,” added 31-year-old Sandeep.

TRAFFICKING

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: ASSAM'S LATEST RACKET SHOWS ORGANISED GANGS CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNCHECKED

She was suave, persuasive and appeared as the saviour of young girls from impoverished families in western Assam. Employment offers from her were hardly refused as it meant more money and a better livelihood. But many among these girls never returned home as they were trafficked and sold at unknown destinations.

Sofia had already vanished by the time her modus operandi was unearthed and the police began searching for her. She was too smooth an operator to be apprehended — she was seen less, heard more and operated with incredible skill for at least four years through a wide network of agents who were always on the prowl for victims.

Additional superintendent of police SR Saikia has confirmed that two cases were registered against Sofia at Baksa after complaints were received from the relatives of two minor girls who went missing.



File photo of Sofia.

“Sofia hails from Dumuni in Baksa but she was last seen around six years ago. We are investigating the case,” Saikia said and admitted the possibility of more girls being trafficked by her from different districts of Assam.

The police version of Sofia, however, does not match with the findings of Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), an NGO founded by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, that has been meticulously working to prevent trafficking among other issues.

A cell in BBA led by activist Rakesh Senger has been tracking the activities of Sofia and other human traffickers in the country for the past several years. He says that she could be clubbed in the category of top human traffickers in the country comparable to Panna Lal Mahato and Baba Bamdev of Jharkhand.

“The information that we have gathered on Sofia suggests that she might have trafficked around 500 children with the help of middlemen. Our local activists have received more than 50 complaints against her from parents whose children are untraceable and from the local student groups of Adivasis (tea tribes),” Senger claimed. He explained that besides Delhi, there were several districts in neighbouring Haryana where the children might have been sold.

Sofia continues to be elusive with hardly any effort by the law enforcement agencies to nab her and the agents who had been responsible in trafficking the children from Assam. Her case bears ample indication of the impunity with which the traffickers have been operating in the state. While organised gangs are found to be active in most cases, but in some instances, even well known NGOs were involved in trafficking as revealed last year by the investigations of *Outlook* and *Cobrapost* when two organisations affiliated to the RSS – Sewa Bharati and Rashtriya Sevika Samiti – trafficked 31 girls to Punjab and Gujarat to “initiate them into Hinduism.” In 2010, the Supreme Court barred children below 12 years from being sent outside Assam and Manipur for education which came after a probe found 76 children from these states in “homes” run by Christian missionaries in Tamil Nadu.

No wonder, Assam has topped the list among the states in 2015 with as many as 1,494 cases out of a total of 1,539 in the entire country. In the same year, only eight were convicted although 1,552 persons were arrested and chargesheets filed in 365 cases. Clearly, Assam has a long way to go to check the menace in spite of the existence of 14 anti-human trafficking units in the state including one attached to the Government Railway Police (GRP).

The victims’ families are usually reluctant to inform the police and register cases for fear of harassment which perhaps also explains the wide gulf in the data gathered by the BBA on Sofia and the law enforcement agencies. They are usually families with low income, awareness and literacy rates.

A study carried out by UNICEF and the Assam government some years ago found Sonitpur and Kokrajhar as the worst affected districts which have a sizeable population of Bodos and Adivasis. Many children rescued from trains, railway stations and other places incidentally belong to these communities.

GROUP TO BRING AWARENESS TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING



An estimated 21 million victims are currently trapped in a modern-day slavery.

Andrea Kadar, a representative of the Governor’s Council on Human Trafficking in Arizona, will be the opening speaker on the issue this Thursday at Northland Pioneer College’s Silver Creek Campus.

On behalf of the Coalition Against Human Trafficking, northern Arizona, Kazar will bring awareness to what human trafficking actually is and why it is an issue. The coalition wants small communities to be aware because they do not have sting operations like the big cities, or work with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Homeland Security.

Though this problem has been heavily discussed in the media by Cindy McCain, wife of U.S. Sen. John McCain, it is again making headlines all over the country as parents, business persons, law enforcement and government educate and enact laws and sting operations to stop this horrific crime.

Television programs and movies have been produced about human trafficking, but people do not realize that runaways, especially young girls, are victims of trafficking. According to the data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline, Arizona’s numbers rose 30 percent from 2015 to 2016 with the average age of the victim being 14 and female.

The definition used by Arizona’s coalition is “modern-day slavery involving the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain. It is divided into two parts: sex trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, or obtain a person for the purpose of a commercial act. Labor trafficking has the same definition, however it is for the purpose of labor services.”

A 47-page booklet at azag.gov put out by the Attorney General Mark Brnovich, “Human Trafficking: Arizona’s not buying it” goes into great detail about how to be aware and how to protect children in our communities.

Kazar said most people think they understand the problem, but believe it is confined to the big cities, which is one of the reasons rural areas are a target. Kadar is from Sedona, Yavapai County, where their Sheriff Scott Mascher and his law enforcement team said it was not going to happen in Sedona. They organized a series of sex stings from April 2014 through Aug. 2015. They used two Glendale detectives and two barely legal young girls on social media as the bait – looking for fun in Verde Valley. They received 422 calls from Verde Valley residents looking for sex. Kazar said callers were potential buyers and the detectives pretended to be 16-year-old girls.

“Most hung up,” said Kazar, “but 38 did not, and were charged with child prostitution and had to pay \$250,000 in fines.”

Kazar said that most of the callers were married — they claimed to just be curious and hung up. Those who hung up may or may not have ever done that again, but it is big business for many and Kazar said the law of supply and demand is at work here. At greatest risk are teenage runaways, kids into drugs, unpopular kids, lonely kids, kids who are gay, poor, abused, and even popular kids who succumb to the romantic romeos. A test in Arizona revealed that once a kid is on the street, these traffickers are likely to have your kid within 48 hours. They seduce them with their needs and their dreams.

The Sedona Women, Dames who make a difference, decided to get involved. The group is made up of a variety of Christian women who are moms, grandmothers, political activists, medical people and more who, when they learned of trafficking collectively said, “We will not have that in our communities.”

Kazar said, “We do not not want it in Arizona. We want to protect the families and children in Arizona, and we get into the streets and talk. We have a webpage, a Facebook page, and we get the word out. Responsible moms mean to end the traffic victims here. ”

Kadar said their group does things like setting up a table in front of the grocery store and talking to people about the issue, educating them to the facts.

“Trafficking is the second largest crime business in the world, second only to drugs,” said Kadar. “The United Nations says it is a 150 billion dollar a year industry with 27 million slaves.”

Kazar knows her numbers. She said that she learned through a Las Vegas report that one in 13 of these victims lured into trafficking have no missing persons file on them. They are run aways from families and foster homes, and their parents have not been able to find them. 80 percent of the children in trafficking are Americans.

“We have been concerned about the border,” said Kadar, “but with the tight control that we have now, what we see is that American kids are an easier pick. They are romanced by 20 and 22 year old guys

who they meet through social media. These romeo pimps convince them that they can get them modeling contracts and great jobs in Vegas. Once they have them, they disappear.”

MORE THAN 21,000 WOMEN WENT MISSING IN KARNATAKA FROM 2014-17

In 2014, as many as 5,989 women were reported missing across Karnataka. The number climbed to 6,316 in 2016. A total of 21,053 women have gone missing between 2014 and May 31, 2017, of whom 17,777 have been traced so far.

Senior police officials say many of these women may have left home willingly. In some cases, they may have been kidnapped for reasons like personal rivalry or family-related issues. The others, police say, could have fallen prey to human trafficking rackets. The figures were recently revealed by home minister (in-charge) G Parameshwara in the legislative assembly.

"What is really worrying is the number of women who unknowingly become the targets of miscreants. Women from a poor financial background are easy prey as culprits lure them with job offers," police sources said.

The concern was discussed during the ongoing assembly session, and the government claimed it had established nine anti-human trafficking units across the state. "They have been set up in Bengaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Mysuru, Belagavi, Mangaluru, Dakshina Kannada, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Davanagere and Vijayapura. Officials working in these units have been trained to collaborate with local police stations," Parameshwara said.

However, experts say there's a lack of communication between the nine units and local police stations. "As soon a woman's missing complaint is filed in a police station, her details along with a photograph are forwarded to all stations across the state and to the nine units. Due to lack of internet knowledge and other technology-related problems, officials at the anti-human trafficking units find it difficult to trace the victims. That's why many cases remain unsolved," a senior police officer said.

BACHA BAZI: THE STOLEN CHILDHOOD OF BOYS TURNED INTO DANCERS, SEX SLAVES IN AFGHANISTAN

Adorned in makeup, fake breasts and bells, Jawed whirls around middle-aged men at Kabul's underground bacha bazi, or "boy play" parties, where the former child sex slave finds freedom of sorts as a dancing boy. Jawed was kidnapped by a former jihadi commander in Shomali, north of Kabul, when he was barely 14, a victim of a hidden epidemic in Afghanistan of culturally-sanctioned male rape.

He is one of three former "bachas" traced by AFP who managed to escape their abusers. Their testimonies shed searing light on the stolen lives of boy sex slaves, often seen as caricatures of shame and cast out of their families, with many like Jawed falling prey to a new cycle of abuse.

Four years after he was kidnapped, Jawed's commander replaced him with a new boy slave, and "gifted" him to another strongman. The 19-year-old says he escaped one night amid the chaos of a gunfight at a wedding where his new captor took him to entertain guests. But dancing is the only skill he has that can earn a livelihood, having had no education and with virtually no protection offered in Afghanistan for bacha bazi survivors.

Now he performs for powerful male patrons at dance parties, where the evening often ends in sex -- underlining how, even when they are free, victims struggle to break out of the role that has been forced on them. "Fights usually break out over who will take me home" after the parties, 19-year-old Jawed told AFP, requesting that his real name not be revealed.

'TRANSFORM INTO A WOMAN'

Bacha bazi is not seen as homosexuality in Afghanistan's gender segregated society -- instead the possession of young boys decked out as pretty women symbolises power and primacy. It is carried out with impunity often within Western-backed Afghan forces. After two failed attempts that resulted in a beating, 15-year-old Gul escaped barefoot at the end of three months of captivity in a police outpost in Helmand's Nad Ali district. But there was no going home again. Gul lives constantly on the move, chased by the paralysing fear he will be kidnapped once more.

His parents and brothers, meanwhile, have been forced to flee their home over fears the powerful commander will come looking for him. "'Transform yourself into a woman,' the checkpoint commander would tell me" with makeup and ankle bells, Gul told AFP by telephone from his hiding place. Gul was one of three bachas at the checkpoint. Troublingly, he said, the policemen prowled for more victims -- especially effeminate boys from poor families unable to fight back. "They tried to outdo each other: 'My boy is more handsome than yours, my boy is a better dancer'," he said. For some the only escape is to forge a secret deal with the Taliban, who have successfully recruited boy sex slaves hungry for revenge to kill their abusers within police ranks, AFP revealed last year.

'SAVE MY BOY'

Unlike many other victims, Gul is relatively fortunate in that his family was ready to take him back. "Family honour is like a glass of water. One speck of dirt ruins it," said Aimal, a former bacha in his 30s who was abandoned by his parents. "If I were a woman, my family wouldn't leave me alive." he shame also stalks parents who try to help their children, say medical professionals in southern Afghanistan who treat the brutally violated survivors.

"Increasingly parents will bring boys saying they have bowel problems," said a surgeon in Helmand province, where bacha bazi is widespread, corroborating what two other health officials told AFP.

“But a closer examination shows the boys were raped and need to be stitched up. The parents break down in tears: ‘We want no publicity, just save my boy.’” Aimal, who requested his real name be withheld, was discarded after years of enslavement to a jihadi commander in northern Balkh province as he began sprouting a beard. Now a youth activist in Kabul, he said he did not want to end up the way that many other victims do -- becoming predators themselves.

President Ashraf Ghani this year laid out stringent penalties against bacha bazi for the first time in a revised penal code, but the government has given no time frame over when they will be enforced. Instead, authorities in February launched a massive raid on a bacha bazi party in Kabul, jailing not the organisers but a handful of dancing boys, multiple witnesses told AFP. “For me dancing is not a crime,” said Aimal. “This culture of victimising the victim must end.”

In a country with little legal protection or psychosocial support, victims might be lucky to escape their abusers but not their past. Almost by default, prostitution has become a common fallback for many abused boys. “Dancing has become too risky” since the raid, Jawed told AFP before he sidled back into his underground life. “Now I might only do sex work.”

BONDED LABOUR

HC CONFIRMS CONVICTION, SENTENCE FOR TRIO IN BONDED LABOUR CASE

CHARGES PERTAIN TO TRAFFICKING AND UNDERPAYING OF WORKERS:

The Madras High Court in a recent judgment confirmed the conviction and sentence awarded by a trial court in Tiruvallur to three persons of a rice mill on charges of trafficking in persons and forcing them into compulsory labour, besides other offences under various sections of the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976.

“This court cannot slow down the object of the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act,” Justice P. Velmurugan observed in his order, dismissing the criminal appeal moved by the appellants.

Based on inputs from a social worker of the International Justice Mission project, the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) had conducted a raid along with police personnel in 2005 on Power House Rice Mill near Kadambathur in Tiruvallur district and rescued 15 workers from the mill, where they

were being treated as bonded labourers. A charge sheet was eventually filed in the case against those who engaged the workers. Multiple sentences

The Additional District Court in Tiruvallur had in May 2010 sentenced each of the three accused persons to undergo five years rigorous imprisonment besides imposing a fine of Rs. 25,000 under Section 370, six months imprisonment under Section 374 of the IPC and 1 year imprisonment each besides a fine of Rs. 1,000 under Section 16 of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act.

The first accused (A1) was also sentenced to undergo five years imprisonment under Section 371 of IPC and one year imprisonment under Section 17 of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act. Since A1 died in 2011, the charge against him stood abated. Basic amenities denied

According to the prosecution, M. Kandasamy Mudaliar, K. Sivakumar and Munusamy Naidu engaged 15 persons and paid them below the prescribed amount under the Minimum Wages Act, 1947. They were treated as bonded labourers and were not provided accommodation or medical facilities in the mill. Workers were treated as bonded labourers and were denied accommodation

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR:

INDIA TO ADOPT LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

Karan Kumar, 13, lost his years of infancy when he was forced to abandon his formal schools years and understand the economics of running an electrical shop. Trafficked, abused and forced into bonded labour in hazardous conditions devoid of any security. In 2015 Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) came to his rescue. Liberated from the shackles of bonded labour, the outspoken and much healthier lad aspires to be a cricketer in future. Currently, Karan is a student of class 6th at Government Senior Secondary School in Delhi.

The year 2017 will be instrumental in paving the way for a moral crusade against the imminent threats that lie ahead for India's children. "On the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour this year, it is expected that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention will be ratified by the Labour Ministry of India. Post ratification, India will be under the purview of the legislation along with the majority of other nations that work towards annihilating the menace of child labour" said Satyarthi.

In 1998 a global march conceived by the founder of BBA and Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi that transcended geographical boundaries across 150 countries and bringing together around 2,000 delegates, including labour ministers from different countries. "India will join majority of the countries that have adopted the legislation to prohibit and place severe restrictions on the employment and work of children" Satyarthi added. As we celebrate and rejoice in the triumphs and the legacy of World Day Against Child Labour, the key statistics do not project a formidable picture of mechanisms in place to stop this abomination of child rights' violations across the globe.

CHILDREN NEED GLOBAL HELP: CHILD LABOUR NUMBERS ARE NO LONGER DROPPING, THEY MAY BE CLIMBING BACK UP

As the global community gears up to commemorate this day as World Day Against Child Labour, my memories go back 19 years to those electrifying few months in 1998. That was when our movement for child rights won not just a tangible victory, but also a moral crusade. That was when likeminded people across the world forged a truly global partnership to organise the Global March Against Child Labour.

When it culminated in Geneva, even we were pleasantly surprised by the reaction of the almost 2,000 delegates, including labour ministers from 150 countries, who had gathered there for the annual meeting of the International Labour Organization. Not only did 600 odd children and activists who had marched across the world get a standing ovation, but ILO actually agreed to pass an international legislation on the worst forms of child labour.

Popularly known as ILO Convention 182 that effectively prohibited child labour, abuse and exploitation, it was unanimously adopted in 1999. At one stroke, the global community made a sincere and honest attempt to stop an abomination that haunted and still troubles the conscience of the world: the pernicious and unacceptable violation of child rights.

By then, we had spent 18 struggling but satisfying years fighting against child labour through our organisation, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, which was launched in 1980. The quick ILO decision to declare exploitative child labour as illegal made our struggle worth it. Subsequently, the decision in 2002 to mark June 12 every year as World Day Against Child Labour ensures that the global community remains engaged and focussed on abolishing child labour.

Indeed the global community needs to retain unwavering focus. By 1990, the United Nations had announced that all children would get an education by the year 2000. But nothing of that sort was happening at the ground level. By 1996, it was estimated that about 250 million children were being exploited through child labour, millions of them as virtual slaves or bonded labour.

Freedom, education and basic rights were a distant dream for these 250 million children. However, much to our satisfaction, the situation started improving at the ground level. There was a significant drop in the prevalence of child labour for a decade or so. But much to our dismay, that is no longer true. The last four years have actually seen a stagnation, if not an increase in the prevalence of child labour. This time last year, the UN officially reported that 168 million children across the world were still being ruthlessly exploited despite stringent laws against child labour.

To this dangerous ground level situation has been added the alarming increase in recent years of child refugees and trafficking. Children constitute one third of the total population of the world but account for more than 50% of refugees. In the last decade, close to 10 million children have been killed in conflict and more than six million have become physically disabled.

It is estimated that 28 million children have become refugees without any hope for a future. Syria and Afghanistan alone accounted for more than 50% of child casualties and refugees in 2015. While accurate and reliable numbers are not available, there is a consensus that the refugee crisis has led to a big jump in child trafficking. Clearly, the global community needs to engage and focus all over again with a sense of urgency on the menace of child labour and trafficking. The menace must be tackled in a multi-dimensional manner.

We need to partner more effectively with spiritual leaders to raise awareness. No religion sanctions the exploitation of children; rather, all of them consider protection of children as a sacred duty. Apart from religion, we need to address this issue at a cultural level too. In virtually every society ranging from the so-called primitive to the most advanced, children are treasured and celebrated. We need to channelise these cultural legacies into a sustained movement, both at the local community level as well as global level.

Religion and culture give us the moral foundation to build a better world for our children. Economics will provide the means and resources to do the same. It has been established that acute lack of livelihood opportunities often leads to child labour. Targeted welfare schemes like MGNREGA and midday meal scheme have not only led to a dramatic rise in enrolment of children in schools, but also a drop in child labour. But this economic struggle is going to be long and arduous. Even today, it has been estimated that more than 600 million children suffer from extreme poverty. Our moral challenge is to ensure that the next generation doesn't suffer the same fate.

I remain optimistic. March 1998 saw tens of thousands of ordinary citizens in cities like Dhaka, Oslo, Sao Paulo, Paris, Bangkok, Capetown and Kabul among others actively participate and demand abolition of child labour. One of the most evocative slogans then was: From Exploitation to Education. The time has come to launch yet another major global effort. What moral argument against abolition of child labour can the world have when 210 million adults are jobless or unemployed who are mostly the parents of 168 million child labourers? It is also a proven fact that education is the most effective enabler, equaliser and empowering force that we know of, and child labour is the biggest impediment to education.

FUND CRUNCH DELAYS RESCUE OF INDIA'S BONDED LABOURERS - ACTIVISTS

India, June 6 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - India's plans to rescue more than 18 million bonded labourers by 2030 have been delayed by a lack of funds, activists said, calling for stricter law enforcement to end one of the most prevalent forms of human trafficking in the country.

A year after the Indian government announced a scheme to assist bonded labourers - including a fivefold increase in compensation for these exploited workers - many rescues have been postponed because funding has not come through, campaigners say. The 1 million-rupee (\$15,500) funds mandated for each district have not yet been created in southern India, according to Krishnan Kandasamy of the non-profit National Adivasi Solidarity Council, a network for indigenous peoples' welfare.

"The fallout has been that in many instances officials have declined to act on information and rescue workers - stating they do not have funds to pay," Kandasamy said. Across India, villagers lured by traffickers with the promise of a good job and advance payments become trapped in bondage, forced to toil in fields or brick kilns, enslaved in brothels or confined as maids to pay off debt.

Under India's new regulations, in effect since May 2016, every rescued bonded labourer should be given 5,000 rupees (\$78) as immediate assistance on the spot. Because rescued bonded labourers often face delays in receiving compensation, India expanded the scheme's annual budget to 470 million rupees (\$7 million) from 50 million rupees.

"State governments are expected to make the payments and reclaim the entire amount from us," said Rajit Punhani, a senior official in charge of labour welfare for India's Ministry of Labour and Employment. "In many instances, we are yet to receive any demand for funds." Nearly two weeks ago, 31 workers, including 12 children, were rescued from a brick kiln on the outskirts of Bangalore, in southern Karnataka state. The eight families, held in debt bondage at the kiln for up to eight months, were sent home to eastern Odisha state with just 1,000 rupees (\$16) each - a fifth of what they are entitled to. The reason cited by officials involved in the rescue was lack of funds.

Activists say 185 people have been rescued from bonded labour and trafficking in the Bangalore area since January, but most have not received compensation under the revised scheme. Kodipalaya Krishnappa, an official overseeing the bonded labour scheme in Karnataka, said the state has asked the labour department for the funds and is trying to expedite the process.

More than a quarter of a million bonded labourers have received compensation since the earlier scheme was put in place in 1978, according to government data. Activists blame official indifference for the payment delays. "It is still seen as a 'poverty driven issue' or 'relic of the past'. Many miss the modern nature of the crime, which is often very violent," said Esther Daniels of the International

Justice Mission, a non-governmental organisation working with governments to rescue and rehabilitate bonded labourers. (\$ 1 = 64.4175 Indian rupees).

MOST LITERATE CHILD WORKERS IN TAMIL NADU, KERALA

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu and Kerala may top the country in literacy rates, but also account for the highest proportion of its literate child workers - most of them labouring in cities, a UN agency report has said.

Unicef's recently released 'State of Child Workers in India' report, based on the latest census data, says around 82% of all child workers in Kerala are literate, while in Tamil Nadu the figure was 81.3%. Of the 44 lakh children in the 5-14 years age group engaged in full-time labour in the country, 65.3% were literate. Literacy is defined as the ability to read and write with understanding in any language.

Ellina Samantroy, coauthor of the report, said though the number of child workers fell from 1.2 crore in 2001 to 1.01 crore in 2011 across the country, several proactive policies, especially in education, had failed to eliminate child labour. "While there was a substantial decline in the practice in rural areas, we noted an increase in urban child labour," she said. In addition to the census, the UNICEF, in collaboration with Noida-based V V Giri National Institute of Labour, also analysed the magnitude of child work and its link with education based on District Information System for Education data.

Researchers, while scouting for microstudies to assess how far programmes like the Right to Education (RTE) Act and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) had contributed towards retaining children in schools, found that location of schools, dilapidated buildings, dearth of drinking water and toilets and fewer teachers were among the reasons why children dropped out. The report said Tamil Nadu had 2.75 lakh children engaged in labour full-time and those who worked after school. On a positive note, it tracked a fall in child labour in 24 districts. R Vidyasagar, former Unicef child protection specialist, said that though Tamil Nadu fared better than other states in implementation of SSA and RTE, reaching out to tribal and migrant children remained a challenge.

The report also tracked an increase in children working after school hours. These children, Vidyasagar said, are more likely to drop out in higher secondary level. He cited the example of students who continue to work in beedi factories in Vellore to help parents tricked into

bondage."It is the same in Salem. In many pockets you won't see children playing outside in the evening. They toil with their families under silver jewellery manufacturers," he said.

And the effect shows: Of the 62.5 lakh children in the state between 15 and 18 years, only 37 lakh are in schools. "That leaves 25 lakh children outside. We need to step our drive to retain children as much as enrol them," said Vidyasagar. The report said many children were prevented from entering the school system or drop out due to prevalent caste and class barriers. It also faults the RTE Act for the two fold jump in the proportion of child workers in the 5-9 year age group. "RTE Act covers children in the 6-14 years age group. Though it expresses interest in taking necessary steps in providing free pre-school education for children above three years of age, leaving out this critical group of people is worrisome," said Ellina.

While Tamil Nadu registered a decline in child labour, Kerala was among four states that saw a climb in the problem - 13 districts witnessed a jump, and a marginal drop in one district. Job Zachariah, chief, Unicef (Tamil Nadu and Kerala), attributed this to the influx of migrant families from other states, especially Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, who bring their children along. "But where these children work remains a mystery because we rarely spot them during our field visits." The report cited Telangana as the state with the highest number of child workers (6.2%) educated to Class X and above, attributing this to motivated parents who had formed self-help groups to help their children get quality education

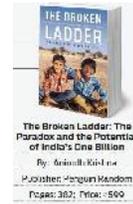
THE GREAT DEVELOPMENT DEBATE



There are eight chapters in this book. The first chapter titled ‘The dollar economy and the rupee economy’ is like an introduction to what this book is about.

Post 1991 reforms, “Differently placed individuals have received varying rewards, for globalised growth does not reward everyone equally. It is especially good for individuals who own globally scarce resources or have a specialised educational qualification. Some in India have become part of an international or ‘dollar economy’, sharing lifestyles and Facebook links with peers in the Western world.

These are not, of course, the only kinds of people who live Others who neither have a specialised education nor own a resource are in the ‘rupee economy’, the less affluent part of There are different ways to slice what has happened in India



in India. globally scarce the country.” since 1991.

The dollar/rupee economy might not be the best, since there are layers within the rupee economy too. That’s also true of the rural/urban lens. There is great heterogeneity within “rural” and a village with a population of 50,000 is different from one with a population of 100.

A survey, done by People Research on India’s Consumer Economy, shows that villages with population of 50,000 have better development indicators than others. As per Census definitions, there are more than 200 “villages” in Delhi. Surely, these are different from a village in a backward district.

Anirudh Krishna recognises this. “Villages in India located closer to towns have benefitted from the country’s economic achievements. In remote villages, however, the benefits of growth are smaller to detect. Close to 60 per cent of India’s villages are located more than 5 km from the nearest town.

These people’s conditions have not improved much after globalisation.” Stated thus, the proposition is both true and understandable. Development is a dynamic process. If one visualises a radius of development emanating towards the periphery from a centre, as long as that radius becomes longer, one need not worry.

However, there is much more in this well-written book. This is the right place to mention what the author calls the “half-truths” and there are five of these. “(1) Economic growth is

what it takes to reduce poverty, and there has been a great deal of progress in poverty reduction. (2) Income or expenditure assessed at a point of time serves as a reliable measure of an individual's situation. (3) The task of poverty reduction is to move people out of poverty. (4) An individual's rise above the poverty line represents success in poverty reduction. (5) National poverty-assistance programmes are helping many people overcome poverty.”

What does one do to make things better? “Three principles, however, need to be protected, which are simultaneously valued ends and necessary devices: First—the provision of a minimum living standard for all, adjusted to a country's changing circumstances; second—an equal chance of upward mobility for everyone's son or daughter; third—accessible forums for expressing governance concerns and overseeing quality standards in service delivery.”

In terms of documenting disparities in development and the governance challenge, with a ground-up view of the broken ladder, this is a well-written book. But the more important policy question is, what do we do about it? There is nothing wrong with those principles, but they are like motherhood statements. “The national dialogue has to concern itself with providing more resources for developing physical and social infrastructure in rural India. Equally, the dialogue has to focus upon the mechanisms of spending money—who is authorised to spend it, when and for what purposes and with whose consent.” Indeed, and within and without the 14th Finance Commission, however, imperfectly, that's what the dialogue has been about.

“It is not simply the nature of the policy that matters for development performance. There is a definable quality that some villages have, which others don't, that is important.” Repairing the steps of the broken ladder works in some places, but not in all. Therefore, one should try to distil out the prerequisites for replication and success, and perhaps also determine what guarantees failure. This book doesn't answer that question. But we are beginning to get some kind of an answer for households targeted under the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana.

If there is a revised edition of this book, it will probably be even better. Till then, this is a book worth reading.

ENVIRONMENT

IMPLEMENT KASTURIRANGAN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS'

Formation of Forum for Western Ghats is need of the hour, say environmentalists

Peace Trust ours. The Forum to raise concerns for sustainable development

The Centre should implement at least some of the Kasturirangan Committee recommendations to protect the Western Ghats, one of the world's biggest biodiversity hotspots, as Kerala, once a water surplus State, has become water deficit and Tamil Nadu is already a water starved State. All States along the Western Ghats should take concerted efforts to implement the recommendations. Formation of Forum for Western Ghats with an agenda for all who depend on its water and pure air is need of the hour.

These appeals were made by environmentalists, ecologists and NGOs at a workshop on Save Western Ghats Movement held here on Wednesday.

In his address, Kumar Kalanand Mani, executive secretary of Peaceful Society, an NGO in Goa, said saving Western Ghats was imperative but Parliament did not discuss the recommendations. The irony was that the Centre had passed on the responsibility of protecting the Western Ghats to States, but they were in denial mood. Already, Maharashtra, Goa and Kerala had rejected the proposals. If Tamil Nadu failed to protect the Western Ghats, it would face an acute water crisis, as it did not have glaciers to provide water.

The Western Ghats was crucial for the State as it was the only source for all rivers, he said. Since the Western Ghats needed 60 % forest cover, its destruction would kill rivers and ultimately intensify fight between neighbouring States, he also warned.

K. Raj Mohan of Kodaikanal said that Kodaikanal was prime water source for 16 dams in Dindigul, Theni and Karur districts. Rapid destruction of green cover in upper Kodaikanal had already created acute water crisis in lower Kodaikanal.

A. Michel said converting reserve forests in Kodaikanal into a sanctuary without ensuring adequate protection to wild animals and their habitats would be of no use. If there was no Western Ghats, the entire State would become a desert, cautioned SWGM State convener Kalidas. Peace Trust chairman J. Paul Baskar also spoke.

Tamil Nadu Green Movement secretary V. Jeevanandham said wild animals migrated to Kodaikanal town because reserve forests sprawling over 900 sq. km had turned unfit for them to live.

Proliferation of exotic species, vanishing shola forests and wet lands wiped out feed, water and habitat.

IMPLEMENT KASTURIRANGAN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS'

FORMATION OF FORUM FOR WESTERN GHATS IS NEED OF THE HOUR, SAY ENVIRONMENTALISTS

Peace Trust ours. The Forum to raise concerns for sustainable development

The Centre should implement at least some of the Kasturirangan Committee recommendations to protect the Western Ghats, one of the world's biggest biodiversity hotspots, as Kerala, once a water surplus State, has become water deficit and Tamil Nadu is already a water starved State. All States along the Western Ghats should take concerted efforts to implement the recommendations. Formation of Forum for Western Ghats with an agenda for all who depend on its water and pure air is need of the hour. These appeals were made by environmentalists, ecologists and NGOs at a workshop on Save Western Ghats Movement held here on Wednesday.

In his address, Kumar Kalanand Mani, executive secretary of Peaceful Society, an NGO in Goa, said saving Western Ghats was imperative but Parliament did not discuss the recommendations. The irony was that the Centre had passed on the responsibility of protecting the Western Ghats to States, but they were in denial mood. Already, Maharashtra, Goa and Kerala had rejected the proposals. If Tamil Nadu failed to protect the Western Ghats, it would face an acute water crisis, as it did not have glaciers to provide water.

The Western Ghats was crucial for the State as it was the only source for all rivers, he said. Since the Western Ghats needed 60 % forest cover, its destruction would kill rivers and ultimately intensify fight between neighbouring States, he also warned. K. Raj Mohan of Kodaikanal said that Kodaikanal was prime water source for 16 dams in Dindigul, Theni and Karur districts. Rapid destruction of green cover in upper Kodaikanal had already created acute water crisis in lower Kodaikanal.

A. Michel said converting reserve forests in Kodaikanal into a sanctuary without ensuring adequate protection to wild animals and their habitats would be of no use. If there was no Western Ghats, the entire State would become a desert, cautioned SWGM State convener Kalidas. Peace Trust chairman J. Paul Baskar also spoke. Tamil Nadu Green Movement secretary V. Jeevanandham said wild animals migrated to Kodaikanal town because reserve forests sprawling over 900 sq. km had turned unfit for them to live.

Proliferation of exotic species, vanishing shola forests and wet lands wiped out feed, water and habitat.

HISTORY

THE PASSING OF A TITAN



When judges retire or pass away they are heard of no more except for the usual ritual farewells or obituaries and then they pass out of our lives and the legal system altogether. But it is not so in exceptional cases where, while we mourn their demise, we remember their lives and careers. One such exception is Justice P N Bhagwati whose recent departure has left a great void.

He was undoubtedly an extraordinary legal mind treading the untravelled path to render justice the ultimate aim of law.

Born on December 21, 1921 Prafullachandra Natwarlal Bhagwati had a brilliant academic career leading to an Honours in mathematics and then a law degree. Before that he actively participated in the freedom movement and courted arrest before going underground for about four months.

He started to practice in the Bombay High Court in 1948. He was appointed a judge of the then newly established Gujarat High Court in July 1960 at the age of 38—one of the youngest High Court judges. In 1967 he became Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court. He was elevated to the Supreme Court in July 1973 and his term has been the longest tenure of a Supreme Court judge. His appointment to the Supreme Court coincided with the dawn of judicial activism and enlarged the universe of judicial discourse.

He was a great common law judge and like his illustrious forebears he blazed new trails by fashioning new tools and nudging the law a little forward. The judicial development of the common law which ‘has abundant riches’ is the reasoned application of its settled principles in current conditions. Great judges like Justice Bhagwati who have developed it have

displayed a perceptive sense of legal history and responded to the needs of the times. The Court's fidelity to the Constitution secures its own subordination. But fidelity and creativity are not necessarily antagonistic, with dedicated perspicacity they augment each other just as he showed with flourish.

His judgements covered the entire spectrum—complex areas such as legal control of government, rule of law, human rights, open government, judicial review of contractual powers of the state and of opacity in governmental transactions and above all his commitment to upholding constitutional values and enforcing constitutional limitations.

Justice Bhagwati's endeavours in achieving a fusion of constitutionalism and humanism through his judgements and otherwise have been significant. He looked upon law as an instrument of social justice, a powerful instrument in the hands of a judge to usher in social and economic change. This philosophy guided all his judicial activities and was visible in all his pronouncements. He was full of compassion, breathing new life into the bare bones of the law to make it meaningful for the common man.

His judgement in Royappa gave a new dimension to Article 14—that what is arbitrary cannot be equal and would violate Article 14. Maneka Gandhi widened Article 21 infusing it with the concept of procedural due process and finally undid the law in Gopalan. Article 21 reached its full plenitude in Francis Coralie Mullin—life is not mere animal existence, the right to life is the right to live with basic human dignity.

Promissory estoppel was given a scholarly and juristic foundation in Motilal Padampat and Godfrey Philips and the executive was held to its promise. In Ramana Dayaram Shetty, the power of distributing largesse by the government through contracts or otherwise was brought under judicial review and made subject to the test of fairness. Justice D P Wadhwa held that repeated repromulgation of ordinances was a fraud on the Constitution. M C Mehta imposed the principles of strict and absolute liability in tort due to inherently dangerous and hazardous activity. In Bachan Singh he was the lone dissenter against upholding death penalty. Most importantly Justice Bhagwati along with Justice Krishna Iyer was instrumental in heralding the legal aid movement and introducing the PIL or Social Action Litigation as he preferred to call it.

The law regarding locus standi was liberalised and procedural requirements relaxed and made flexible so that access to justice was made easier. He also introduced the epistolary jurisdiction—letters written to judges were treated as writ petitions in public interest.

He said “a commitment to legality of the laws and the due process is the contribution of the Chandrachud Court” of which he was a formidable pillar. From 1978 to 1980 three exceptionally great judges sat in the first, second and third court rooms of the Supreme Court: Justices Chandrachud C J, Bhagwati J and Krishna Iyer J —some of the most eminent judges in the world. It cannot, however, be said that he was perfect.

One cannot but mention the infamous A D M Jabalpur judgement where he held (with the majority) that no remedy was available during an emergency even if the order of detention was illegal, mala fide or unauthorised. No doubt, decades later he regretted that judgement. After the Congress was voted back to power in 1980, he wrote an open letter to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi congratulating her—speaking of her victory as the crimson sunrise of hope for the country. It is said that nothing corrupts a judge as ambition does. Views have been expressed, and perhaps justifiably, that Justice Bhagwati was not unaffected by this flaw.

All this does not detract from his greatness and his contribution to law. He was a warm person with no airs. I had the privilege of knowing him for over thirty five years. The individual contribution of judges is absorbed in the anonymity of the coral reef by which the judicial process shapes the law. Their name and fame are writ in water. In the course of a century, the acclaims of a bare handful survive. Justice Bhagwati belongs to that select company.

HON'BLE JUSTICE P. N. BHAGWATI RESPECTFUL HOMAGE



Justice prafulla Chandra Natwarlala Bhagwati, One of the most distinguished judge, deeply respected not only in the legal world but by people from all walks of life, by the rich and the poor, by the elite and down trodden.

Justice P.N Bhagawati the Father of the Human Rights, Jurisprudence through judicial activism converted the rights to livelihood, shelter, health and water into basic fundamental rights enforceable by courts. He expanded the frontiers of Human Rights Jurisprudence and brought the entire Indian Humanity within its reach.

During his College days he was actively involved in the Freedom Struggle under the leadership of Ms. Aruna Asaf Ali and was arrested on Aug 14, 1942, and imprisoned for one month. He was appointed as Judge of the Gujarat High Court in 1960 and was elevated as Chief Justice of Gujarat in 1967 at the age of 46. In 1973 he was appointed as the Judge of the Supreme Court on July 12, 1985 he became the Chief Justice of India and retired on Dec 21, 1986. He has been honored by many national and international Organizations. He is the recipient of Padma Vibhushan Award.

Justice Bhagawati's dedication to the cause of human rights was not limited to India. He chaired the United Nations Human Rights Committee. He organized judicial colloquia in different parts of the world on domestic implementation of international human rights instruments. The United Nations high commissior for human rights appointed him as regional advisor for the Asia Pacific Region. He also carried out several missions for the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, the common wealth Secretariat, and the International Commission of jurists. His services have been utilized by several countries including Mongolia, Cambodia, Nepal, Ethiopia, and South Africa in framing their Constitutions and particularly the chapters on human rights. He also chaired the World Congress on Human Rights held in New Delhi in 1990. He was also a member of the Committee of Experts of International Labour Organization. Justice Bhagwati has become synonymous with justice child rights and human rights.

Peace Trust had the privilege of having Justice P. N. Bhagwati on the occasion of National Seminar on Environment at Dindigul and Peace Trust's campus and administrative office was declared open by him in 1989. Later on several Occasion. Justice on Bhagawati offered his support and guidance on issues of child labour, bonded labour and environment. Peace Trust pays homage to Justice P. N. Bhagwati, the great visionary.

Peace Trust respectful Homage to Justice P. N. Bhagawati.

Peace Trust had enjoyed the opportunities created by Justice P.N. Bhagawati in various international interventions like civil society network EL Taller, Child Worker in Asia. United Nations mechanisms on human rights.

Tamilnadu Alliance:

Book Publishing held on 27th May 2017 at Vivera Hotel Dindigul. This has been conducted by Conducted by “Tamilnadu Development Concerns”

Mr. Kadhar Batcha, welcomed the members and all who attended the programme.

Dr. J. Paul Baskar, The Chairman, Peace Trust, said, to write the book, whether anyone had vetted the contents of the book to release the book which they felt contained much that compromised the integrity of the public services. Towns are cutoff from these centers. This program is really evolved a good response among the Persons with positive approach is being transformed in their minds.

The first copy of which will be received by Dr. Balamurugan, Geneva Global. These books have been brought out by ‘Vaimozhi Vaimozhi, These books introduce the new topics, including women and about the personalities who have enriched these fields.

Mr. I.P. Senthilkumar MLA, participating in the event, said we are living in troubled times. The process of evaluation is on, which must take care to preserve and yet ours as a modern society, eminence scholastic ability and honesty of above all has to be the purpose. He can provide guidance and light to the younger members. He said was a combination of professionalism with humanness and simplicity with spirituality.

Dr. Mercy Senthilkumar, Tamil school spoke on the issues of women.

Mr. Muruganandham organized the function.

RADIO MATHS 2017

Radio Maths 2017's of the Committee Meeting conducted on 22.05.2017 at PVK hall, Dindigul. This meeting presided over by Chairman, Dr. J. PAUL BASKAR, and Peace Trust. Dr. Sreedhar, Community Radio experts has delivered the following details in this meeting.

- If we teach Mathematics through media it will be a great help to weavers.
- He also instructs to conduct one episode in Sawrastra language.
- Episode may conduct in the form of Drama, folk song and proposal.
- He also advised Peace Trust- Radio Maths 2017 to arrange a nonprofit labour card for weavers.
- This programme should instruct the importance and beneficiary thing for disabled people (handicapped and blind).
- Advisory committee meeting should conduct thrice in the month.

- At the time of conducting the programme other broadcasts are strictly prohibited in the rule of NCSTC-DST (put a signature in the bond sheet)
- Monthly once events should be conducted through media. After the event they are request to distribute the prizes for winners.
- Meeting, minutes, and episode details must handover to the Advisory committee members.
- Our chairman tentatively stated about 15th August 2017 onwards this programme will be broadcasting on our radio.
- Dr. Shirly presented the greetings of CEMCA's study among Dindigul Weavers.

Young Workers Project

Community Support Group Meeting

The monthly meetings for the members of the community support group in all the target 40 villages regularly organized 587 members from the community support groups participated in these monthly meetings. They have enthusiastically discussed the importance of educating the children, protecting the rights of the young workers. During the community support group meeting, participatory planning done with selected communities for effective intervention in the target villages.

Members have made door to door visit to families whose children are toiling as labours' and motivated them to send their children again to school. During this reporting period, children who are about to drop out tap high school levels were identified and sent to their schools to continue their education. Progress of the project at all levels have encouraged CSG members who share their ideas and views to develop effective strategies to involve workers and community members in the execution of project activities

They also expressed their desire to know more about the enforcement of labour laws and factory acts and the benefits of social security measures meant for mill workers like ESI,PF, Maternal leave etc ,the measures taken to cover the young workers under these acts and schemes.

rop out children were facilitated to join special schools functioning for these students. More than 102 parents were advised to provide education for their children at least up to the age of 18 and facilitate them to choose a right career in future. CSG discussed on the functioning of the schools, provision of noon meals, distribution of note books to the student's and quality of education in the schools.

In 20 Villages CSG members took efforts to conduct special classes to Coach students of 10th std,12th std who appeared for public examinations 273students were benefited who made better performance in the examinations. CSG members facilitated enlisting of 67 adolescent for vocational skill training who preferred jobs other than mill work

Village level Meeting

Village level awareness meeting in 40 project villages organized; overall 2632 general public, adolescent girls, youth and village leaders were actively participated in the awareness meetings. Participants were made aware of the occupational hazards faced by the mill workers and the consequent health effects which are affecting the life of the mill workers. It was planned in the village level meetings that sexual abuse of children, trafficking of children to be reported to the project staff of the village and to CSG for further action. They were also informed about the restrict child welfare officer, child help line and their contact numbers for immediate actions.

The local people have to adapt strategies to avoid external influence and make group efforts so that the culprits would be punished .the children especially girls to be educated of the possible dangers and differentiate between good and bad touches.Since summer is approaching near the adolescents should not be sent mill work during holidays efforts should be made to actively involve them preparing for competitive examinations ,learning new crafts and arts that would bring some income, learning indoor and outdoor games.Young Workers, and students have to be educated of nutrition's food ,habits of daily life that would save them in the hot

Project staff members who organized the awareness meeting explained the community on the issues faced by the adolescent mill workers and the role of the young workers project for their rehabilitation. Project Manager has explained them in detail the various components of the young workers project such as community organizing and awareness training, educational support viz school support and skill training provision, livelihood development, life-skill training programme, health care support, legal support etc. to realize the rights of the young workers.

Orientation to AG Members-Empowering Adolescent

The boys and girls adolescent groups are formed with composition of mill workers, students, job seekers. The students and other could understand the slavery conditions of the mill workers and decide not to join this .they are motivated through the discussions to

get technical or other education. They also long for development of their physical fitness through sports activities and health care practices. They are hopeful that young workers project in the area would provide ample opportunities for their all round development.

Their request for place to sports activities were discussed in CSG meetings, CSG members are looking out for place in their village, discuss the matter with local panchayat members. Project has formed 40 adolescent boys group with 600 members in the 40 target villages; field coordinators are responsible for organizing the project activities.

During this reporting period field coordinators made regular visit to the target villages and held preliminary meetings with the adolescent boys groups. Regular monthly meeting for the adolescent group organized in the 40 villages during this reporting period. Adolescent girls were enthusiastically participated in the group meeting facilitated by the field coordinators. During the meeting the purpose and responsibilities of Adolescent Group such as making them self-confident in addressing their own issues, capacitating them to participate and mobilize support for the successful implementation of the program.

Discussions were held on their problems, analyzing them and find solution, they articulated their views on their situation like, how they are affected by gender disparities as a girl in their family and exploitation as a worker in the mills. They also reported the improved condition in their health and shared their health problems and risks in their jobs. They felt happy that the project intervention helps them to relieve themselves from the clutches and slavery conditions.

One hour training for Adolescent Girls

During this reporting period one hour training program was organized. The trained girls were with knowledge of civic duties to be better citizens right to franchise, casting their votes, Election of Representatives to local panchayat, assemblies were explained to the participants. They were told to attend grama saba meetings and their grievances, send petitions and meet authorities to get redressed. Clarifications were made about adhar, voter IDs, right use of Debit cards, maintaining bank accounts, linking them with adhar were explained to help them in their life perform their civil duties. 1532 adolescent girls from 85 groups have actively participated in the one hour health awareness programme and understood the importance of healthy life. Health workers from the health sub-centres and primary health centres and Anganwad I workers from ICDS centres educated the adolescent girls in all the target villages.

Educational support to children

Project has continued the support for the 167 children who were already enrolled in school, educational materials were distributed for the children and they were counseled to improve their academic performance. Community support group members also rendered their support to encourage the children to continue the education; especially members were very keen in supporting the rehabilitation of the abandoned children who were rescued by the project earlier. Follow up visits were made to Schools and other facilities to know the academic progress and performance. Children are going to school regularly and they scored good marks in the academic studies.

Community resource centre

List of male and female children under the age of 1 to 13, 14 to 19 are maintained in the centres. It monitors the education of all children without discontinuing or going to mill work during the holidays of schools. It promotes the development of the local communities providing them with information's of govt, schemes, employment, assistance to education, procedures for ration and ID cards. Community resource centers in 40 villages with participation of adolescence girls, young workers, SHG members in view of providing information and guidance to promote education, training employment opportunities and avail government schemes. These centers would gather particulars on school going and drop out children, workers, beneficiaries of government scheme etc., for project planning and implementation.

Linking with skill training programme

During this reporting period, 67 young mill workers who dropped out from school earlier were motivated to undergo job oriented course on 11.06.2017. Motivation programme were organized in Peace Trust Training Centre for 102 adolescent girls and workers support group members. These programme focused on inspiring the participants for girls' education and the speakers insisted the women to undergo skill training for gainful employment. Some of the adolescent mill workers were willing to join in the skill training courses offered by the vocational institutions.

Field staffs have made regular follow up visits to the candidates who are supported by the project earlier; four young mill workers were relieved from mill work and joined the skill training programme during this reporting period.

VEC, PTA and VPRC involvement in prevention of drop out

Project staff members have got the opportunity to participate in the VPRC meeting held in the 12 panchayats and spoke on the activities of the project. Project has succeeded in linking 342 persons from 40 villages to various social protection schemes according to their felt need. As a result of this project has gained the trust and confidence of the people and built a strong support system for its programme.

Sl. No.	Social Protection Schemes	No. of Persons Benefitted	Status
1.	Voter ID	41	Received
2.	Adhar ID	126	Received
3.	VPRC –Loan/Poor Family	127	Received
4.	Ration card	48	Received
	Total	342	

During this period efforts were made by the community support groups to activate the village education committee to work hard for the school enrollment as well as to stop the drop out in the target villages.

SHGs for livelihood development

Those affected the mill work give up their job and look for alternate livelihood. 25 members of them were selected and given training to take up small business activities. They were trained in running the business and marketing aspects. they were given financial assistance of rs.10000/-to start small business. In order to improve the economic conditions of the girls released from the mills, 40 village level SHG groups consisting of 12 to 15 members in each group organized.

In 52 Groups total 755 members are organized under these groups. Priority was given to those who are physically or mentally affected as mill worker. They are under the habit of regular saving in their groups, pooling of this saving amount would help them to involve in economic activities in future they could also avail bank loans and subsidies linked to them could be used for education expenses of their children. They would be relieved from the clutches of money lenders who get higher rates of interest.

Training Programme on workers' Support group members.

183 members of these groups were given training on labour laws, minimum wages Act, Bonded labour Act, employment security to widen their knowledge of these acts and involve in actions. They were also trained on management of risks in cotton mills and safety measures to be followed.

Training Programme on workers' rights, industrial labour laws

During this reporting period 435 young workers were attended the training and aware of their rights such as eight hours of work, minimum and fair wages, better working conditions, occupational safety measures, registration as labours, child Labour abolition act, medical and maternity leaves, bonus, provident fund etc. The trainings for the young workers imparted them knowledge on labour Laws, rights of young workers and the means to have dialogues with their management.

Training for ICC group members

10 meeting occupation and ways to protect and promote their health conditions. Overall 98 mill workers were trained during this reporting period. Participants were also given training on to protecting method, and where to approach for reconciling their problems facing at mills. They are also given direction to get ITI courses for their career growth.

Mill workers Internal Complaints Committee Meeting in 10 mills Meeting on ICC & health and safety was organized in spinning mills such as Dollar, Eastman, L.K.P, DPN, Parani, Guhan, Mani, CETWIN, Pallava, and Chozha. The objective of the awareness sessions was to make the workers aware of safety measures in their

They were given training on ways of reconciling their problems facing them in and around mill. Still workers supporting group members shared their problems facing at mills. They also shared the ways of protecting themselves, with safe guards and its materials, and by taking balanced food.

On Monday 19.06.2017, Peace Trust participated in the ITI Industry Interaction organized by Quest Alliance at Don Bosco Amscm ITI, Trichy. To objectives of the meeting was to enable ITI and Industry to better understand each other's perspectives and expectations with regard to students and how they should be trained. And to explore ITI engagement with industry.

On behalf of Peace Private ITI and VEEF Industrial school, Peace Trust Chairman Dr. J. Paul Baskar, Skill for Freedom Co coordinator Er. P. Ruba Balan, Placement Officer, Mr. Muruganandham represented at the event along with them. HR

Manager of Gibran mills participated as a representative of potential employees in Dindigul District.

Dr. J. Paul Baskar gave his valuable points over the panel discussion on opportunities and challenges ITI is have today with regard to students employers from TVS, JK tires and other man recruiting agencies discussed over their challenges with regard to employers. The panel and other ITI Principal Directors shared their experience so far improvements were discussed, such as Guest Lectures, Industry visits, Internships. The feedback received from employer are, ITI should give clear idea about career growth in particular industry make alumins to interact with current students. The students who are going to complete their studies and get placed should know the market and salary they would get when they get placed to avoid mis conceptions.

Migration was one of the key issues discussed by panel members. It is also found that students from Dindigul District find Trichy. Madurai and karur as their place for migration. Peace Trust signed MOU with JK Fenner and other man recruitment agencies for placement of our students of Peace Private ITI and VEEF Industrial School.

SPSC VEEF INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL:

SPSC VEEF INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL at Vailankanni has whole heatedly descended into skilling, keeping the broader framework of providing cent percent placement for the youths by providing high-quality, demand oriented vocational education which covers 90% of Practical training for the rural adolescent youth



DST to support Community Radio Stations



The first meeting of the experts Committee formed by the Department of Science and Technology was held at Madurai and Dindigul on the 7th & 8th July 2017

Mr. Anuj Dayal, Executive Director, Delhi Metro chaired the session. Dr. Chander Mohan, Advisor, DST and Dr. Rashmi Sharma Scientists participated on behalf of Govt. of India.

Dr. R. Sreedhar Community Media expert was the CEMCA.

The Committee visited three stations namely Shyamalavani, Pasumai, and Vayalagam and had a firsthand knowledge of the working of the CR stations.

Dr. J. Paul Baskar, Station Director of Pasumai Radio welcomed and facilitated the station visit.

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia facilitated the meet and also presented their recommendation of their study of 14 CR stations for the Science for Woman's health and Nutrition project.

Media 4 community foundation, New Delhi presented their Report on their study of 12 CR stations for the Radio Maths Project.

The Committee discussed to part, presented future of DST support 15 CR stations and expected to submit the report by this month end.