



### From Chairperson's Desk

This 2022, the World observed “World Day Against Child Labour” with the theme “Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour.” Though we have made significant progress in ending the child labour menace, still 160 million children are engaged in child labour – some as young as 5 years.

Taking up the social protection measures will prevent poverty and vulnerability, which in turn will eradicate child labour. Social protection is a crucial policy tool that will prevent the vulnerable or socially and economically backward families for resorting to child labour.

It is rather disturbing to know that only 26.4% of children worldwide receive social protection cash benefits. National expenditure on social protection of children accounts for only 1.1% of GDP worldwide. If we along with the government and other stakeholders do not take mitigating strategies, then the number of child labour could rise upto 8.9 million by the end of 2022 as reported by UN. This will majorly be due to poverty and increased vulnerability.



Ranjan Kumar Mohanty  
Chairperson, NACG EVAC India

**Editorial Board – Aditi P Kaur, D.Roshan Kumar &  
Dr. Indrani Bhattacharya**

### India Country Consultation on Elimination of Child Labour by 2025



National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children (NACG EVAC) India in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the South Asia Coordination Group to End Violence against Children (SACG) jointly organised the virtual consultation titled “India Country Consultation on Elimination of Child Labour by 2025” on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022. More than 100 participants joined in the discussion including member organisations of NACG, working on the elimination of child labour and creating children/youth change-makers in the country.

Mr Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, NACGEVAC, India chaired the consultation and shared that “after 20 years, we are witnessing a rising trend of child labour globally and especially during post Covid-19. The situation has become grimmer. The Global Conference on Elimination of Child Labour (VCG) will be held in Durban, South Africa from May 15 to 20, 2022 with the presence of key global players and the recommendations of this consultation will be shared for discussion.

Mr. Thangaperumal Ponpandi, Chair, SACG, shared that, this is a very special occasion to prepare the civil societies recommendations for the global conference taking the experiences, challenges and successes into account.

Mr. Insaf Nizam, Regional Specialist, South East Asia, ILO shared the objectives of the global conference. The six days long conference will be declared open by the president of South Africa alongside the presidents of Malawi and Zambia. All the six days involve high level panelists and discussions, voices of communities and sharing of experiences.

Mr. P. Victor Raj, Thematic Expert, Child Labour, NACG EVAC India discussed about the child labour issues and challenges in India.

The VGC is taking place in the context of the grim reality that globally child labour has increased from 152 million children in 2016 to 160 million children in 2020. With just over three years to meet the SDG Target 8.7 deadline, over 2000 delegates across the Globe will participate in the VGC and plan to address the challenges with a strong commitment and an action plan to eliminate child labour by 2025.

In this context, children from different parts of the country joined in and shared their thoughts and recommendations for elimination of child labour. The children consultation was facilitated by Ms. Aditi P. Kaur, Child Thematic Expert, NACG EVAC India & Ms. Anuradha Mohanty, Executive Director, PECUC. Other key speakers included Sanjay Gupta, Vice Chair, NACG; D Roshan Kumar, Vice Chair, NACG and many other experts from different parts of country.

### **Delhi State Level Consultation with Children to Combat Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation**

The consultation to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation was held with the avowed objective of bringing together the various stakeholders located in Delhi to deliberate upon the various ways needed to ensure the safety of children. The highlight of the consultation was that the various issues and challenges faced by children in ensuring their safety and overall well-being should involve the most important stakeholders in the whole process- the children. Children, through their lived experiences were encouraged to highlight their concerns regarding

their safety and give suggestions in the presence of other stakeholders, like the various non-government organisations working for their well-being- the Delhi Legal Service Authority (DLSA), the Education Department, the Department of Women and Child Development (WCD) Delhi, and the Police. The stakeholders would then respond to those concerns and suggestions, and would then delineate their role in ensuring children's safety and well-being.



The training took place at the India International Centre. It was attended by children from various parts of Delhi who were associated with the constituent organisations viz. Asha Deep Foundation, Dr. A.V. Baliga Memorial Trust, ABHAS, and SPID. A total of 139 children (80 female and 59 male children) took part in the training.



Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Vice-Chairperson, NACG EVAC India; Ms. Neeta Sathish, Project Manager, BMZ-WVI; Ms. Madhvi K Samson, (Convener Delhi Chapter, NACG

EVAC India); Ms. Nida Siddique, Senior Training Manager at the Childline India Foundation; MS. Nidhi Dwivedi, Member, DCPCR; Sh. Sumit Anand, Ld. Secretary New Delhi DLSA; Mr. Premoday Khakha, OSD to WCD Minister, Delhi; Mr. Ashok Kumar, Executive Director, Dr. A.V. Baliga Memorial Trust; and Ms. Vandana of the Education Department of Delhi attended the event.



Delhi Commission For Protection o...  
@DCPCR

During Delhi state level consultation with children to combat child sexual abuse & exploitation hosted by @NacgEvaIndia — Member @DCPCR, @pandeynidhi777 spoke about child protection policy issues, & emphasised the importance of child defence, and child-friendly police stations.



Anurag Kundu and 7 others

9:34 pm · 23 Jun 22 · Twitter for Android

### Planning Meeting for a National Consultation on Impact of Environment and Climate Change on Children's Rights



The meeting was organised on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at YMCA Meeting Hall, New Delhi. It was attended by Dr. Rinchen Chophel, Director General, SAIEVAC. Mr. Thangaperumal Ponpandi, Co-chair, SACG, Mr. Ranjan Ku. Mohanty, Chairperson, NACG-EVAC, India, Mr. Manabendra Nath Mandal, EC member, NACG-EVAC India, Mr. Sanjay Mishra, EC Member and Treasurer, NACG-EVAC India, Mr. Mikhael Pradhan, EC Member, NACG-EVAC, India, Mr. P. Joseph Victor Raj, EC Member, NACG-EVAC, India, Dr. Indrani Bhattacharyya, EC member, NACG-EVAC India, Ms. Madhavi Kotwal Samson, Convenor, NACG Delhi, Ms. Rupa Kapoor, Advisor, Government Partnerships and Advocacy, CINI, Mr. Meghendra Banerjee, Chief of Programmes, CINI, Ms. Nilanjana Ghosh, Sr. Programme Manager, CINI.

The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson NACG-EVAC, India. He highlighted the importance of planning meeting and addressed all members to decide upon the modality, expected outcome of the consultation, the tentative budget, involvement of children, etc.

Dr. Rinchen Chophel, DG, SAIEVAC shared that being in the UNCRC committee he has now become the focal person for Asia and he insisted efforts resulting in setting up a special working group in the committee on **“Children in**



**Emergencies focusing conflict situation”** and he has been selected as focal person for Myanmar and Afghanistan.



CRC committee has an administrative body where issues are picked up based on the demand from Civil society organization worldwide from the areas of priority. This time the general comment is on Children’s right in Environment with focus to climate change. TDH Netherland will lead the technical session on this. TDH will also be co-chairing the SACG. TDH can extend their support to both global and regional level.

The Launch of the General comment on Children’s right in Environment with focus on climate change will take place in June 2023 and presentation of the “Memorandum” from children to be submitted in February 2023.

The consultation can be led by India but it will be a South Asia Regional Consultation bringing in all seven other countries. It could be a hybrid consultation where people from other countries can join online. A brief about the process has already been shared by Dr. Chophel to the CRC Committee.

India can take this event as an opportunity to showcase and present the soul vision of SAIEVAC before other countries. There should be political buy in for this entire initiative which will help in impacting the policy decisions for children.

Consultation of Children is mandatory and the issue of intergenerational equity will also be addressed. Also, he suggested promoting children as champion of this global movement.

Dr. Indrani Bhattacharyya, CEO of CINI shared the draft of the concept paper. The major comment was on that the context building should be turned as South Asia perspective rather than India. It was decided that the concept note will be shared with Advisors and Chairperson NACG-EVAC for their comments, which again will be shared with larger NACG EC members group.

Thereafter, Mr. Meghendra Banerjee, Chief of Programmes, CINI, anchored the session on finalizing the operational part of the consultation/Summit. The followings are **major Discussion points:**

- ✘ To take this initiative in a campaign mode rather than event mode. Action oriented plans to be developed.
- ✘ There should be strategic direction for taking this initiative forward.
- ✘ The Special Rapporteur of Environment committee can also be invited and join the board to hear out children’s voices.
- ✘ This regional consultation could be part of the short-term goal of the campaign but there should be some short term and long-term goals linked to the consultation.
- ✘ The suggestion of adopting and scaling up the “**What Children want**” to secure an environment friendly planet. CINI to share the final design and question. This will further be used by NACG and SACG members of SAIEVAC to collate opinion of children.
- ✘ The title of the summit was suggested as: South Asian Summit / Consultation on Children’s right to Environment with focus on climate change.
- ✘ The prime minister of India could be approached for his presence in this event under the event of Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav, where he can directly

interact with the Child Representatives (Mann ki baat).

- ✘ The modality of the event to be made hybrid, where representatives from other countries may join online.
- ✘ Tentative date of the event: 9-10 December, 2022.
- ✘ Duration: It could 1 and ½ day event. Initial ½ day would be explicitly for Children’s consultation and next 1 day for adult and children together. 50 children representing various states of India could be invited physically. Children should be accompanied with escort of the same gender. Children from other countries can also participate online and share their opinion.
- ✘ Venue of the event could be: IHC / IIC/ Vigyan Bhavan / NIPCCD
- ✘ The arrangement for stay may be in Gandhi Smriti Bhavan / JNU.
- ✘ All NACG EC members and other members will take the responsibility to mobilise the resources and fund for the event.

The Organising Committee was set up which includes: Convener Chairperson -Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty; Secretariat CINI – research, campaign and fundraising; Advisor to Secretariat -Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Mr. Thangam; Advocacy Govt.-Mr. Sanjay Mishra; Regional / States Focal Point- NACG EC Members; Delhi Arrangements -Mr. Sanjay Gupta and Ms. Madhavi, Kotwal Samson, Convenor, NACG Delhi; Media Engagement-TBD by Sanjay Mishra; Child Spokesperson-For Media / Delegations (NACG EC); Child Participation Sessions - Ms. Aditi P. Kaur & NACG Child Participation Group.

**Few Milestones / Timeline were also set in this meeting, i.e.** Concept Note Draft sharing by June 25th & 1 Week for finalisation, NACG

Chairs Briefing by July 7th, 2<sup>nd</sup> Organising Committee Meeting (online) on July 14th and Country Action EC Briefing by July 8, 2022.

## News from States

### Working towards a better future – TDHNL

#### Taking Over the Streets to Stop Child Marriages!

People came running out of their houses, leaving behind the work they were engaged in, to watch what was going on in the streets of Bagepalli, Karnataka. Carrying 70 x 56 cm posters and shouting slogans, more than 850 school students rallied through the streets to “Stop Child Marriages”.

The issue of child marriages in Karnataka isn’t a new one. Statistics show that the state of Karnataka accounts for 23% of India’s child marriages. Terre des Hommes Netherlands’ project IMAGE (Initiatives of Married Adolescent Girls Empowerment) in India works to stop child marriages while empowering the existing victims of child marriages in Karnataka.



The IMAGE Team collaborated with the schools of Bagepalli to conduct rallies on 6th March to stop child marriages. The students who are well aware by now of the ill effects of child marriages were full of vigour to conduct these rallies. A bunch of 14-year-old girls shouted the slogan “No more child marriages, no more exploitation”. It was followed by slogan from boys, “Education doesn’t see gender, so why should we?” and the whole group called out in unison “Why should we? Why should we?”



Clans of communities living on either side of the streets stood outside their doors intrigued by the roar of the rallies. Some of the men and women even shouted slogans along with the students displaying their support while the others passed smiles and clapped for these young change-makers of Bagepalli.

The students of Bagepalli left a mark on their parents, neighbours, relatives and everyone else who witnessed them. It was a good exercise to create awareness among the children as well as their guardians. There is much hope that these streets will think twice before engaging in any child marriages.

### **Riding To Victory**

Seventeen-year-old Sarita (Fake name) says “Now I feel just as equal as a boy”. Sarita’s newfound pride comes from an autorickshaw which she learns driving from. Before her lessons, she wasn’t as chirpy and driven. Belonging to a marginalised Devadasi community, she was very vulnerable and often in despair.

“Driving the rickshaw has liberated me. It has given me hope”, she says “If not for these lessons, I would have been in a desperate situation to make an income. I would have succumbed to exploitation.”

Sarita’s mother is a Devadasi woman who has had her share of trauma and abuse. Her meagre income is not sufficient to make ends meet with Sarita needing to contribute.



Terre des Hommes Netherlands’ project Children GOOD (Getting Out of the Devadasi System) empowers children of Devadasis and Sarita is one among them. She was enrolled in a driving training course as the skill has a lot of demand in the vicinity. “We live in a town which is near a UN Heritage Site. People from all over the world come to visit and there are no female drivers. This demand will make me a good income. I can also drive for my town people”, she says.

Along with Sarita, 15 other girls from the Devadasi community are being trained in riding auto-rickshaws and driving cars.

Sarita recalls, “The day I started attending the training, I knew nothing about auto-rickshaws. I was taught from scratch about the clutch, the gears, the break, how to start the vehicle, traffic signals and so much more.” After successfully attending the training sessions, Sarita feels confident to ride her way each day towards financial independence.

### **Life Skills 101!**

“I have understood that self-confidence is the key to achieving my goals”, said Anju.

Anju is one of the 360 girls (below age 18) who participated in a life skill training programme conducted by Ernst & Young (E & Y), in collaboration with Terre des Hommes



Netherlands in India. Anju belongs to a marginalised Devadasi community where girls are forced into a life of a sex work and results are subjected to exploitation.

As part of TdH NL’s intervention (Getting Out of the Devadasi System) to empower the children from this community, girls are grouped into clubs where they are equipped with skills and knowledge to empower themselves. One such intervention is ‘life skills’ which teaches them resilience, confidence, self-belief and others, all essential for empowerment. These skills also takes them away from their past trauma and helps them blossom with flying colours.

From April to June, a total of 10 life skill training sessions were conducted where the girls learnt self confidence and communication skills. The E & Y team taught the skills through audio visuals and even showcased some inspirational examples for the girls to look up to.

The sessions were interactive where the team placed problem scenarios in front of the girls and asked them to come up with creative solutions for the same. The girls showed much enthusiasm as they shared their observations. For instance, they were asked to identify barriers in communication and the girls discussed and listed those specific to their contexts. Coming out of the sessions, 16-year-old Pramita said, “I am glad I participated. Now I know that it is important to speak boldly and raise our voice where it matters.”

Apart from enhancing the girls’ personalities, this learning also helps them in their advocacy efforts, where as part of the project, children work to address issues on their own. This includes lobbying for policy changes, stricter enactment of laws and demanding for rights and entitlements.

### Children Should be in Schools

- Bal Kalyan Sangh

On the occasion of World Child Labour Abolition Week, Children's Mahapanchayat program was organised in State run Upgraded High School, Lepsar. The program was organised in collaboration with Bal Kalyan Sangh and ATSEC Jharkhand Chapter. Addressing the program, ATSEC Jharkhand Chapter Head and Secretary BKS Shri Sanjay Mishra said that for the safety and protection of children, everyone will have to come forward and it will be mandatory to implement the law. For this, it is necessary for the parents and all the stakeholders to be aware so that the ill-effects on such children can be stopped. Addressing the program, Zila Parishad member Ashutosh Tiwari said that information is power, life is incomplete without it, so we all should take good and inspirational education so that in the coming times, we all have our own safety and protection as well as our surroundings. He said that by organising such programs in rural areas, along with awareness in the rural areas, it also becomes a source of inspiration for the people.



Addressing the program, **Tribhuvan Sharma, Child Rights Activists** said that in today's time, the safety and protection of children is possible only with the information of children. He said that children should dream and try to fulfill those dreams every day, till we do not think about fulfilling all dreams, we cannot reach our destination and we as a society are responsible to make the environment safe for our children. He further stated that children should be aware of their rights and sensitized students with

different laws and facilities available for the children and how a child in danger can exercise his/her rights.



Addressing the program, Abhijit Ghosh, former CMD HEC said that education is very important for the children, today I feel very proud to come to this village because I also spent my school life with a lot of struggles and the dream I had. Every effort was made to fulfill it; my only request to all of you would be to always be ready to fulfill whatever dreams you all are dreaming of. ATSEC and BKS are working tremendously in making a safe place for children and we as a society are responsible for making a good and safe place for our children so that they can work on their dreams.

### Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour

“Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour” is set as the theme for observation of World Day against Child Labour 2022 by ILO. The major aim of ILO for celebrating under this theme is to give a call to increase investment in social protection systems and schemes to establish solid social protection floors and protect children from child labour. Social protection prevents families from resorting to child labour in the time of crisis. However, as of 2020 and before the COVID 19 crisis took hold, only 46.9 per cent of the global populations were effectively covered by at least one social protection benefit but nearly three quarters of children, 1.5 billion, lacked social protection.



To mark the day a mass convention was held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at Satyabhamapur GP Conference Hall by People’s cultural Centre (PECUC), a leading voluntary organization of Odisha. Ms. Anuradha Mohanty, Executive Director of PECUC gave the welcome address and shared the purpose of this programme. Mr. Rajan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, NACG EVAC, India & Secretary PECUC in his key note address said that strengthening social protection measures along with safe and quality education through fulltime schooling can be the pre-requisite for eradicating child labour and for achieving this desired goal efforts should be made at all levels.



Joining this convention, Subasini Das, ABEO, Baliana said that eradication of child labour is possible by bringing all children to school. Among others, Mr. Santosh Sethy, PHEO, Baliana, Sarapanchs of different Panchayats, i.e. Ms. Rasmita Bhoi, Satyabhamapur GP, Mr. Hrushikesh Parta of Benupur Panchayat, Mr. Bhagaban Behera of Purohitpur Panchayat, Mr. Durjyadhan Mallick of Puranpradhan Panchayat, Mr. Sradheya Patra of Prataprudrapur



Panchayat, Ms. Rasmita Sahoo of Bainchua Panchayat, Ms. Ramanata Nayak, Umadeibrahmapur Panchayat, Mamata Mahari, Panchayat Samiti Members, Purranapradhan, Ranjan Kumar Mahapatra, PS Member Umadeibrahmapur, Maoranjana Sahoo, PS Member Purohitpur, Nomini of KakarudrapurMililata Behera & CRCCS Parikhita Sahoo, Tapan Mohanty, Narayan CharanLenka, Bibhuti Kishore Sahoo & Ganeswar Biswal spoke on this occasion. More than 100 participants including AWW, ASHA, and Women SHG Members of Balianata block participated in this programme. Massive awareness, cooperation and coordination between different departments, support from parents, families, communities and above all strengthening the social protection measures can successfully make Odisha child labour free was said by the guests. On this occasion, a short film on child labour was released by guests.



PECUC launched a campaign for this purpose on 30<sup>th</sup> April on National Anti-Child Labour Day. A massive campaign was organised in various parts of Odisha. The campaign was also a part of 15 days Campaign launched by the Govt. of Odisha, Labour Dept., Child Labour Cell. PECUC also organised this campaign as a part of the call for the celebration of Elimination of Child Labour Week from 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR). PECUC also joined District Task Force and rescued 4 child labourers from Bhubaneswar.

### Executive Committee Meeting of NACG EVAC, India



The National Executive Committee meeting of NACG EVAC, India was held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at Darjeeling under the chairmanship of Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, NACG EVAC India. Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Vice Chair, CHETNA; Mr. Sanjay K Mishra, Treasurer, BKS; Ms. Aditi P Kaur, MCF; Ms. Indrani Bhattacharya, CINI; Mr. Prakash Rath. OLS; Mr. Mikhael Pradhan, WVI & Mr. P Josheph Victor Raj, HOPE participated in the discussion. D. Roshan Kumar, Vice Chair, SEED & Mr. Manabendra Nath Mandal, SLARTC joined virtually in this meeting.

### Protection Workforce Capacity Building to End Child Sexual Abuse in India- Project Brief Training to front line workers on prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation at New Delhi



The training on 7<sup>th</sup> of June, 2022 with Frontline workers was held in North-west district of Delhi. 50 participants (2 male and 48 female) were present in the training. The session started by

briefing about the project and NACG EVAC India. Mr. Rajendra briefed them about the initiation of Child Rights, UNCRC, other rights.



Mrs. Anuradha Mohanty talked about their importance in the field and the changes they can bring after getting information from the training. She also emphasised on their wonderful work during COVID19 for which they have been awarded. Mr. Deepak talked about the laws and Acts which prevents children from getting abused. He also briefed them about their role when any incident of Child Sexual Abuse happens or there is any chance of the same.

### District level Media Sensitisation program on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation



District level Media Sensitisation program on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Southeast district of Delhi was organised on 8<sup>th</sup> of June, 2022 at Press Club of India. The training was attended by 50 participants which included 3 females and 47 males. The session was facilitated by **Shashank Shekhar**-Advocate Supreme Court and Child Rights Expert with **Amitabh Srivastav**, Senior Journalist as a co- facilitator. **Mr. Ranjan**

**Kumar Mohanty** was representing NACG EVAC India and briefed the participants about the group and its work. **Mrs. Anuradha Mohanty** from PECUC also former JJB member talked about PECUC and Child Rights violations during reporting. During the sessions, discussions were held on Do's and Don'ts for Media while reporting, responsibility as a citizen of India, and SoP for Media. To make the session more impactful, cases of mishandling by Media were discussed. Later, participants raised their queries before the panelists.

Through this project intervention during these 3 months, 5775 people including adolescents, CPC members, police, doctors, teachers, media, CWC/JJB, frontline workers and Govt. stakeholders capacitated on child rights, child protection, prevention of child sexual abuse, protection measures, etc through 113 training/consultation/ convergence meeting programmes.



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